**TASK 1 - .NET FUNDAMENTALS**

* **What does the .NET ecosystem provide?**

The .NET ecosystem is a collection of tools, libraries, and frameworks that are used to develop, deploy, and run applications on the .NET platform. The ecosystem includes the following components:

1. **.NET Framework**: A software framework developed by Microsoft that runs primarily on Microsoft Windows operating systems. It includes a large class library known as Framework Class Library (FCL) and provides language interoperability across several programming languages.
2. **.NET Core**: A free, open-source, cross-platform framework for building modern cloud-based applications. It is designed to be modular and lightweight and can be used to build applications for Windows, Linux, and macOS.
3. **ASP.NET**: A web application framework developed by Microsoft that allows developers to build dynamic web sites, web applications, and web services.
4. **Entity Framework**: An object-relational mapping (ORM) framework that allows developers to work with relational data using domain-specific objects.
5. **Visual Studio**: An integrated development environment (IDE) used to develop computer programs, websites, web apps, mobile apps, and cloud services.
6. **NuGet**: A package manager for the Microsoft development platform including .NET. It is used to install, update, and manage packages in a project.
7. **Roslyn Compiler**: A set of open-source compilers and code analysis APIs for C# and Visual Basic .NET languages.
8. **Xamarin**: A cross-platform app development platform that allows developers to create native iOS, Android, and Windows apps using a single codebase.
9. **Azure**: A cloud computing service created by Microsoft for building, testing, deploying, and managing applications and services through Microsoft-managed data centers.

* **What are .NET implementations? Which ones are used nowadays?**
* **.NET Framework**: A software framework developed by Microsoft that runs primarily on Microsoft Windows operating systems. It includes a large class library known as Framework Class Library (FCL) and provides language interoperability across several programming languages.
* **.NET Core**: A free, open-source, cross-platform framework for building modern cloud-based applications. It is designed to be modular and lightweight and can be used to build applications for Windows, Linux, and macOS.
* **Mono**: A cross-platform implementation of the .NET Framework that is mainly used when a small runtime is required. It supports all of the currently published .NET Standard versions .

Microsoft supports four .NET implementations: .NET 5 (and .NET Core) and later versions, .NET Framework, Mono, and Universal Windows Platform (UWP). The latest version of .NET is .NET 7, which is built on a single code base that supports multiple platforms and many workloads such as Windows desktop apps and cross-platform console apps, cloud services, and websites.

Each implementation of .NET includes one or more runtimes, a class library, and optionally one or more application frameworks. The choice of implementation depends on the specific requirements of the application being developed.

* **What is CLR?**

The **Common Language Runtime (CLR)** is a component of the Microsoft .NET Framework that manages the execution of .NET applications. It is responsible for loading and executing the code written in various .NET programming languages, including C#, VB.NET, F#, and others. When a C# program is compiled, the resulting executable code is in an intermediate language called Common Intermediate Language (CIL) or Microsoft Intermediate Language (MSIL). This code is not machine-specific, and it can run on any platform that has the CLR installed. When the CIL code is executed, the CLR compiles it into machine code that can be executed by the processor. The CLR provides many services to .NET applications, including memory management, type safety, security, and exception handling. It also provides Just-In-Time (JIT) compilation, which compiles the CIL code into machine code on the fly as the program runs, optimizing performance. Additionally, the CLR provides a framework for developing and deploying .NET applications, including a set of libraries, called the .NET Framework Class Library, which provides access to a wide range of functionality, such as input/output operations, networking, database connectivity, and user interface design.

* **Why is .NET 5 a bit of a special version?**

.NET 5 is a bit of a special version for several reasons. Firstly, it is the **first release** of .NET that does not include the word “Core” in its name. Secondly, it is the **first release** of .NET that supports more types of apps and more platforms than .NET Core or .NET Framework. Thirdly, it is the **first release** of .NET that combines and replaces the netcoreapp and netstandard Target Framework Monikers (TFMs). Fourthly, it is the **first release** of .NET that includes many new features and improvements compared to .NET Core 3.1. Lastly, it is the **first release** of .NET that is built on a single code base that supports multiple platforms and many workloads such as Windows desktop apps and cross-platform console apps, cloud services, and websites.

