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 [https://github.com/features/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.

Prompt: write a function that takes a string and returns a string. Output:

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:

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.

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:

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.