

INTRODUCTION TO C#

Introducing C#, Understanding .NET, overview of C#, Literals, Variables, Data Types, Operators, checked and unchecked operators, Expressions, Branching, Looping, Methods, implicit and explicit casting, Constant, Arrays, Array Class, Array List, String, String Builder, Structure, Enumerations, boxing and unboxing.

1.1 INTRODUCING C#

C# is Microsoft premier language for .Net development such as Enterprise applications, web applications, windows applications and embedded systems.

C# is intended to be a simple, modern, general-purpose, type-safe object-oriented programming language that enables programmers to quickly and easily build solutions for the Microsoft .NET platform.

1.1.1 C# Features

- C# is case-sensitive
- Very similar to Java :
 - 70% Java,
 - 10% C++,
 - 5% Visual Basic,
 - 15% new

As in Java

- Object-orientation (single inheritance)
- Interfaces
- Exceptions
- Threads

1.2 Introduction to C#

- Namespaces (like Packages)
- Strong typing
- Garbage Collection
- Reflection
- Dynamic loading of code

As in C++

- (Operator) Overloading
- Pointer arithmetic in unsafe code
- Some syntactic details

New Features

- Reference and output parameters
- Objects on the stack (structs)
- Rectangular arrays
- Enumerations
- Unified type system
- goto
- Versioning

1.1.2 Characteristics of C#

C# was developed to bring rapid development to C++ without sacrificing the power and control of C and C++.

C# provides various characteristics, which are:

Simple:

C# eliminates the use of tedious operators such as \rightarrow , $::$ and pointers. C# treats `int` and `Boolean` as two different data types, which enable the compiler to recognize the use of `==` in place of `is` with `if` statement.

Consistent:

C# supports only one integer and there is no limitation of range.

Modern:

C# contains various features necessary to develop such applications. Following are the features of C#:

- It provides automatic garbage collection.
- It provides robust security model.
- It provides decimal data type for financial application.
- It provides modern approach for debugging.
- It provides a rich intrinsic model for error handling.

Object Oriented:

C# supports all the features of object oriented language such as encapsulation, inheritance and polymorphism. It treats everything as an object and there are no global functions, variables and constants in C#.

Type Safe:

C# provides various type safe measures, which are :

- Dynamically allocated objects and arrays are initialised to zero.
- Produces an error message while using an uninitialised variable.
- Checks the range of an array and warns when the access goes out of bound.
- Unsafe casts are not allowed.
- Enforces overflow checking in arithmetic operations.

Versionable:

C# supports versioning that enables the existing applications to run on older versions with the help of new and override command.

Compatible:

C# contains the .NET specifications and therefore, allows inter operation with .NET languages.

Flexible:

C# does not support pointers but you may use pointers to manipulate the data of certain classes and methods by declaring them unsafe.