* **Which technologies are supported by the .NET framework?**

The .NET framework is a collection of tools, libraries, and frameworks that are used to develop, deploy, and run applications on the .NET platform. The following are some of the technologies supported by the .NET framework:

1. **ASP.NET**: A web application framework developed by Microsoft that allows developers to build dynamic web sites, web applications, and web services.
2. **Windows Communication Foundation (WCF)**: A framework for building service-oriented applications.
3. **Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF)**: A graphical subsystem for rendering user interfaces in Windows-based applications.
4. **Windows Workflow Foundation (WF)**: A framework for building workflow-enabled applications.
5. **Windows CardSpace**: A software component that provides a consistent way for users to manage their digital identities.
6. **ADO.NET**: A set of classes that expose data access services for .NET Framework programmers.
7. **LINQ**: A set of extensions to the .NET Framework that provides a standard way to query data from different data sources.
8. **Parallel Extensions**: A managed concurrency library that simplifies the development of concurrent and parallel applications.
9. **Managed Extensibility Framework (MEF)**: A framework for building extensible applications.
10. **Windows Azure**: A cloud computing platform developed by Microsoft for building, deploying, and managing applications and services through a global network of Microsoft-managed data centers.

* **Does cross-platform development is possible in .NET? What about cross-platform UI?**

Yes, cross-platform development is possible in .NET. **.NET Core** is a free, open-source, cross-platform framework for building modern cloud-based applications that can be used to build applications for Windows, Linux, and macOS. Additionally, .NET Multi-platform App UI (**MAUI**) is a cross-platform framework for creating native mobile and desktop apps with C# and XAML that can run on Android, iOS, macOS, and Windows from a single shared code-base.

* **What does the multitargeting term mean?**

In the context of .NET, multitargeting refers to the ability to compile applications that can run on different versions of the .NET runtime. It allows developers to target multiple versions of the .NET Framework or .NET Core with a single codebase. Multitargeting ensures that your application does not use any types or methods that were introduced in newer versions of the runtime than the one you are targeting.

**TASK 2 - DEBUGGING FUNDAMENTALS**

* **What is break mode? What are the options to step through code?**

Break mode in .NET is a debugging mode that allows you to observe code line by line in order to locate errors. When changes are made to the code in an application, the way to be able to view how those changes have changed the way of execution is Break Mode. In break mode, a snapshot of the running application is taken in which the status and values of all the variables is stored. Visual Studio provides following options to step through code:

1. **Step Into**: This option steps into the next statement, whether it is a method call or a property access.
2. **Step Over**: This option executes the next statement and then returns control to the current line of code.
3. **Step Out**: This option executes the remaining statements in the current method and then returns control to the calling method.
4. **Run To Cursor**: This option runs the application until it reaches the cursor position.
5. **Set Next Statement**: This option allows you to change the execution point of your code.

* **How to ignore some exceptions during debugging?**

To ignore exceptions during debugging in Visual Studio, you can use the Exception Settings window. In this window, you can specify on which exceptions to break. If you want to ignore a specific exception, you can uncheck the box next to it.

* **How to set up conditional breakpoint?**

To set up a conditional breakpoint in Visual Studio, you can follow these steps:

1. Set a breakpoint at the line of code where you want to break execution.
2. Right-click on the breakpoint and select “Condition” from the context menu.
3. In the “Breakpoint Condition” dialog box, enter the condition that you want to use to trigger the breakpoint.
4. Click “OK” to save the condition.

Now, when the code reaches that line during debugging, it will only break if the condition is true.

* **What is data breakpoint?**

A data breakpoint is a type of breakpoint that allows you to break execution when the value stored at a specified memory location changes. This can be useful when you want to monitor changes to a variable’s value or track down memory-related issues in your code.

