# Entity Framework

The ADO.NET Entity Framework is designed to enable developers to create data access applications by programming against a conceptual application model instead of programming directly against a relational storage schema. The goal is to decrease the amount of code and maintenance required for data-oriented applications. Entity Framework applications provide the following benefits:

* Applications can work in terms of a more application-centric conceptual model, including types with inheritance, complex members, and relationships.
* Applications are freed from hard-coded dependencies on a particular data engine or storage schema.
* Mappings between the conceptual model and the storage-specific schema can change without changing the application code.
* Developers can work with a consistent application object model that can be mapped to various storage schemas, possibly implemented in different database management systems.
* Multiple conceptual models can be mapped to a single storage schema.
* Language-integrated query (LINQ) support provides compile-time syntax validation for queries against a conceptual model.