

Third edition  
2018-12

---

---

## Information technology — Programming languages — C#

*Technologies de l'information — Langages de programmation — C#*



Reference number  
ISO/IEC 23270:2018(E)

© ISO/IEC 2018



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO/IEC 2018

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Table of Contents

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>xix</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>xxi</b>
<b>1. Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Normative references</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Acronyms and abbreviations</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>5. General description</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Conformance</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>7. Lexical structure</b> .....	<b>13</b>
7.1 Programs .....	13
7.2 Grammars.....	13
7.2.1 General.....	13
7.2.2 Grammar notation .....	13
7.2.3 Lexical grammar .....	14
7.2.4 Syntactic grammar .....	15
7.2.5 Grammar ambiguities .....	15
7.3 Lexical analysis .....	16
7.3.1 General.....	16
7.3.2 Line terminators.....	16
7.3.3 Comments .....	17
7.3.4 White space.....	18
7.4 Tokens .....	19
7.4.1 General.....	19
7.4.2 Unicode character escape sequences.....	19
7.4.3 Identifiers .....	20
7.4.4 Keywords.....	21
7.4.5 Literals.....	22
7.4.5.1 General.....	22
7.4.5.2 Boolean literals.....	23
7.4.5.3 Integer literals .....	23
7.4.5.4 Real literals.....	24
7.4.5.5 Character literals .....	25
7.4.5.6 String literals .....	26
7.4.5.7 The null literal .....	28
7.4.6 Operators and punctuators.....	28
7.5 Pre-processing directives .....	28
7.5.1 General.....	28
7.5.2 Conditional compilation symbols.....	30
7.5.3 Pre-processing expressions.....	30
7.5.4 Definition directives .....	31
7.5.5 Conditional compilation directives .....	32

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

7.5.7 Region directives .....	35
7.5.8 Line directives .....	35
7.5.9 Pragma directives .....	36
<b>8. Basic concepts.....</b>	<b>37</b>
8.1 Application startup .....	37
8.2 Application termination .....	38
8.3 Declarations.....	38
8.4 Members .....	41
8.4.1 General.....	41
8.4.2 Namespace members .....	41
8.4.3 Struct members.....	41
8.4.4 Enumeration members .....	42
8.4.5 Class members .....	42
8.4.6 Interface members.....	42
8.4.7 Array members.....	42
8.4.8 Delegate members.....	42
8.5 Member access .....	42
8.5.1 General.....	42
8.5.2 Declared accessibility .....	42
8.5.3 Accessibility domains .....	43
8.5.4 Protected access .....	46
8.5.5 Accessibility constraints .....	47
8.6 Signatures and overloading.....	48
8.7 Scopes.....	49
8.7.1 General.....	49
8.7.2 Name hiding .....	52
8.7.2.1 General .....	52
8.7.2.2 Hiding through nesting.....	52
8.7.2.3 Hiding through inheritance .....	53
8.8 Namespace and type names .....	54
8.8.1 General.....	54
8.8.2 Unqualified names .....	56
8.8.3 Fully qualified names .....	56
8.9 Automatic memory management.....	57
8.10 Execution order .....	59
<b>9. Types.....</b>	<b>61</b>
9.1 General .....	61
9.2 Reference types.....	61
9.2.1 General.....	61
9.2.2 Class types.....	62
9.2.3 The object type .....	62
9.2.4 The dynamic type.....	63
9.2.5 The string type .....	63
9.2.6 Interface types .....	63
9.2.7 Array types .....	63
9.2.8 Delegate types .....	63
9.3 Value types.....	63
9.3.1 General.....	63

