

# OPC FOUNDATION CLIENT-SERVER SOLUTION

This document contains the I+D technical details of the MVC solution that integrates Hangfire and OPC Foundation

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Doc. Version	Date	Author	Description
1.0	2025-10-17	<a href="https://github.com/kraftcoding">https://github.com/kraftcoding</a>	First version of the release

# Requirements

The next table shows the requirements for the solution described.

Requirement	Description
RQ-001   MVC application with Hangfire	MVC application integrating Hangfire (including a console and Windows Server project for Hangfire).
RQ-002   OPC Foundation client-server and DB model layer	Custom client-server OPC libraries and jobs, as well as the model and database access.
RQ-003   OPC Foundation core	Projects with the source code containing the SDK & Stack of OPC Foundation.

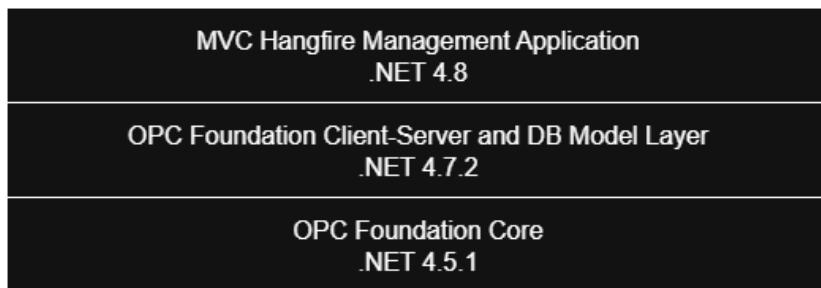
# Overview

This document contains the technical details of the MVC application that integrates Hangfire 1.8.21 and OPC Foundation, running on IIS/SQL Server.

Solutions:

- **Hangfire-OPC-Labs\_.NET-4.8:** Contains the MVC application with Hangfire (including a console and Windows Server project for Hangfire).
- **OPC-Foundation-Labs-Server-Client-.Net-4.8:** Containing the projects that make up the custom client-server OPC libraries and jobs, as well as the model and database access.
- **OPC-Foundation-Labs-.Net-4.8:** The OPC Foundation projects and core code (SDK & Stack).

The next image shows solution hierarchy and management relation.



The application provides the next capabilities:

- Start/stop a background job that runs an OPC server, where an XML configuration file tells it which nodes it should manage.
- Start/stop a background job that runs an OPC client (connecting to the server), where an XML configuration file tells it which nodes it should subscribe to in a monitored manner. As soon as it is notified of a change from the server, it dumps the new values for those nodes into the database on the server (with an "idProcess" flag).
- Add a recurring job that executes an OPC client (connecting to the server) where an XML configuration file indicates the server nodes to which it should write values.
- Add a recurring job that executes an OPC client (connecting to the server) where an XML configuration file indicates the server nodes from which it should read values.
- View logs in real time using a text buffer.

