# Interfaces

The objective of this exercise is to consolidate your understanding of interfaces.

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| 1 | Create a new Visual Studio project of type Class Library called **InterfaceProject**.        Delete **Class1**.  Add to this solution an XUnit Test project called **TestProject**. |
| 2 | We have provided a **Person** class in the Assets folder. Drag this file onto your **InterfaceProject**. |
| 3 | Replace the provided Test1() with the two tests in **IEquatable.txt** from the **Assets** folder and resolve the red squiggles. |
| 4 | Run the tests. The first test fails, the second test passes by accident.  The problem is that the compiler doesn’t know how to figure out if two Persons are the same person. For example, if your bank account has a balance of £100 and so does mine – does that mean they are the same account? |
| 5 | Make Person implement the interface **IEquatable<Person>**  This will make you implement the **Equals** method.  As far as we are concerned, if the Name, Address, and DateOfBirth are the same, it is the same person. Put in this code and ensure both tests now pass. |
| 6 | You will now compare some people, the Spice Girls, by putting them in order based on their DateOfBirth.  We’ll put these in DateOfBirth order.  Copy in the test in the Assets folder called **Compare\_People** and resolve the red squiggles.    Run the test. It will fail. Look at the error message:    It fails because it does not know how to sort Persons into order because they are not comparable. |
| 7 | Implement the interface **IComparable<Person>**  Notice the **CompareTo** method returns an int.  We want to rank Person by **DateOfBirth**, so:  CompareTo should return **+1** if DoB is greater than the compared to object’s’ DoB.  **-1** if smaller  Otherwise return **0**.  Enter the code and run the test to ensure it now passes. |
| 8 | In the Assets folder is a class **AssassinatedPresident**. Drag this onto your **InterfaceProject**.  Add the test **Compare\_Presidents**.    Now implement **IComparable** for **AssassinatedPresident** where we want the sort order to be by the *month* in which they were *assassinated*.  Run the Test and confirm it passes. |
| 9 | You will now experiment with cloning objects.  Copy in the **Clone\_A\_Spice\_Girl** test.  The interface you need is **ICloneable**. Make Person implement the interface **ICloneable**.  Conveniently, there is a protected method on the Object class which does this for us:    But you’ll get a red squiggly in the test.  This is because **Clone** method returns an object, so we have to cast the result to **Person** in the test:    Re-run the test. It should now pass. |
| 10 | This works, but it’s not ideal.  It’s a pity that the framework does not offer a generic version of **ICloneable.**  Have a go at creating your own generic **ICloneable<T>** interface.  **Hint**: Do an F12 on the generic interfaces **IEquatable** and **IComparable** to see how they are created.  Implement your generic version of **ICloneable<T>** in Person instead of the non-generic **ICloneable**. You can perform the explicit cast in the implemented **Clone** method.  Your test should no longer require the explicit cast and should be as follows:    Run the Tests. All tests should now pass. |
| 11 | You will now explore another interface **ITaxRules** and see how it is implemented in different classes.  Into your **TestProject**, copy the **Tax Tests** from the **Assets** folder:    We have provided all the code for you.  Copy the **Product** folder from the **Assets** folder and drop it onto your **InterfaceProject**.  Have a look at the **Product** class. See that it is passed in an **ITaxRules** in its constructor but it doesn’t know or care what sort of tax rules they, are as long as they implement **ITaxRules.**  Review the code and confirm all tests pass. |

# Explicit interfaces

Because one class can implement many interfaces, it’s possible that there could be a clash of method name. In the example coming up, we create an **AmphibiousVehicle** (this is the DUKW – pronounced Duck), and it was actually the US Army coding for such a vehicle.

D=1942

U=Utility

K=all-wheel drive

W=2 powered rear axles

This remarkable vehicle is truly a water vehicle and truly a land vehicle. In other technologies we might describe this by using multiple inheritance. .NET outlaws multiple inheritance, so we would achieve this by implementing multiple interfaces.

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| 1 | Drag the folder **DUKW** onto your **InterfaceProject** and have a look at the three files.  In particular, notice that both interfaces have a **Brake** method.  A land vehicle brakes by squeezing the disc pads.  A water vehicle brakes by putting the propeller into reverse.  Therefore, we need two methods. |
| 2 | Open the **AmphibiousVehicle** class and implement the interface **ILandVehicle**.  Build the project to confirm there are no errors.  You will see it gives you one method and both interfaces are satisfied.  However, it gives you no chance to have two methods.  Delete the **Brake** method. |
| 3 | Now implement the **IWaterVehicle** interface *explicitly* by placing the cursor on **IWaterVehicle** in **AmphibiousVehicle** and using **Ctrl+dot** -> **Implement all members explicitly**.  Delete the **throw NotImplementedException**.  Now place the cursor on **ILandVehicle** and use **Ctrl+dot** -> **Implement interface**.  You get the Brake method.  Delete the **throw NotImplementedException**. |
| 4 | You will now use a test to call the implicitly implemented brake method and the explicitly implemented break method.  Add this test to **TestProject**:    Add a breakpoint:    Right-click in the test and choose **Debug Tests.** Step into the code using and **Step Into (F11)** to confirm that both brake methods are called. |