

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	2025-10-09	Name and surname	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.

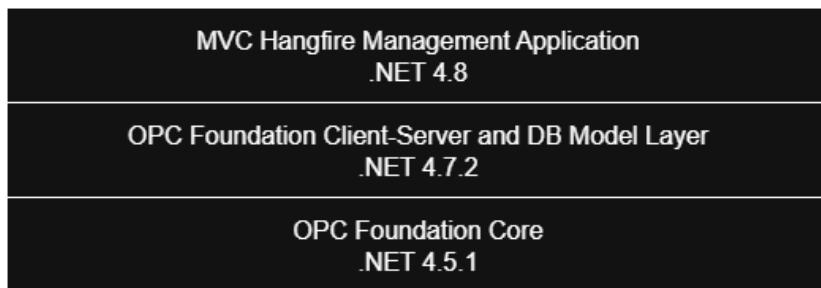
Overview

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.

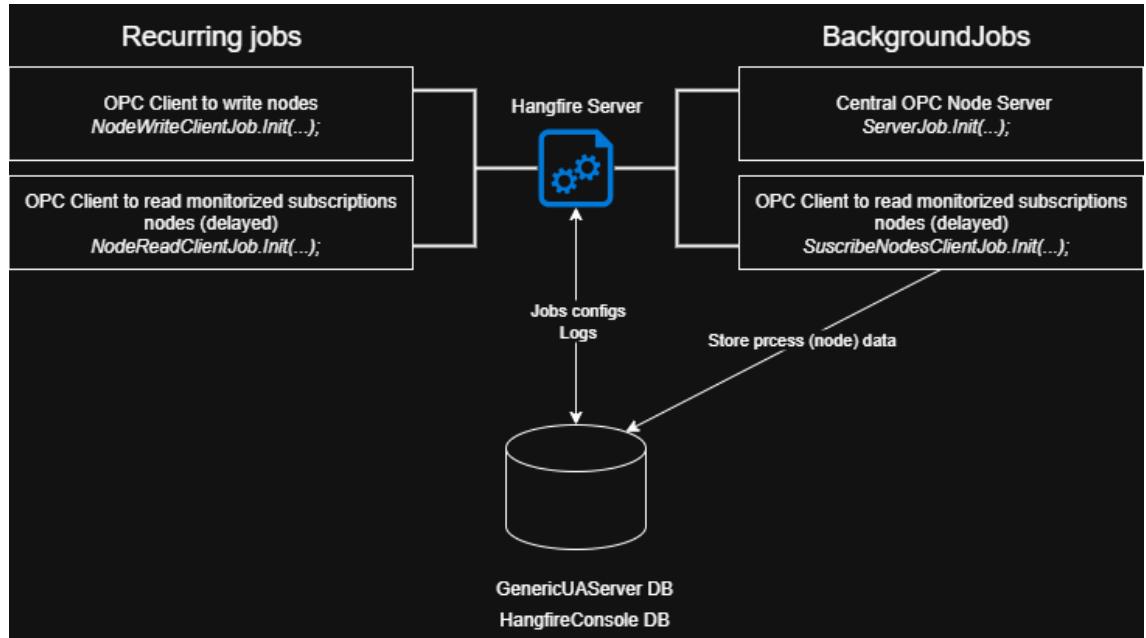
This latest version of the Hangfire server includes:

- 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).