*NOTE: The XML configuration file used for jobs is the OPC one.*

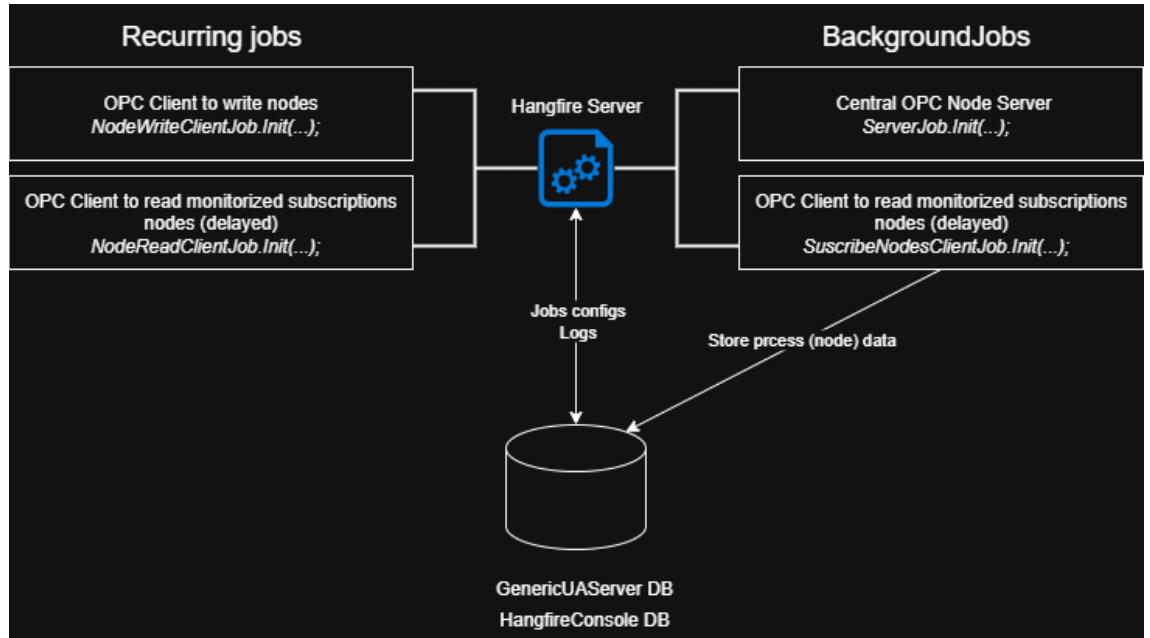
This latest version of the Hangfire server includes:

- Cancellation Tokens to stop jobs in the background.
- All jobs are implemented using the chain of responsibility pattern and can be intercepted using action filters

Basically, the solution creates four jobs:

- First, two BackgroundJob jobs: one for the OPC server (ServerJob) and the other for the client for monitored subscriptions (SubscribeNodesClientJob).
- Then, it creates two more RecurringJob jobs: one to simulate the infrastructure with random values (NodeWriteClientJob) and the other to read the values directly without subscriptions (NodeReadClientJob).

Here the diagram with the solution architecture overview.



OPC UA (Open Platform Communications Unified Architecture) is a cross-platform, machine-to-machine communication protocol for industrial automation that enables secure and reliable data exchange between different systems. It acts as a "universal translator" for devices and software, using a client-server architecture and built-in security to transfer data from factory floor machinery to higher-level systems like SCADA and ERP.

## Key features

**Platform-independent:** OPC UA works across various operating systems, including Windows, Linux, and Android.

- **Secure by design:** It has built-in security features like data encryption, authentication, and access control, which are a major improvement over its predecessor.
- **Client-server model:** It uses a client-server architecture where clients can request data directly or subscribe to receive updates when specific conditions are met.
- **Scalable and flexible:** The protocol is scalable, meaning it can handle anything from simple status data to complex, plant-wide information, and is flexible enough to connect different systems.

- Open standard: Developed by the OPC Foundation, it is based on the international standard IEC62541, making it an open and vendor-neutral technology.

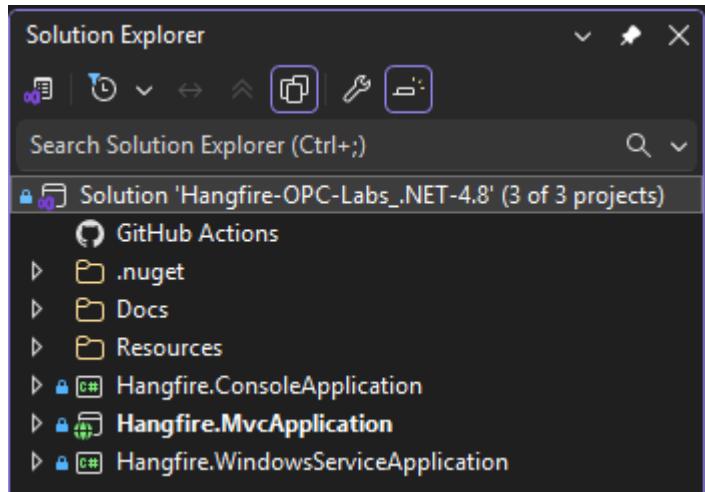
## How it's used

- Interoperability: It connects diverse systems, such as PLCs, SCADA, MES, and ERP systems, allowing them to communicate and share data seamlessly.
- Data exchange: It facilitates communication from the control level of a factory all the way up to enterprise-level management systems.
- Real-time monitoring: It provides real-time and historical data access, which is critical for process control, monitoring, and troubleshooting in various industries like manufacturing and renewable energy.
- Device-to-device communication: It enables machine-to-machine communication, making it a core technology for the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT).