* **What is trace point and how to use it?**

A tracepoint is a debugging feature in Visual Studio that allows you to log information to the Output window under configurable conditions without modifying or stopping your code. Tracepoints are supported for both managed languages (C#, Visual Basic, F#) and native code as well as languages such as JavaScript and Python.

To use tracepoints in Visual Studio, you can follow these steps:

1. Set a breakpoint at the line of code where you want to log information.
2. Right-click on the breakpoint and select “When Hit…” from the context menu.
3. In the “When Hit” dialog box, enter the message that you want to log into the “Print a message” text box.
4. Click “OK” to save the tracepoint.

Now, when the code reaches that line during debugging, it will log the message you specified to the Output window.

* **What are pdb files, when are they created and how to use them?**

A **program database (PDB) file** is a binary file that contains debugging and project state information that allows incremental linking of a Debug configuration of your program. PDB files are created when you compile a Visual Basic/C#/.NET program with /debug.

PDB files hold debugging and project state information that allows incremental linking of a Debug configuration of your program. They contain type and symbolic debugging information gathered over the course of compiling and linking the project. PDB files are as important as source code, as they help link crash reports back to the source code.

To use PDB files in Visual Studio, you can follow these steps:

1. Build your project with the /debug option.
2. In the “Solution Explorer” window, right-click on your project and select “Properties”.
3. In the “Properties” window, select “Linker” -> “Debugging”.
4. Set the “Generate Debug Info” option to “Yes (/DEBUG)”.
5. Set the “Debug Info Format” option to “Program Database (/Zi)”.
6. Click “OK” to save the changes.

Now, when you run your program in Debug mode, Visual Studio will use the PDB file to provide debugging information.

* **What is symbol server?**

The **Microsoft symbol server** is a debugging feature in Visual Studio that allows you to download debugging symbols for Windows operating systems and applications. Debugging symbols contain information about the executable code of a program, such as function names, variable names, and line numbers. This information is used by the debugger to provide more detailed information about the program’s execution.

* **What are debug and release build configurations?**

In Visual Studio, **debug** and **release** configurations are two different build configurations that can be used to compile your code.

The **debug configuration** is optimized for debugging and is used to compile your code with full symbolic debug information and no optimization. This makes it easier to debug your code, but it also makes the executable file larger and slower.

The **release configuration** is optimized for performance and is used to compile your code with no symbolic debug information and full optimization. This makes the executable file smaller and faster, but it also makes it harder to debug your code.

**TASK 3 – ADVANCED C#**

* **What is the difference between reference and value types?**

In C#, data types are categorized based on how they store their value in the memory. Value types hold a data value within their own memory space, while reference types store the address where the value is being stored.

Value types include all numeric data types, Boolean, Char, Date, and structures, even if their members are reference types. When you pass a value-type variable from one method to another, the system creates a separate copy of the variable in another method. If the value got changed in one method, it wouldn’t affect the variable in another method.

Reference types include String, Arrays (even if their elements are value types), Class, and Delegate. Unlike value types, a reference type doesn’t store its value directly. Instead, it stores the address where the value is being stored. In other words, a reference type contains a pointer to another memory location that holds the data. When you pass a reference type variable from one method to another, it doesn’t create a new copy; instead, it passes the variable’s address. So if we change the value of a variable in a method, it will also be reflected in the calling method.

* **What is boxing and unboxing?**

In C#, **boxing** is the process of converting a value type to the type object or to any interface type implemented by this value type. When the common language runtime (CLR) boxes a value type, it wraps the value inside a System.Object instance and stores it on the managed heap. **Unboxing** extracts the value type from the object. Boxing is implicit; unboxing is explicit.

The concept of boxing and unboxing underlies the C# unified view of the type system in which a value of any type can be treated as an object.

* **What is a class? What is an interface?**

In C#, a **class** is a user-defined type that acts as a blueprint for object creation. It can have properties and methods that represent the states and behaviors of an object, respectively. A class can be instantiated, i.e., objects of a class can be created.

