

C# 3.0 Language Features

C# Programming

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Previous C# Releases

- 1.0 – 2001
- 1.1 – 2003
- 2.0 – 2005
 - Generics
 - Anonymous methods
 - Iterators with yield
 - Static classes
 - Covariance and contravariance for delegate types

C# 3.0 “Orcas”

- The next release of Visual Studio is code-named Orcas
- Expected late 2007 or early 2008
- Includes new C# 3.0 features
- No runtime changes in C# 3.0
- So all 2.0 and 3.0 binaries will be compatible
- Primary new features target querying data and functional programming paradigms

C# 3.0 Features

- Implicitly-typed local variables
- Extension methods
- Lambda expressions
- Object initializers
- Anonymous types
- Implicitly-typed arrays
- Query expressions (LINQ)
- Expression trees

Language Integrated Query

- The query expression is a new syntactical construct (in C# and VB) designed to allow accessing relational, XML, and object data in the same way
- LINQ is the primary new feature in C# 3.0
- Many of the other new language features are used in query expressions, so we will begin by surveying these smaller additions

Local Variables

When a local variable's type can be inferred from the initializer, it can be declared var

- `var i = 5;`
- `var s = "Hello";`
- `var d = 1.0;`
- `var numbers = new int[] {1, 2, 3};`
- `var orders = new Dictionary<int, Order>();`

Local Variables

The previous implicitly-typed declarations are equivalent to:

- `int i = 5;`
- `string s = "Hello";`
- `double d = 5.0;`
- `int[] numbers = new int[] {1, 2, 3};`
- `Dictionary<int, Order> orders = new Dictionary<int, Order>();`

Local Variables

Restrictions on implicitly-typed variables:

- Declaration must include an initializer
- Compile-time type of initializer cannot be null

Local Variables

- Implicitly-typed local variables can also be used within using statements for resource acquisition...

```
using (var stream = new
    StreamReader(@"C:\file.txt") { ... }
```

- ...and within foreach statements
- ```
foreach (var n in numbers) { ... }
```

## Object Initializers

- Allows initialization of objects with record-like syntax

```
public class Point {
 int x, y;
 public int X
 { get { return x; } set { x = value; } }
 public int Y
 { get { return y; } set { y = value; } }
}
```

## Object Initializers

- To create and initialize:
 

```
var p = new Point { X = 1, Y = 2 };
```
- This has the same effect as:
 

```
var p = new Point();
p.X = 1;
p.Y = 2;
```
- Order of members doesn't matter
 

```
var p = new Point { Y = 2, X = 1 };
```

## Object Initializers

- Consider a class definition with members that are reference types

```
public class Rectangle {
 Point P1, P2; }
```

- Can be created and instantiated with:

```
var r = new Rectangle {
 P1 = new Point { X = 1, Y = 2 },
 P2 = new Point { X = 3, Y = 4 }
};
```

## Object Initializers

- If P1 and P2 are instantiated in the Rectangle class:  

```
public class Rectangle {
 Point p1 = new Point(), p2 = new Point(); }

```
- Then the object initializer looks like:  

```
var r = new Rectangle {
 P1 = { X = 1, Y = 2 },
 P2 = { X = 3, Y = 4 }
};

```

## Collection Initializers

- Objects of type ICollection<> can now also be initialized with elements

```
List<int> digits = new List<int>()
 { 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 };

```

```
public class Contact {
 string Name;
 List<string> Numbers = new List<string>();
}

var contacts = new List<Contact> {
 new Contact {
 Name = "Foo",
 Numbers = {"123"} },
 new Contact {
 Name = "Bar",
 Numbers = {"234", "345"} }
};

```

## Anonymous Types

- An anonymous type can be built using an anonymous object initializer
- This type cannot be referenced in the program text
- This nameless class inherits from object
- The only operations allowed on an object of anonymous type are reads/writes of its members

- The anonymous type:  

```
new { p1 = e1, p2 = e2 }

```
- Gets compiled to:

```
class __Anonymous1 {
 private T1 f1 = e1;
 private T2 f2 = e2;
 public T1 p1 = { get { return f1; }
 set { f1 = value; } }
 public T2 p2 = { get { return f2; }
 set { f2 = value; } }
}

```

## Anonymous Types

- Within the same program, two anonymous object initializers with the same structure produce instances of the same type  

```
var o1 = new { X = 1, Y = 0 };
var o2 = new { X = 2, Y = 0 };
o1.GetType() == o2.GetType() // True

```
- But order of fields does matter  

```
var o3 = new { Y = 1, X = 1 };
o1.GetType() == o3.GetType() // False

```

## Implicitly-typed Arrays

- Type is inferred from the elements in the array initializer
- There must be a unique (non-null) type to which each element is equal or implicitly convertible
- Otherwise the array creation fails at compile-time

## Implicitly-typed Arrays

```
var a = new[] { 1, 10, 100, 1000 }; //int[]
var b = new[] { 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 }; //double[]
var c = new[] { "hello", null }; //string[]
var d = new[] { 1, "one", 2, "two" }; //ERROR
```

## Implicitly-typed Arrays

- Anonymous object initializers + implicitly-typed arrays allow creation of anonymously typed data structures:

```
var contacts = new[] {
 new {
 Name = "Foo",
 Numbers = new[] { "123" } },
 new {
 Name = "Bar",
 Numbers = new[] { "234", "345" } }
}
```