## Clean Architecture

Clean Architecture is an architecture pattern that is based on four layers: presentation, application, domain, and infrastructure. The presentation layer is responsible for handling user interactions, the application layer is responsible for handling the business logic, the domain layer is responsible for defining the business entities and their relationships, and the infrastructure layer is responsible for handling external concerns such as databases and web services.

Here the solution structure (Visual Studio 2022):



The key principles of Clean Architecture include the independence of the layers, the data flow from the outer layers to the inner layers, and the ability to swap out dependencies without affecting the rest of the system. Clean Architecture emphasizes the separation of concerns to make the codebase easier to maintain, test, and extend.

The project structure of Clean Architecture follows a structured layout that enables code reusability and testability. In the project structure, you would typically have a project for the presentation layer, a project for the application layer, a project for the domain layer, a project for the infrastructure layer, and a project for the tests. Each layer would have its own set of interfaces and implementations, with the application layer acting as the bridge between the other layers.

## Scope

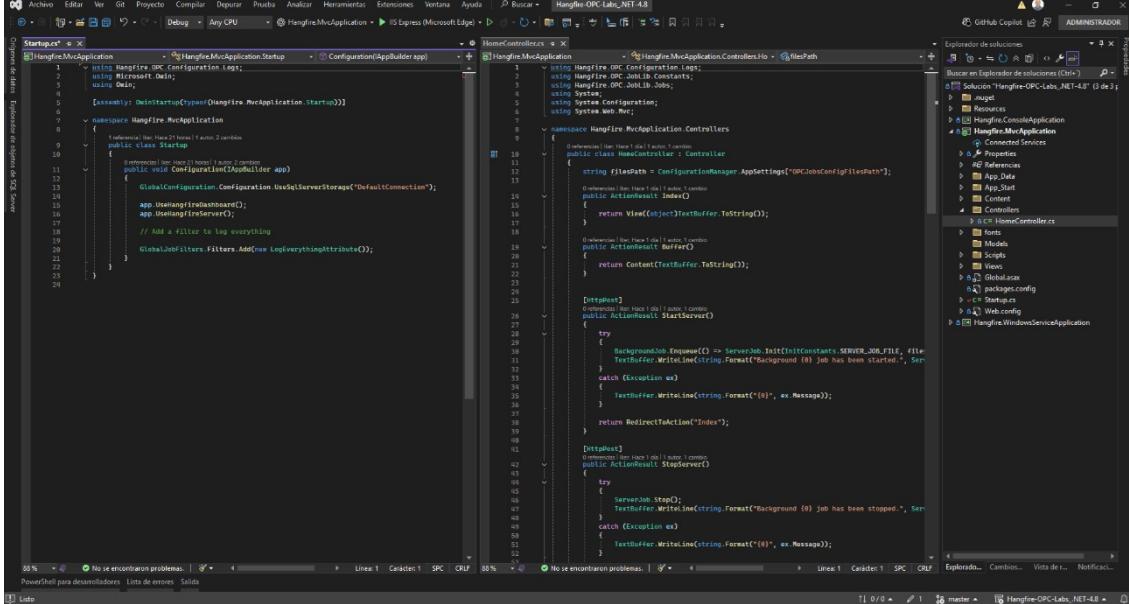
Hangfire is an open-source library for .NET applications that facilitates the execution of background jobs. It allows you to schedule jobs to run at a specific time, recurring, or immediately, all without the need for external services, and with an administration panel to monitor their status.

OPC technologies are created to allow information to be easily and securely exchanged between diverse platforms from multiple vendors and to allow seamless integration of those platforms without costly, time-consuming software development. This frees engineering resources to do the more important work of running your business.

Using the MVC application, it is possible to provide a web-accessible UI for managing OPC jobs and viewing logs.