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

9.3.3 Default constructors .....	64
9.3.4 Struct types .....	65
9.3.5 Simple types .....	65
9.3.6 Integral types .....	66
9.3.7 Floating-point types .....	67
9.3.8 The decimal type .....	68
9.3.9 The bool type .....	69
9.3.10 Enumeration types .....	69
9.3.11 Nullable value types .....	69
9.3.12 Boxing and unboxing .....	70
9.4 Constructed types .....	70
9.4.1 General .....	70
9.4.2 Type arguments .....	71
9.4.3 Open and closed types .....	71
9.4.4 Bound and unbound types .....	72
9.4.5 Satisfying constraints .....	72
9.5 Type parameters .....	73
9.6 Expression tree types .....	73
9.7 The dynamic type .....	74
<b>10. Variables .....</b>	<b>77</b>
10.1 General .....	77
10.2 Variable categories .....	77
10.2.1 General .....	77
10.2.2 Static variables .....	77
10.2.3 Instance variables .....	77
10.2.3.1 General .....	77
10.2.3.2 Instance variables in classes .....	78
10.2.3.3 Instance variables in structs .....	78
10.2.4 Array elements .....	78
10.2.5 Value parameters .....	78
10.2.6 Reference parameters .....	78
10.2.7 Output parameters .....	79
10.2.8 Local variables .....	79
10.3 Default values .....	80
10.4 Definite assignment .....	80
10.4.1 General .....	80
10.4.2 Initially assigned variables .....	81
10.4.3 Initially unassigned variables .....	81
10.4.4 Precise rules for determining definite assignment .....	81
10.4.4.1 General .....	81
10.4.4.2 General rules for statements .....	82
10.4.4.3 Block statements, checked, and unchecked statements .....	82
10.4.4.4 Expression statements .....	82
10.4.4.5 Declaration statements .....	83
10.4.4.6 If statements .....	83
10.4.4.7 Switch statements .....	83
10.4.4.8 While statements .....	83
10.4.4.9 Do statements .....	83

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

10.4.4.11 Break, continue, and goto statements.....	84
10.4.4.12 Throw statements .....	84
10.4.4.13 Return statements .....	84
10.4.4.14 Try-catch statements .....	85
10.4.4.15 Try-finally statements .....	85
10.4.4.16 Try-catch-finally statements .....	85
10.4.4.17 Foreach statements .....	86
10.4.4.18 Using statements .....	86
10.4.4.19 Lock statements .....	87
10.4.4.20 Yield statements.....	87
10.4.4.21 General rules for constant expressions .....	87
10.4.4.22 General rules for simple expressions.....	88
10.4.4.23 General rules for expressions with embedded expressions .....	88
10.4.4.24 Invocation expressions and object creation expressions .....	88
10.4.4.25 Simple assignment expressions .....	89
10.4.4.26 && expressions .....	89
10.4.4.27    expressions .....	90
10.4.4.28 ! expressions .....	91
10.4.4.29 ?? expressions .....	91
10.4.4.30 ?: expressions.....	91
10.4.4.31 Anonymous functions .....	92
10.5 Variable references .....	92
10.6 Atomicity of variable references .....	92
<b>11. Conversions .....</b>	<b>93</b>
11.1 General.....	93
11.2 Implicit conversions.....	93
11.2.1 General.....	93
11.2.2 Identity conversion .....	94
11.2.3 Implicit numeric conversions .....	94
11.2.4 Implicit enumeration conversions .....	94
11.2.5 Implicit nullable conversions.....	94
11.2.6 Null literal conversions.....	94
11.2.7 Implicit reference conversions.....	95
11.2.8 Boxing conversions.....	95
11.2.9 Implicit dynamic conversions.....	97
11.2.10 Implicit constant expression conversions.....	97
11.2.11 Implicit conversions involving type parameters .....	97
11.2.12 User-defined implicit conversions .....	98
11.2.13 Anonymous function conversions and method group conversions .....	98
11.3 Explicit conversions .....	98
11.3.1 General.....	98
11.3.2 Explicit numeric conversions.....	99
11.3.3 Explicit enumeration conversions.....	101
11.3.4 Explicit nullable conversions .....	101
11.3.5 Explicit reference conversions .....	101
11.3.6 Unboxing conversions .....	102
11.3.7 Explicit dynamic conversions .....	103
11.3.8 Explicit conversions involving type parameters.....	103