Scope

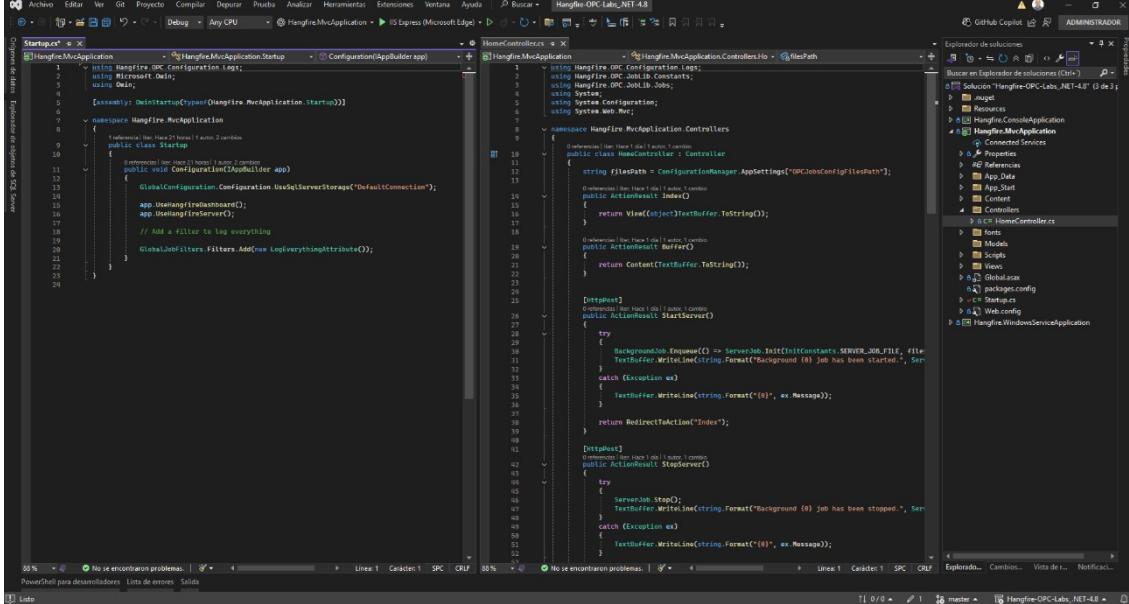
Hangfire is an open-source library for .NET applications that facilitates the execution of background jobs. It allows you to schedule jobs to run at a specific time, recurring, or immediately, all without the need for external services, and with an administration panel to monitor their status.

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.

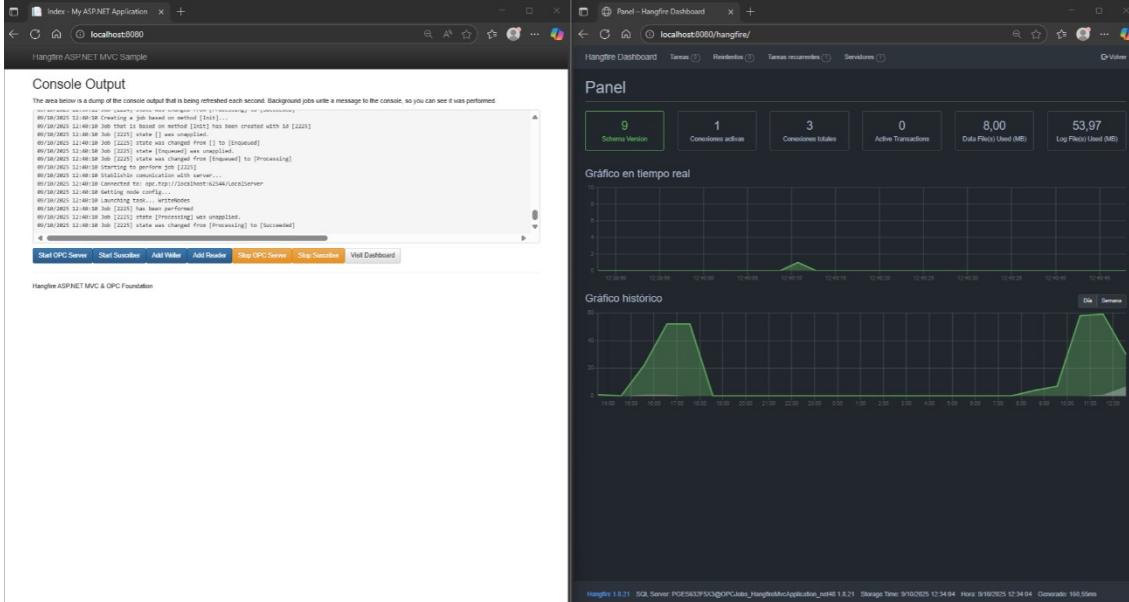
RQ-01 | MVC Hangfire Management Application

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 Hangfire, including the connection string and job storage setup. The `HomeController.cs` file contains the logic for managing background jobs, including methods for starting and stopping them. The code uses Hangfire's `BackgroundJob` and `BackgroundJob.Enqueue` methods to interact with the background processing system.

Here the screens of the application:



The first screenshot shows the 'Console Output' section of the Hangfire Dashboard, displaying a log message indicating a new job was created with ID [222]. The second screenshot shows the main Hangfire Dashboard interface, featuring a summary panel with metrics like 'Sistema Version' (9), 'Conexiones activas' (1), 'Conexiones totales' (3), 'Active Transactions' (0), 'Data Flow Used (MB)' (8,00), and 'Log File(s) Used (MB)' (53,97). Below this are two line graphs: a 'Grafico en tiempo real' (real-time) graph showing a single peak around 12:40:18, and a 'Grafico historico' (historical) graph showing a broader peak around the same time. The bottom of the dashboard displays the Hangfire version (1.8.21), database information (SQL Server PCES63P503@OPCData_HangfireMvcApplication_nd40 1.8.21), storage time (9/19/2025 12:34:04), and generation number (160,500).