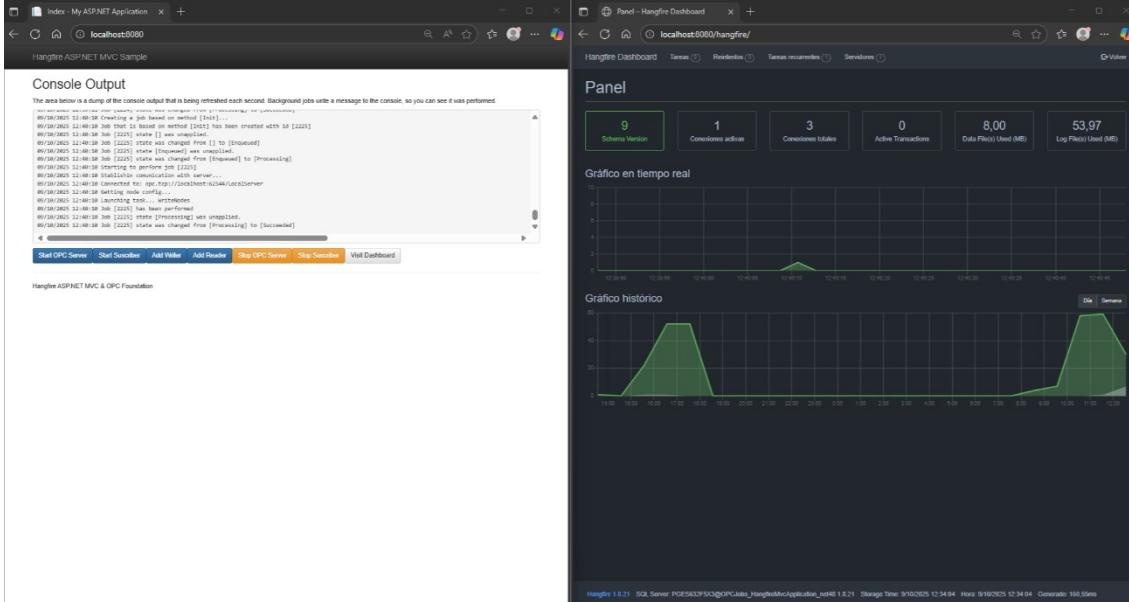
# RQ-01 | MVC Hangfire Management Application

This solution contains a standard .NET 4.8 MVC project by which the Hangfire server is managed. It includes two projects, a console application for tests and a windows service project.



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio IDE with two open files: `HangfireMvcApplication.cs` and `HomeController.cs`. The `HangfireMvcApplication.cs` file contains the startup configuration for the application, including the connection string and the configuration of the `GlobalConfiguration` class. The `HomeController.cs` file contains the implementation of the `HomeController`, which handles requests for the home page and manages background jobs. The code uses the `Hangfire` library to enqueue and process background tasks.

Here the screens of the application:



The screenshot displays two browser windows. The left window shows the "Console Output" page of the Hangfire ASP.NET MVC Sample application, displaying log messages related to job creation and processing. The right window shows the "Panel - Hangfire Dashboard" page, which provides a real-time overview of the system's performance, including the number of scheduled and active connections, active transactions, and log file usage. It also features two line charts: one for real-time activity and one for historical data.

The image displays two screenshots of the Hangfire Dashboard, both titled "Tareas en proceso" and "Tareas recurrentes".

**Tareas en proceso (Left Screenshot):**

- Header:** Tareas en proceso - Hangfire Dashboard | localhost:8080/hangfire/jobs/processsing
- Section:** Tareas en proceso
- Filters:** Volver a poner en la cola las tareas, Eliminar seleccionadas
- Table Headers:** Id, Servidor, Tarea, Iniciado
- Data:**
  - #2211 POE5632FSX3 14636 ServiceJob.Inst hace 19 minutos
  - #2212 POE5632FSX3 14636 SubscribeModelClientJob.Inst hace 19 minutos
- Total elements:** 2

**Tareas recurrentes (Right Screenshot):**

- Header:** Tareas recurrentes - Hangfire Dashboard | localhost:8080/hangfire/recuring
- Section:** Tareas recurrentes
- Filters:** Limpiar filtro, Eliminar
- Table Headers:** Id, Cron, Zona horaria, Tarea, Próxima ejecución, Última ejecución, Creado
- Data:**
  - 3a8dd73-66d3-4b0c-8d45-127 67143462 UTC NodeWriteClientJob.Inst en unos segundos hace 19 minutos
- Total elements:** 1

# RQ-02 | OPC Foundation Client-Server and DB Model Layer

This solution contains a standard .NET 4.7.2 projects regarding the client-server layer to interact with OPC Foundation together with the database and model projects to store data.