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

11.4 Standard conversions .....	105
11.4.1 General.....	105
11.4.2 Standard implicit conversions .....	105
11.4.3 Standard explicit conversions .....	105
11.5 User-defined conversions.....	105
11.5.1 General.....	105
11.5.2 Permitted user-defined conversions.....	105
11.5.3 Evaluation of user-defined conversions.....	106
11.5.4 User-defined implicit conversions .....	107
11.5.5 User-defined explicit conversions.....	107
11.6 Conversions involving nullable types .....	109
11.6.1 Nullable Conversions.....	109
11.6.2 Lifted conversions .....	109
11.7 Anonymous function conversions.....	109
11.7.1 General.....	109
11.7.2 Evaluation of anonymous function conversions to delegate types .....	111
11.7.3 Evaluation of anonymous function conversions to expression tree types .....	112
11.8 Method group conversions .....	112
<b>12. Expressions .....</b>	<b>115</b>
12.1 General .....	115
12.2 Expression classifications .....	115
12.2.1 General.....	115
12.2.2 Values of expressions.....	116
12.3 Static and Dynamic Binding.....	116
12.3.1 General.....	116
12.3.2 Binding-time .....	117
12.3.3 Dynamic binding.....	117
12.3.4 Types of subexpressions .....	118
12.4 Operators .....	118
12.4.1 General.....	118
12.4.2 Operator precedence and associativity .....	118
12.4.3 Operator overloading.....	119
12.4.4 Unary operator overload resolution .....	121
12.4.5 Binary operator overload resolution.....	121
12.4.6 Candidate user-defined operators.....	121
12.4.7 Numeric promotions .....	122
12.4.7.1 General.....	122
12.4.7.2 Unary numeric promotions.....	122
12.4.7.3 Binary numeric promotions .....	122
12.4.8 Lifted operators.....	123
12.5 Member lookup.....	124
12.5.1 General.....	124
12.5.2 Base types .....	125
12.6 Function members .....	126
12.6.1 General.....	126
12.6.2 Argument lists .....	128
12.6.2.1 General.....	128
12.6.2.2 Corresponding parameters .....	129

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

12.6.3	Type inference.....	131
12.6.3.1	General.....	131
12.6.3.2	The first phase.....	132
12.6.3.3	The second phase.....	133
12.6.3.4	Input types.....	133
12.6.3.5	Output types.....	133
12.6.3.6	Dependence.....	133
12.6.3.7	Output type inferences.....	133
12.6.3.8	Explicit parameter type inferences.....	134
12.6.3.9	Exact inferences.....	134
12.6.3.10	Lower-bound inferences.....	134
12.6.3.11	Upper-bound inferences.....	134
12.6.3.12	Fixing.....	135
12.6.3.13	Inferred return type.....	135
12.6.3.14	Type inference for conversion of method groups.....	137
12.6.3.15	Finding the best common type of a set of expressions.....	137
12.6.4	Overload resolution.....	137
12.6.4.1	General.....	137
12.6.4.2	Applicable function member.....	138
12.6.4.3	Better function member.....	139
12.6.4.4	Better conversion from expression.....	140
12.6.4.5	Better conversion from type.....	140
12.6.4.6	Better conversion target.....	140
12.6.4.7	Overloading in generic classes.....	140
12.6.5	Compile-time checking of dynamic member invocation.....	141
12.6.6	Function member invocation.....	142
12.6.6.1	General.....	142
12.6.6.2	Invocations on boxed instances.....	143
12.7	Primary expressions.....	143
12.7.1	General.....	143
12.7.2	Literals.....	144
12.7.3	Simple names.....	144
12.7.3.1	General.....	144
12.7.3.2	Invariant meaning in blocks.....	146
12.7.4	Parenthesized expressions.....	146
12.7.5	Member access.....	147
12.7.5.1	General.....	147
12.7.5.2	Identical simple names and type names.....	149
12.7.6	Invocation expressions.....	149
12.7.6.1	General.....	149
12.7.6.2	Method invocations.....	150
12.7.6.3	Extension method invocations.....	151
12.7.6.4	Delegate invocations.....	153
12.7.7	Element access.....	154
12.7.7.1	General.....	154
12.7.7.2	Array access.....	154
12.7.7.3	Indexer access.....	155
12.7.8	This access.....	156
12.7.9	Base access.....	156



