

[Flags]

with

enums

What is that?



Purpose of [Flags]

Indicates that an enum should be treated as a set of flags

```
1 [Flags]
2 enum AccessRights
3 {
4     None    = 0, //0000
5     Read    = 1, //0001
6     Write   = 2, //0010
7     Execute = 4 //0100
8 }
```

Each value is assigned a power of 2, so each value corresponds to a different bit being set in the number's binary representation



Combining Flags

To combine flags, you'd typically use the bitwise OR | operation



```
1 AccessRights readOnly = AccessRights.Read | AccessRights.Write
```

Checking Flags

To check if a particular flag is set, you'd use bitwise AND & operation



```
1 bool hasRead = (readOnly & AccessRights.Read) == AccessRights.Read;  
2 //Result true = 0011 AND 0001 is 0001
```



Removing Flags

Combination of bitwise AND op and
bitwise NOT op



```
1 readWrite = readWrite & ~AccessRights.Read;  
2 // Result: 0010 in binary (2 = Write Access)
```



[Flags] and .ToString()



```
1 AccessRights myRights = AccessRights.Read | AccessRights.Write;  
2 Console.WriteLine(myRights); //Output: Read, Write
```



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Best Practices

- 1. Always include a 'None' value set to 0. This represents the absence of any flag.**
- 2. Assign powers of 2 as values to ensure each value corresponds to a unique bit.**
- 3. Only use the [Flags] attribute when you intend the enum to represents multiple values simultaneously.**





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