The solution is divided in the next modules or assemblies:

- Client-server layer
  - DB.ModelLib → Database interaction context (EntityFramework)
  - Hangfire.OPC.Configuration → Hangfire default Job configuration
  - Hangfire.OPC.JobLib → Job definitions managed by the Hangfire process
  - OPCFoundation.ClientLib → Opc client procedures and classes to interact with the SDK / Stack
  - OPCFoundation.ServerLib → Opc server procedures and classes to interact with the SDK / Stack
  - OPCFoundation.TaskLib → Tasks managed by the jobs
- Database and model
  - Model.GenericUAServer → GenericUAServer DB model to store the Job process and related data  
Note: Hangfire tables are created automatically
  - SQL.GenericUAServer → Database to store node data

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio IDE interface with the following details:

- Solution Explorer:** Shows the solution structure with projects like "OPC-Foundation-Labs-Server-Client\_.NET-4.7.2", "Libraries", "Context", "OPC-Model", "OPC-Configuration", "OPC-ServerJob", "OPC-ServerJobLib", "OPC-Task", and "OPC-TaskLib".
- Code Editor:** Displays the content of the file "Hangfire.Nod\_Web.Config.xml". This XML configuration file defines a service named "Simple UA Client Connectivity" with various settings for security, transports, and endpoints.
- Status Bar:** Shows the current file is "ServerJobs.cs", the line number is "1", and the column number is "1". It also indicates "88 %" completion.

The screenshot shows the SSMS interface with the following details:

- Toolbar:** Archivo, Editar, Ver, Consulta, Git, Proyecto, Herramientas, Extensiones, Ventana, Ayuda, Solución1.
- Object Explorer:** GenericUAServer selected.
- Query Editor:** SQLQuery1.sql...abalaEXT (68)\*  
1 SELECT id, idProcess, processStartDate, DateTimeFieldName6, StringFieldName6, DoubleFieldName6  
2 FROM [GenericUAServer].[dbo].[ReadingsData]  
3 ORDER BY id DESC  
4
- Status Bar:** 81% completion, No se encontraron problemas, Línea: 4, Carácter: 3, TABULACIONES, CRLF.
- Results Grid:** Results tab selected, showing data from the query. The columns are: id, idProcess, processStartDate, DateTimeFieldName6, StringFieldName6, DoubleFieldName6. The data includes various numerical values and some descriptive text like "Lime~ Monkey& Green Green".
- Message Bar:** Consulta ejecutada correctamente.

```
<Extensions>
    <ua:XmlElement>
        <ServerConfigManager xmlns="http://opcfoundation.org/LocalServer">
            <ServerNodes>
                <ServerNode>
                    <FolderName>Folder 1</FolderName>
                    <Bool>BoolFieldName1</Bool>
                    <String>StringFieldName1</String>
                    <Byte>ByteFieldName1</Byte>
                    <!--<ByteString>ByteStringFieldName1</ByteString>-->
                    <Datetime>DateTimeFieldName1</Datetime>
                    <Double>DoubleFieldName1</Double>
                </ServerNode>
                <ServerNode>
                    <FolderName>Folder 2</FolderName>
                    <Bool>BoolFieldName2</Bool>
                    <String>StringFieldName2</String>
                    <Byte>ByteFieldName2</Byte>
                    <!--<ByteString>ByteStringFieldName2</ByteString>-->
                    <Datetime>DateTimeFieldName2</Datetime>
                    <Double>DoubleFieldName2</Double>
                </ServerNode>
                <ServerNode>
                    <FolderName>Folder 3</FolderName>
                    <Bool>BoolFieldName3</Bool>
                    <String>StringFieldName3</String>
                    <Byte>ByteFieldName3</Byte>
                    <!--<ByteString>ByteStringFieldName3</ByteString>-->
                    <Datetime>DateTimeFieldName3</Datetime>
                    <Double>DoubleFieldName3</Double>
                </ServerNode>
                <ServerNode>
                    <FolderName>Folder 4</FolderName>
                    <Bool>BoolFieldName4</Bool>
                    <String>StringFieldName4</String>
                    <Byte>ByteFieldName4</Byte>
                    <!--<ByteString>ByteStringFieldName4</ByteString>-->
                    <Datetime>DateTimeFieldName4</Datetime>
                    <Double>DoubleFieldName4</Double>
                </ServerNode>
            </ServerNodes>
        </ServerConfigManager>
    </ua:XmlElement>
</Extensions>
```