This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

12.7.11 The new operator .....	158
12.7.11.1 General.....	158
12.7.11.2 Object creation expressions.....	158
12.7.11.3 Object initializers.....	160
12.7.11.4 Collection initializers .....	162
12.7.11.5 Array creation expressions.....	163
12.7.11.6 Delegate creation expressions .....	165
12.7.11.7 Anonymous object creation expressions .....	166
12.7.12 The typeof operator .....	168
12.7.13 The sizeof operator .....	169
12.7.14 The checked and unchecked operators .....	170
12.7.15 Default value expressions .....	172
12.7.16 Anonymous method expressions.....	173
12.8 Unary operators .....	173
12.8.1 General.....	173
12.8.2 Unary plus operator .....	173
12.8.3 Unary minus operator .....	173
12.8.4 Logical negation operator .....	174
12.8.5 Bitwise complement operator .....	174
12.8.6 Prefix increment and decrement operators .....	175
12.8.7 Cast expressions.....	176
12.8.8 Await expressions .....	176
12.8.8.1 General.....	176
12.8.8.2 Awaitable expressions.....	177
12.8.8.3 Classification of await expressions.....	177
12.8.8.4 Run-time evaluation of await expressions.....	177
12.9 Arithmetic operators.....	178
12.9.1 General.....	178
12.9.2 Multiplication operator.....	178
12.9.3 Division operator.....	179
12.9.4 Remainder operator.....	180
12.9.5 Addition operator.....	181
12.9.6 Subtraction operator.....	183
12.10 Shift operators.....	185
12.11 Relational and type-testing operators .....	186
12.11.1 General.....	186
12.11.2 Integer comparison operators .....	187
12.11.3 Floating-point comparison operators .....	188
12.11.4 Decimal comparison operators.....	188
12.11.5 Boolean equality operators.....	189
12.11.6 Enumeration comparison operators.....	189
12.11.7 Reference type equality operators .....	189
12.11.8 String equality operators .....	191
12.11.9 Delegate equality operators .....	191
12.11.10 Equality operators between nullable value types and the null literal .....	192
12.11.11 The is operator .....	192
12.11.12 The as operator .....	193
12.12 Logical operators .....	194
12.12.1 General.....	194

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

12.12.3 Enumeration logical operators.....	195
12.12.4 Boolean logical operators .....	195
12.12.5 Nullable Boolean & and   operators.....	195
12.13 Conditional logical operators .....	196
12.13.1 General.....	196
12.13.2 Boolean conditional logical operators .....	197
12.13.3 User-defined conditional logical operators .....	197
12.14 The null coalescing operator .....	198
12.15 Conditional operator .....	198
12.16 Anonymous function expressions .....	199
12.16.1 General.....	199
12.16.2 Anonymous function signatures .....	201
12.16.3 Anonymous function bodies .....	201
12.16.4 Overload resolution .....	202
12.16.5 Anonymous functions and dynamic binding.....	203
12.16.6 Outer variables.....	203
12.16.6.1 General.....	203
12.16.6.2 Captured outer variables .....	203
12.16.6.3 Instantiation of local variables .....	204
12.16.7 Evaluation of anonymous function expressions .....	206
12.16.8 Implementation Exmple.....	206
12.17 Query expressions .....	209
12.17.1 General.....	209
12.17.2 Ambiguities in query expressions .....	210
12.17.3 Query expression translation.....	210
12.17.3.1 General.....	210
12.17.3.2 select and group ... by clauses with continuations .....	211
12.17.3.3 Explicit range variable types .....	211
12.17.3.4 Degenerate query expressions.....	212
12.17.3.5 From, let, where, join and orderby clauses .....	212
12.17.3.6 Select clauses .....	216
12.17.3.7 Group clauses.....	216
12.17.3.8 Transparent identifiers.....	216
12.17.4 The query-expression pattern.....	218
12.18 Assignment operators .....	219
12.18.1 General.....	219
12.18.2 Simple assignment .....	220
12.18.3 Compound assignment .....	222
12.18.4 Event assignment .....	223
12.19 Expression .....	223
12.20 Constant expressions .....	223
12.21 Boolean expressions.....	225
<b>13. Statements .....</b>	<b>227</b>
13.1 General .....	227
13.2 End points and reachability.....	227
13.3 Blocks.....	229
13.3.1 General.....	229
13.3.2 Statement lists .....	229

