Copilot Chat in Visual Studio

Within Microsoft Visual Studio Community 2022 (VisualStudio.17.Release/17.6.4+33815.320), I first attempted to just simply put a comment in the editor and then allow Copilot [] to complete the code for me. What I found was the code suggested by Copilot was not compiling correctly and resulting in errors. Perhaps it was hallucinating when it offered the code. I then put the same question into Copilot Chat prompt, and the result was much better. Next, asked Copilot Chat to create a Main method similar to what you would have in a Java class. Within a few seconds it did and appears to compile and function correctly. Specifically, here are the step by step iterations with the code, using Copilot Chat.

//write a function that takes a string and returns a string

let reverseString (s: string) =

new string(Array.rev (s.ToCharArray()))

[<EntryPoint>]

let main argv =

//testing the reverseString function with an example string

let str = "example"

printfn "%s" (reverseString str)

0 //return an integer exit code

Which displayed the reversed string. I did not want to reverse the string. So it then became:

//write a function that takes a string and returns a string

let reverseString (s: string) =

new string(Array.rev (s.ToCharArray()))

[<EntryPoint>]

let main argv =

let str = "Hello Solar System!!"

//instead of reversing the string, display it as is

printfn "%s" str

0 //return an integer exit code

Now, I want to pass a string to the main function and then parse it from the argv variable. After copying and pasting the previous sentence into the prompt of Copilot Chat, here is the result.

//write a function that takes a string and returns a string

let reverseString (s: string) =

new string(Array.rev (s.ToCharArray()))

[<EntryPoint>]

let main argv =

//let str = "Hello Solar System!!"

let str = argv.[0]

//instead of reversing the string, display it as is

printfn "%s" str

0 //return an integer exit code

Yeah, I still want to keep my reverseString function :-).

However, the above did not work. With Copilot Chat's help and me being more specific at the chat prompt, here is what I ended with:

//write a function that takes a string and returns a string

let reverseString (s: string) =

new string(Array.rev (s.ToCharArray()))

[<EntryPoint>]

let main argv =

//let str = "Hello Solar System!!"

System.Console.WriteLine("Enter a string: ")

let str = System.Console.ReadLine()

//instead of reversing the string, display it as is

printfn "You entered: %s" str

0 //return an integer exit code

Hey, my first F# Console App. In 25 minutes.

However, below is a classic fail:

A screenshot of a chat

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

I really wanted to save the Copilot’s chat session. Oh well.