## Extension Methods

- An extension is syntactic sugar that makes a static method defined in class A to look like an instance method of class B
- Abusing this feature can lead to obfuscated code
- But, it makes query expressions possible to write

## Extension Methods

- To define an extension method, the `this` keyword is added to the first argument of the method
- For example, to add an extension method to the string class:

```
public static class StringUtils {
 public static ChopN
 (this string s, int n) {
 if (s.Length < n) return s;
 else return s.Substring(0, n); }}
```

## Extension Methods

- If we now import the namespace containing the `StringUtils` class, the `ChopN` method will appear to be a method of the string class
 

```
"12345".ChopN(3); // "123"
```
- Extension methods are brought into scope with lower precedence than regular instance methods

## Lambda Expressions

- Anonymous methods were added in C# 2.0
- They can be used where delegate values are expected

```
delegate void MyDel (string s);
...
MyDel myDel = new MyDel (DisplayName);
void DisplayName(string s) {
 Console.WriteLine(s); }
```

## Lambda Expressions

- If DisplayName is not needed anywhere else, an anonymous method can be defined instead

```
MyDel myDel = delegate(string s) {
 Console.WriteLine(s)
};
```

- This syntax gets clunky

## Lambda Expressions

- Lambda expressions are a concise, functional syntax for writing anonymous methods

```
var myDel = string s => Console.WriteLine(s);
```

- Parameter types can be inferred

```
var myDel = s => Console.WriteLine(s);
```

## Lambda Expressions

- Parameter lists can be explicitly or implicitly typed
- The body of a lambda can be either an expression or statement block
- Lambdas with expression bodies get converted to expression trees
- Lambdas with statement blocks get compiled into IL code

## Lambda Expressions

- `x => x + 1`
- `x => return x + 1;`
- `(int x) => x + 1`
- `(int x) => return x + 1;`
- `(x, y) => x * y`
- `() -> Console.WriteLine("Hello world");`

## Lambda Expressions

- This syntax makes the use of polymorphic functions – like Filter and Map – more elegant
- Assuming we have generic implementations of these defined as extension methods:

```
List<int> nums = new List<int>
 { 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 };
var even = nums.Filter(n => n%2 == 0);
var sqrt = nums.Map(n => Math.sqrt(n));
```

```

public static IEnumerable<T> Filter<T>
(this IEnumerable<T> list, Func<T, bool> test)
{
 foreach (var item in list)
 if (test(item))
 yield return item;
}
public static IEnumerable<V> Map<T, V>
(this IEnumerable<T> list, Func<T, V> convert)
{
 foreach (var item in list)
 yield return convert(item);
}

```

## Query Expressions

- SQL-like query syntax added to C# and VB
- This is purely syntactic sugar; all of it is rewritten to normal method invocations
- Designed to provide the same syntax for querying various types of data – relational, hierarchical, objects

## Query Expressions

- There are no semantics for query expressions
- Instead, they get translated to methods that perform the query evaluation
- For example, some of the methods include Where<>, Select<>, Join<>

## Query Expressions

```

var odds =
 from n in nums
 where n % 2 == 1
 select n;

```

- Translates to:  
nums.Where(n => n % 2 == 1);

## Query Expressions

```

var oddsInvs =
 from n in nums
 where n % 2 == 1
 select new {n, inv=(double)1/n};

```

- Translates to:  
nums  
.Where(n => n % 2 == 1)  
.Select(n=>new {n, inv=(double)1/n});

## Query Expressions

- The previous translations suggest that Where and Select are methods of List<T>
- They are actually extension methods defined in the System. Query namespace
- By using extension methods, query operations can be implemented for any type, whether the implementation is available or not
- If it is, you can provide implementations of the query methods as instance methods

## Query Expressions

- The set of libraries that facilitate queries on XML is called X.Linq
- These libraries duplicate much of the existing XML processing libraries
- In addition, they provide the methods required for querying

- Consider the previous example of contacts:

```
<contacts>
 <contact>
 <name>Foo</name>
 <numbers>...</numbers>
 </contact>
 <contact>
 <name>Bar</name>
 <numbers>...</numbers>
 </contact>
</contacts>
```

## Query Expressions

- We can query this document with the same syntax:

```
var xml =
 XElement.Load(path + @"contacts.xml");
var names =
 from c in xml.Elements("contact")
 select c.Element("name").Value;
```

## Query Expressions

- The D.Linq namespace provides the classes for query relational data
- A class structure needs to be defined that matches the structure of the database
- For example, a table in the database gets declared as a class, and the columns get declared as members of the class

## Query Expressions

```
[Table(Name="Customers")]
public class Customer
{
 [Column(Id=true)]
 public string CustomerID;
 [Column]
 public string City;
}
```

## Query Expressions

```
DataContext db = new
 DataContext(dbLocation);
Table<Customer> Customers =
 db.GetTable<Customer>();
var q =
 from c in Customers
 where c.City == "London"
 select c;
```

## Query Expressions

- Queries are not executed immediately
- They are executed lazily when the results are needed
- This also allows composing queries

```
if (orderByLocation) {
 q = from c in q
 orderby c.Country, c.City
 select c; }
else if (orderByName) {
 q = from c in q
 orderby c.ContactName
 select c; }
```