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This book is different. It is concise and aims to be a brisk, fun read that is packed with practical hands-on advice throughout each subject. The breadth of the overarching narrative comes at the cost of some detail, but you will find many signposts to explore further if you wish.

This book is simultaneously a step-by-step guide to learning modern C# and proven practices using those practices .NET, and a brief introduction to the fundamentals of modern web development, along with the creation of websites and services that can be built with these technologies. This book is most useful to beginners to C# and .NET, as well as programmers who have worked with C# in the past but may feel left behind by the changes in the past few years.

If you already have experience with older versions of the C# language, then in the first topic of Chapter 1, *Learning C#*, you can review the tables of new language features in an online section.

If you already have experience with older versions of the .NET libraries, then in the first topic of Chapter 2, *Packaging and Distributing .NET Types*, you can review the tables of the new library features in an online section.

I will point out the cool corners and gotchas of C# and .NET so that you can impress colleagues and get productive fast. Rather than slowing down and boring some readers by explaining every little thing, I will assume that you are smart enough to google an explanation for topics that are related but not necessary to include in a beginner-to-intermediate guide that has limited space in a printed book.

Some chapters have links to additional related online-only content for those readers who would like more details. For example, Chapter 1, *Hello, C#! Welcome, .NET!*, has an online section about the history and background of .NET.

Who this book is for

This book is aimed at beginner-to-intermediate C# and .NET developers. While prior exposure to C# or .NET is not a prerequisite, a general understanding of programming concepts is beneficial.