An **interface** is also a user-defined type that is syntactically similar to a class. However, it only specifies what a class must do and not how. It is the blueprint of the class. An Interface cannot be instantiated, i.e., objects cannot be created.

1. A class is a blueprint for creating objects, whereas an interface is a contract that defines the behavior of a class.
2. A class can be instantiated, i.e., objects of a class can be created. An interface cannot be instantiated, i.e., objects cannot be created.
3. A class can have constructors and destructors. An interface cannot have constructors or destructors.
4. A class can have fields, properties, methods, events, and indexers. An interface can only have methods, properties, events, and indexers.
5. A class can support inheritance. An interface supports multiple inheritance.
6. A class can implement an interface. An interface cannot implement a class.

In general, classes are used to define objects that have state and behavior, while interfaces are used to define the behavior of objects.

* **What is the difference between class and structure?**

In C#, both **class** and **structure** are user-defined types that can be used to define objects. However, there are some differences between them.

In general, classes are used for more complex data structures that require inheritance or other advanced features, while structures are used for simple data structures that do not require inheritance or other advanced features.

1. A class is a reference type, whereas a structure is a value type.
2. A class can be inherited from another class, whereas a structure cannot be inherited from another structure or class.
3. A class can have a constructor and a destructor, whereas a structure can have only a constructor.
4. A class can have fields, properties, methods, events, and indexers, whereas a structure can have fields, properties, methods, and indexers, but not events.
5. A class can have both static and instance members, whereas a structure can have only instance members.

* **What is a generic type? What is Covariance and Contravariance?**

In C#, a **generic type** is a type that can be parameterized with one or more types. It allows you to define a class, structure, interface, or method that can work with any data type.

**Covariance** and **Contravariance** are terms that refer to the ability to use a more derived type (more specific) or a less derived type (less specific) than originally specified. Generic type parameters support covariance and contravariance to provide greater flexibility in assigning and using generic types.

* **Covariance** enables you to use a more derived type than originally specified. You can assign an instance of IEnumerable<Derived> to a variable of type IEnumerable<Base>.
* **Contravariance** enables you to use a more generic (less derived) type than originally specified. You can assign an instance of Action<Base> to a variable of type Action<Derived>.
* **Invariance** means that you can use only the type originally specified. An invariant generic type parameter is neither covariant nor contravariant. You cannot assign an instance of List<Base> to a variable of type List<Derived> or vice versa.
* **What is delegate?**

In C#, a **delegate** is a type that represents a reference to a method with a specific signature. It is similar to a function pointer in C or C++. A delegate can be used to pass methods as arguments to other methods, or to store methods as instance variables.

* **What is event?**

In programming, an **event** is an action or occurrence recognized by software, often originating asynchronously from the external environment, that may be handled by the software. In event-driven programming, the flow of the program is determined by events such as user actions from mice, keyboards, touchpads and touchscreens. Non-user initiated events can involve sensor inputs or be programmatically generated (message passing) from other programs or threads.

Event-driven programming is the dominant paradigm used in graphical user interfaces and other applications (e.g., JavaScript web applications) that are centered on performing certain actions in response to user input.

* **What is the difference between delegate and event?**

1. A delegate is a function pointer, whereas an event is a notification mechanism that depends on delegates.
2. A delegate is independent and not dependent on events, whereas an event is dependent on a delegate and cannot be created without delegates.
3. An event includes AddEventHandler() and RemoveEventHandler() methods to add and remove methods from the invocation list, respectively, whereas a delegate includes Combine() and Remove() methods to add methods to the invocation list.
4. A delegate can be passed as a method parameter, whereas an event cannot be passed as a method parameter.
5. The = operator is used to assign a single method, and the += operator is used to assign multiple methods to a delegate. The = operator cannot be used with events, and only the += and -= operators can be used with an event that adds or removes an event handler.