**RQ-03** | OPC Foundation Core

This solution contains a standard .NET 4.5.1 projects with the fundamental source code of OPC Foundation.

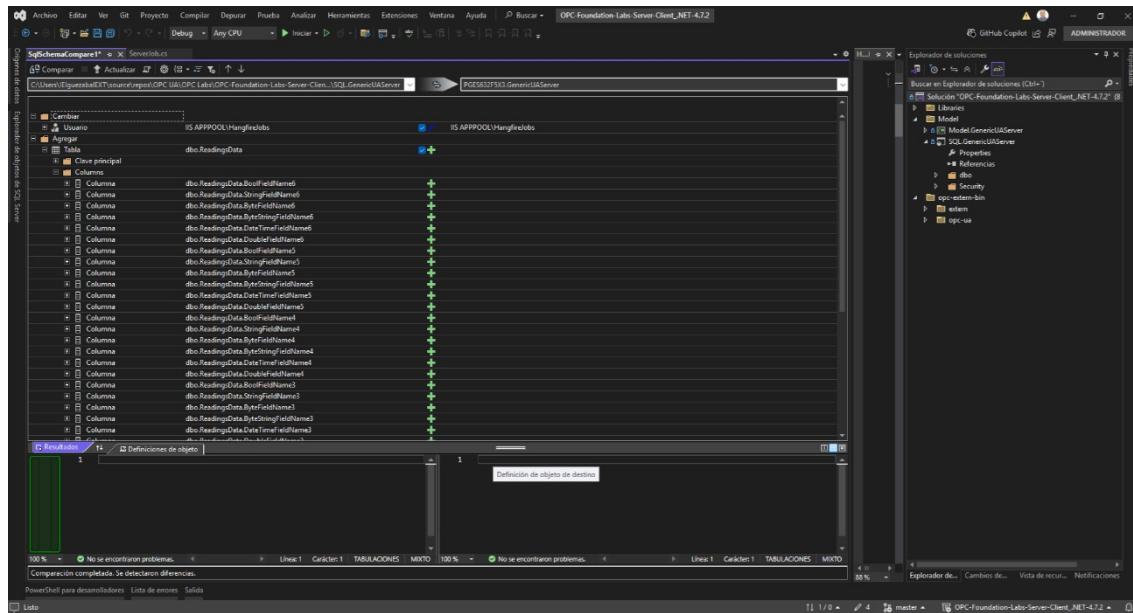
Contains the SDK and Stack, as we can see in the next image.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Visual Studio IDE interface. The title bar reads "OPC Foundation Lab .Net 4.5.1". The solution explorer on the left lists "StandardServices.cs" and "SubscriptionManager.cs" under the "UA Server Library" project. The code editor on the right displays the "SubscriptionManager.cs" file. The code is C# and defines a class "SubscriptionManager" that implements the "ISessionManager" and "ISubscriptionManager" interfaces. It includes methods for managing sessions and subscriptions, as well as event handlers for subscription creation, deletion, and modification. The code uses various .NET namespaces such as System, System.Collections.ObjectModel, System.Threading, and System.ServiceModel.

