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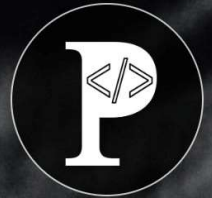


Programming - Level 2

Mutable & Immutable Types

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Mutable and Immutable Types

- In C#, types are classified as either mutable or immutable based on whether their instances can be modified after they are created.
- Understanding the difference between mutable and immutable types is crucial for designing robust and maintainable code.

Mutable Types:

- Mutable types are types whose instances can be modified after they are created.
 - Characteristics: Properties or fields of a mutable type can be changed.
 - Changes to an instance affect the state of that instance.
 - Examples include classes, arrays, and custom objects where properties can be modified.

Immutable Types:

- Immutable types are types whose instances cannot be modified after they are created.
 - Characteristics: Properties or fields of an immutable type cannot be changed after the instance is created.
 - Any operation that appears to modify the instance actually returns a new instance with the desired changes.
 - Examples include strings, tuples, and some built-in value types.
 - Another Example a Person Class that has everything as ready only.

Pros and Cons:

Mutable Types:

- Pros:
 - More flexible for certain scenarios.
 - Can be more memory-efficient if state changes frequently.
- Cons:
 - Prone to unintended side effects.
 - May require additional effort to maintain consistency.

Immutable Types:

- Pros:
 - Safer and less error-prone since instances cannot be modified.
 - Easier to reason about and maintain.
- Cons:
 - Creating a new instance for each modification
 - Can be less memory-efficient for certain scenarios.

Guidelines:

- Favor Immutability: Whenever possible, prefer using immutable types to reduce bugs related to unintended state changes.
- Use Mutability When Necessary: There are scenarios where mutability is more appropriate, such as when frequent state changes are expected or when performance is a critical concern.



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Thank You

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