Tareas en proceso

Id	Servidor	Tarea	Estado
#2211	PGE5632FSX3 14636	ServerJob.Inst	Procesando
#2212	PGE5632FSX3 14636	SubscribeModelClientJob.Inst	Con errores

Total elementos: 2

Tareas recurrentes

Id	Cron	Zona horaria	Tarea	Próxima ejecución	Última ejecución	Estado
3a8dd73-66d3-4b0c-8d45-1276143462	*/3 * * * *	UTC	NodeWriteClientJob.Inst	en unos segundos	hace unos segundos	Procesando

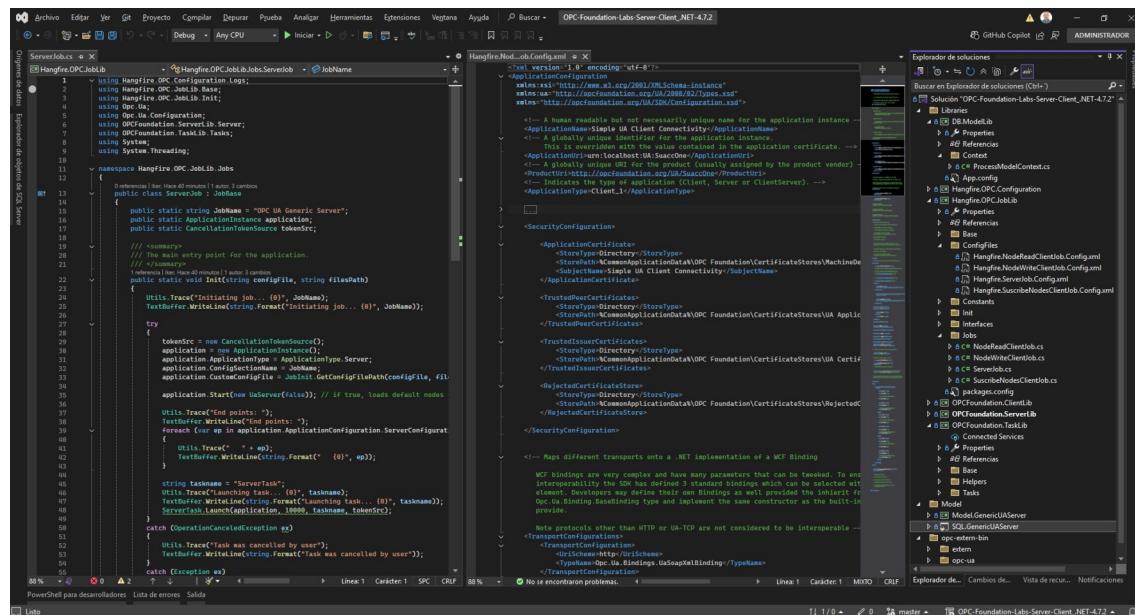
Total elementos: 1

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 SSMS interface with the following details:

- Toolbar:** Archivo, Editar, Ver, Consulta, Git, Proyecto, Herramientas, Extensiones, Ventana, Ayuda, Solución.
- Object Explorer:** Shows 'GenericUAServer' as the current database.
- Query Editor:** Title bar says 'SQLQuery1.sql...abalaEXT (68)*'. The query is:

```
1  SELECT id, idProcess, processStartDate, DateTimeFieldName6, StringFieldName6, DoubleFieldName6
2  FROM [GenericUAServer].[dbo].[ReadingsData]
3  ORDER BY id DESC
```
- Status Bar:** Shows '81%', 'No se encontraron problemas.', 'Línea: 4', 'Carácter: 3', 'TABULACIONES', 'CRLF'.
- Results Grid:** Contains 13 rows of data from the 'ReadingsData' table, with columns: id, idProcess, processStartDate, DateTimeFieldName6, StringFieldName6, DoubleFieldName6. The last column 'DoubleF' is truncated.
- Bottom Status:** '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>
                <ServerNode>
```

RQ-03 | OPC Foundation Core

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

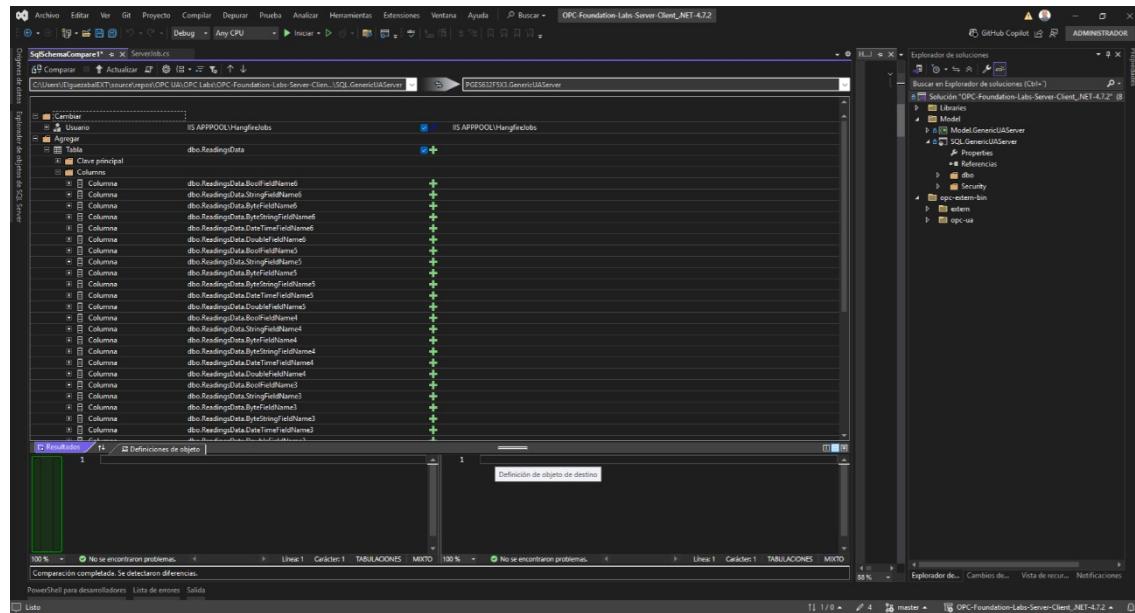
Contains the SDK and Stack, as we can see in the next image.

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.

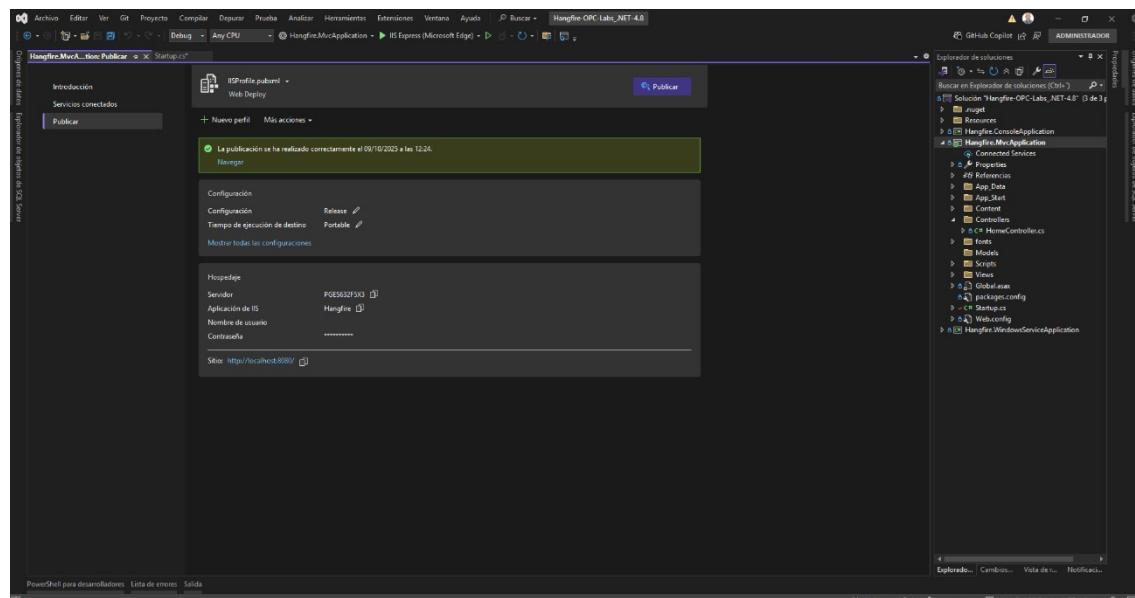
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```

Deployment

To deploy the solution first launch the compare schema.



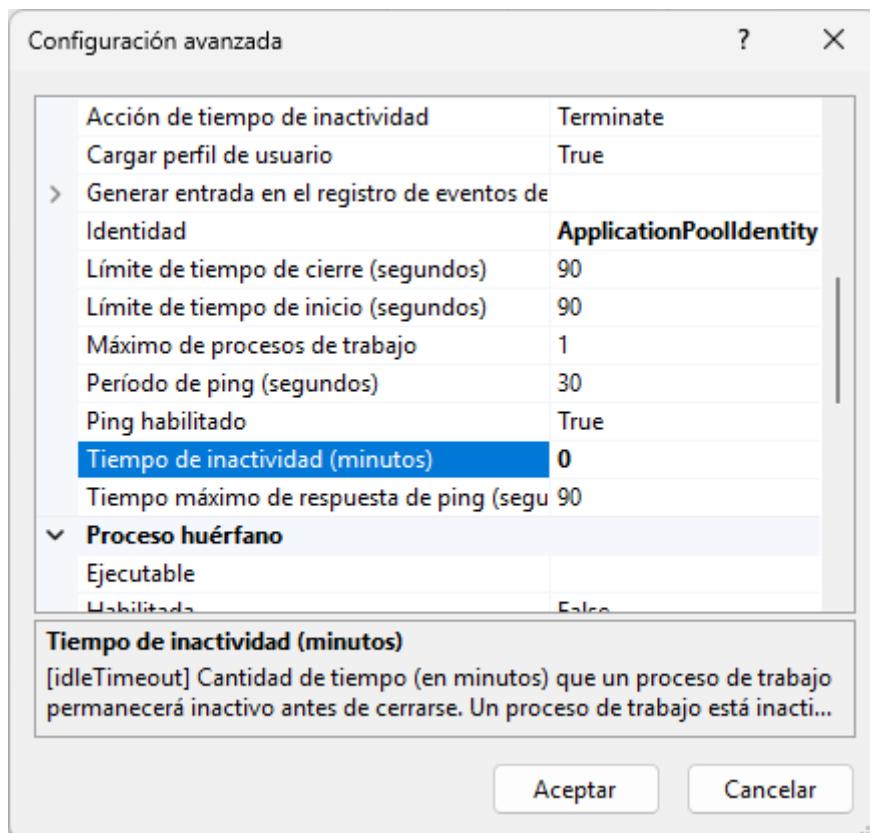
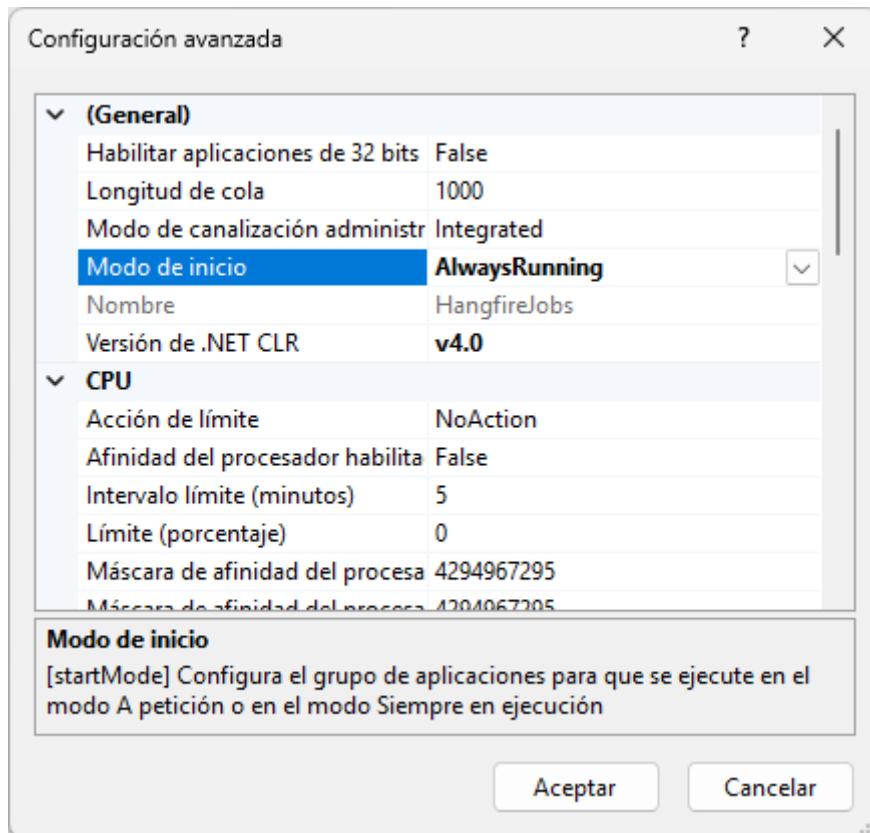
Then publish the MVC application.



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.