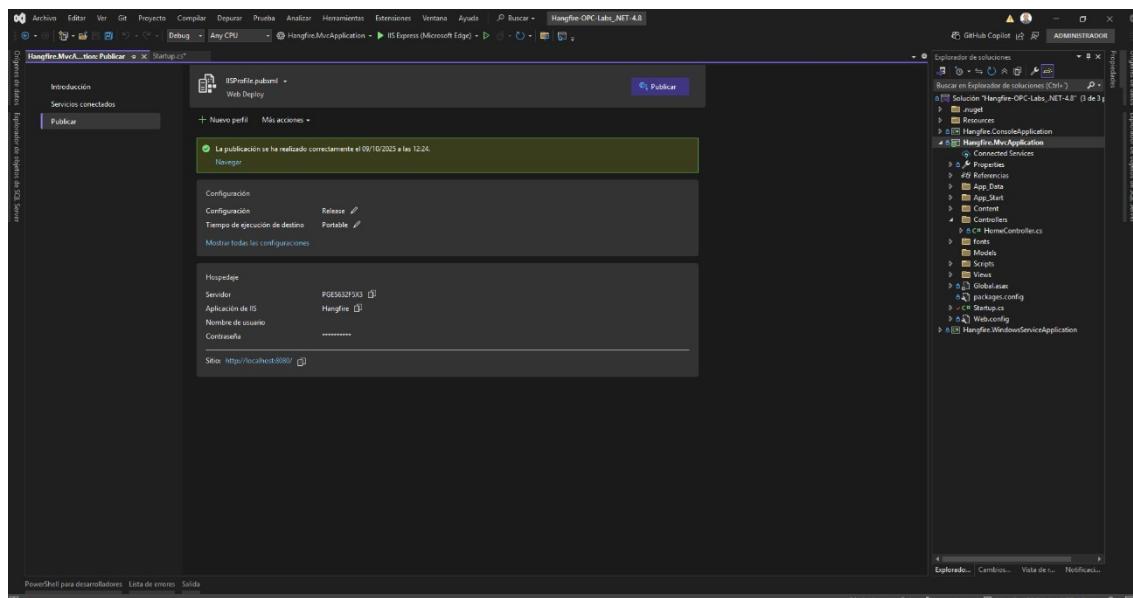
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```

# Deployment

To deploy the solution first launch the compare schema.



