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Cannot find command 'dotnet ef'?

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I am using .NET core 2.0 on Arch VScode and trying to get EF tools to work but I keep getting that error 'cannot find command dotnet ef'. I've just about looked everywhere and none of the suggestions worked. So if you can please help that would be much appreciated.

The result of running 'dotnet ef'

```
[wasiim@wasiim-PC WebApiServerApp]$ dotnet ef --help
Cannot find command 'dotnet ef', please run the following command to install

dotnet tool install --global dotnet-ef
[wasiim@wasiim-PC WebApiServerApp]$ dotnet tool list -g
Package Id              Version        Commands
--------------------------------------------------------------
dotnet-dev-certs        2.2.0          dotnet-dev-certs
dotnet-ef               2.2.3          dotnet-ef
[wasiim@wasiim-PC WebApiServerApp]$
```

this is the dotnet --info result, if it's of help

```
[wasiim@wasiim-PC WebApiServerApp]$ dotnet --info
.NET Core SDK (reflecting any global.json):
 Version:   2.2.105
 Commit:    7cecb35b92

Runtime Environment:
 OS Name:     arch
 OS Version:
 OS Platform: Linux
 RID:         arch-x64
 Base Path:   /opt/dotnet/sdk/2.2.105/

Host (useful for support):
 Version: 2.2.3
 Commit:  6b8ad509b6

.NET Core SDKs installed:
 2.2.105 [/opt/dotnet/sdk]

.NET Core runtimes installed:
 Microsoft.NETCore.App 2.2.3 [/opt/dotnet/shared/Microsoft.NETCore.App]

To install additional .NET Core runtimes or SDKs:
 https://aka.ms/dotnet-download
```

This is my .csproj file

```
<Project Sdk="Microsoft.NET.Sdk.Web">
```

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```xml
<PropertyGroup>
    <TargetFramework>netcoreapp2.2</TargetFramework>
</PropertyGroup>

<ItemGroup>
    <Folder Include="wwwroot\" />
</ItemGroup>

<ItemGroup>
    <PackageReference Include="Lucene.Net.Analysis.Common" Version="4.8.0-beta00005" />
    <PackageReference Include="Lucene.Net.QueryParser" Version="4.8.0-beta00005" />
    <PackageReference Include="Microsoft.AspNetCore.App" Version="2.2.5" />
    <PackageReference Include="Lucene.Net" Version="4.8.0-beta00005" />
    <PackageGroup Include="Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.SqlServer" Version="1.1.0" />
    <PackageReference Include="Microsoft.AspNetCore.Razor.Design" Version="2.2.0" PrivateAsset
    <PackageReference Include="Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.Design" Version="2.2.4" />
    <DotNetCliToolReference Include="Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.Tools.DotNet" Version="2.0.
</ItemGroup>

</Project>
```

share improve this question   edited Jul 3 at 2:51   asked Jul 3 at 2:22
                                                                              Wasiim Ouro-sama
                                                                              315 ● 3 ● 12

> Is `~/.dotnet/tools` in your `$PATH` ? – Omair Majid Jul 3 at 3:16 ✎

> @OmairMajid thaaanks it worked!!!!! you're the real MVP man. If you post it as an answer, I'll accept. –
> Wasiim Ouro-sama Jul 3 at 3:50 ✎

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3 Answers

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▲ How to fix this

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For **Linux** and **macOS**, add a line to your shell's configuration:

▼

✓

- `bash / zsh` :

  ```
  export PATH="$PATH:$HOME/.dotnet/tools/"
  ```

- `csh / tcsh` :

  ```
  set path = ($path $HOME/.dotnet/tools/)
  ```

When you start a new shell/terminal (or the next time you log in) `dotnet ef` should work.

For **Windows**:

See this question on how to add to the `PATH` environment variable.

You need to add `%USERPROFILE%\.dotnet\tools` to the `PATH` .

What's going on?

The .NET Core 3.0 (preview) version of this failure is much more illuminating:

Linked

483	Adding directory to PATH Environment Variable in Windows
-2	dotnet ef command not working in net core 2.2

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```
$ dotnet ef
Could not execute because the specified command or file was not found.
Possible reasons for this include:
  * You misspelled a built-in dotnet command.
  * You intended to execute a .NET Core program, but dotnet-ef does not exist.
  * You intended to run a global tool, but a dotnet-prefixed executable with this name could
```

The second and the third one both refer to `dotnet` trying to find a `dotnet-ef` command but can't find it. As the third point says, `dotnet-ef` is not in your path.

Here's what the docs say:

> Global Tools can be installed in the default directory or in a specific location. The default directories are:
>
> | OS | Path |
> | --- | --- |
> | Linux/macOS | `$HOME/.dotnet/tools` |
> | Windows | `%USERPROFILE%\.dotnet\tools` |

So, you should add `$HOME/.dotnet/tools/` to your `$PATH`.

But also note this part from docs:

> These locations are added to the user's path when the SDK is first run, so Global Tools installed there can be called directly.

So, it sounds like something went wrong. If you installed using a manual tarball, the SDK screwed up and you should report this bug to Microsoft. If you use a distribution package, they screwed up and you should report this as a bug to them.

share improve this answer

edited Oct 25 at 14:08

answered Jul 3 at 18:25

Omair Majid
5,359 ● 25 ● 38

> None of these recommended fixes fixed my situation. In my situation the reported .NET Core program that does not exist looks like nonsense: dotnet-@C:\Users\myUser\AppData\Local\Temp\tmp75c598ec34944633925ed32feffbe40f.rsp – Jack Fox Oct 20 at 19:19 ✎

> Added a quick TLDR run through to get along. – Nicholas Oct 25 at 6:26

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▲

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In my case, the tools folder didn't exist inside `%USERPROFILE%\.dotnet\` so I had to run the command `dotnet tool install --global dotnet-ef` to install dotnet ef. Then I was able to run dotnet ef...

This was the result of the above install command:

```
You can invoke the tool using the following command: dotnet-ef
Tool 'dotnet-ef' (version '3.0.0') was successfully installed.
```

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answered Sep 29 at 12:50

Garth
1,331 ● 1 ● 9 ● 22

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Sometimes when you install a new version of `dotnet` sdk, it hits the `PATH`.

You have to manually add the folder `.dotnet/tools` from your **home directory** to `PATH`.

▼

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edited Jul 3 at 8:23   answered Jul 3 at 3:44

Chandresh   baruchiro
Khambhayata   1,020 ● 10 ● 25
1,260 ● 1 ● 16 ● 44

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