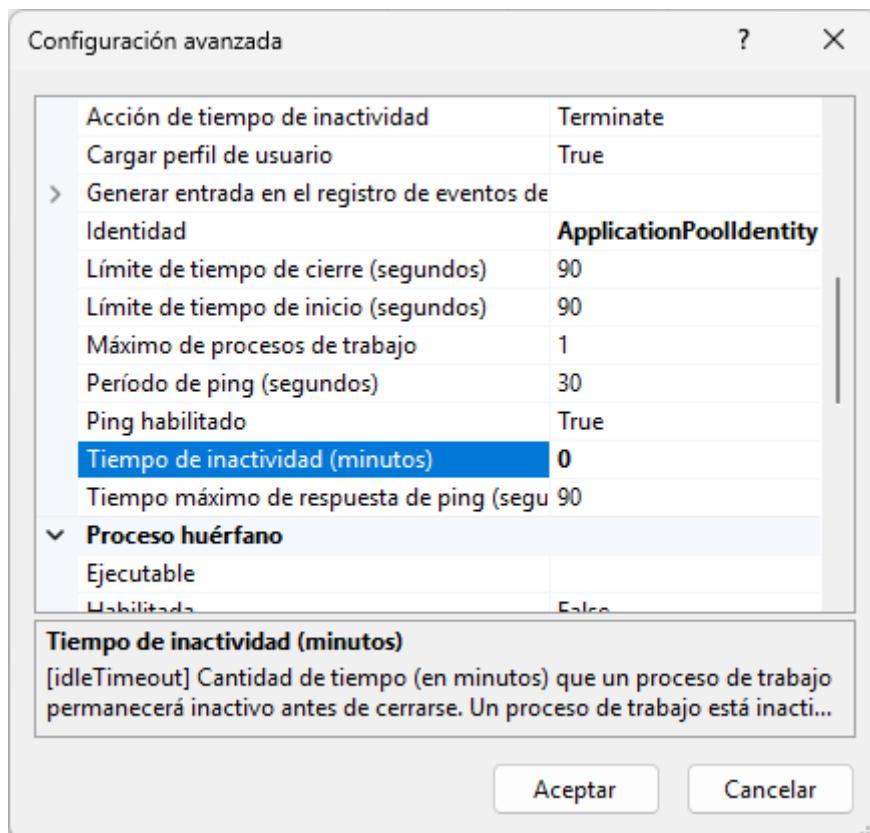
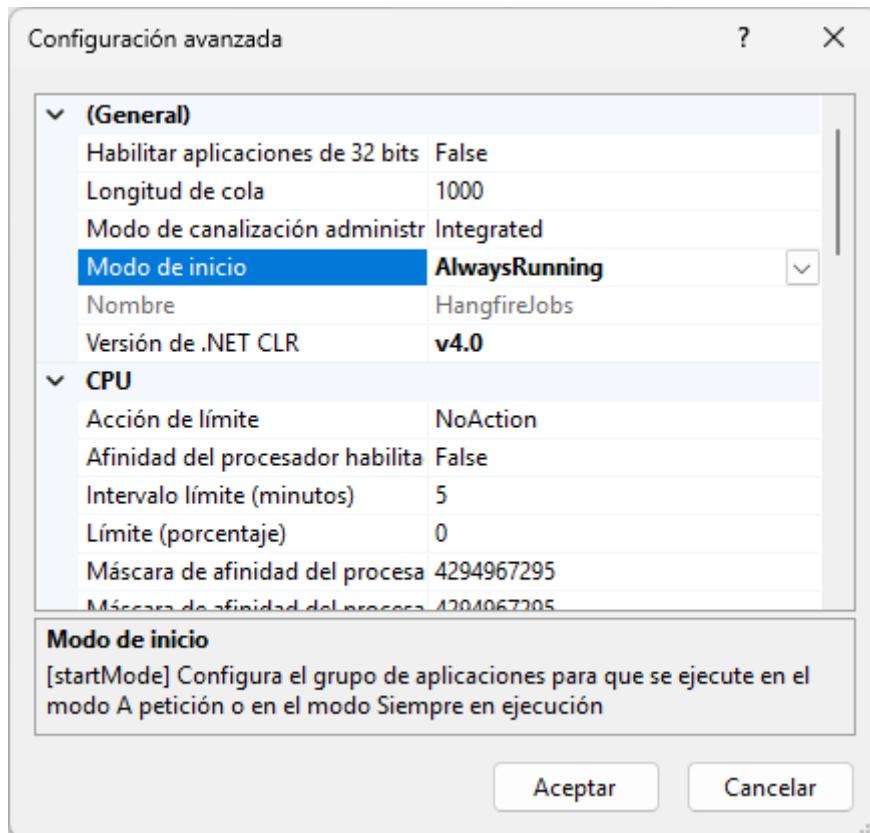
Then publish the MVC application.



It is needed to give permissions to the IIS app-pool process to use TCP.

- netsh http add urlacl url=http://+:62543/ user=Everyone
- netsh http add urlacl url=http://+:62543/LocalServer/ user=IIS APPPOOL\ HangfireJobs

IIS and app-pool configuration should be like this.



Application Pool Set "Preload Enabled". To set the application pool to "Preload Enabled" in IIS, follow these steps:

- Open the applicationHost.config file located in the %WINDIR%\system32\inetsrv\config\applicationHost.config directory.
- Locate the application pool setting and set preloadEnabled to true.
- Restart IIS to apply the changes.
- Optionally, configure warm-up requests to ensure all necessary components are loaded during the initialization phase.

This configuration allows IIS to send a "fake" request to the application when the associated application pool starts up, ensuring that the application is warmed up before any real traffic is received. This is particularly useful for applications with heavy startup processes, such as those requiring multiple service initializations or database connections.

# Software life cycle management

TO DO.

## Annexes

## Improvements and performance

## Hangfire application always running on IIS

Look up if there is any way to ensure that Hangfire application is always running on IIS.

This next article contains a detailed explanation about related topics:

- [How to Make Sure Your ASP.NET Core Keep Running on IIS - ASP.NET Hosting Tips & Guides](#)

## Jobs chain of responsibility pattern

Must be look up if further integration could be attained between the OPC Jobs and Hangfire chain of responsibility patterns.

### Additional tools used for testing

UaExpert

For initial steps of development and testing UaExpert client application was used.