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

13.5 Labeled statements .....	230
13.6 Declaration statements .....	231
13.6.1 General.....	231
13.6.2 Local variable declarations.....	231
13.6.3 Local constant declarations .....	233
13.7 Expression statements .....	233
13.8 Selection statements.....	234
13.8.1 General.....	234
13.8.2 The if statement.....	234
13.8.3 The switch statement.....	234
13.9 Iteration statements.....	238
13.9.1 General.....	238
13.9.2 The while statement .....	238
13.9.3 The do statement.....	239
13.9.4 The for statement .....	239
13.9.5 The foreach statement.....	240
13.10 Jump statements .....	243
13.10.1 General.....	243
13.10.2 The break statement.....	244
13.10.3 The continue statement.....	245
13.10.4 The goto statement.....	245
13.10.5 The return statement.....	246
13.10.6 The throw statement .....	247
13.11 The try statement.....	248
13.12 The checked and unchecked statements .....	251
13.13 The lock statement.....	251
13.14 The using statement.....	252
13.15 The yield statement.....	254
<b>14. Namespaces.....</b>	<b>257</b>
14.1 General .....	257
14.2 Compilation units .....	257
14.3 Namespace declarations .....	257
14.4 Extern alias directives.....	259
14.5 Using directives .....	259
14.5.1 General.....	259
14.5.2 Using alias directives .....	260
14.5.3 Using namespace directives.....	264
14.6 Namespace member declarations .....	265
14.7 Type declarations .....	266
14.8 Qualified alias member .....	266
14.8.1 General.....	266
14.8.2 Uniqueness of aliases.....	268
<b>15. Classes .....</b>	<b>269</b>
15.1 General .....	269
15.2 Class declarations.....	269
15.2.1 General.....	269
15.2.2 Class modifiers .....	269

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

15.2.2.2 Abstract classes .....	270
15.2.2.3 Sealed classes .....	270
15.2.2.4 Static classes .....	271
15.2.3 Type parameters .....	272
15.2.4 Class base specification .....	272
15.2.4.1 General .....	272
15.2.4.2 Base classes .....	272
15.2.4.3 Interface implementations .....	274
15.2.5 Type parameter constraints .....	275
15.2.6 Class body .....	280
15.2.7 Partial declarations .....	280
15.3 Class members .....	281
15.3.1 General .....	281
15.3.2 The instance type .....	283
15.3.3 Members of constructed types .....	283
15.3.4 Inheritance .....	284
15.3.5 The new modifier .....	285
15.3.6 Access modifiers .....	285
15.3.7 Constituent types .....	286
15.3.8 Static and instance members .....	286
15.3.9 Nested types .....	287
15.3.9.1 General .....	287
15.3.9.2 Fully qualified name .....	287
15.3.9.3 Declared accessibility .....	287
15.3.9.4 Hiding .....	288
15.3.9.5 this access .....	288
15.3.9.6 Access to private and protected members of the containing type .....	289
15.3.9.7 Nested types in generic classes .....	290
15.3.10 Reserved member names .....	291
15.3.10.1 General .....	291
15.3.10.2 Member names reserved for properties .....	291
15.3.10.3 Member names reserved for events .....	292
15.3.10.4 Member names reserved for indexers .....	292
15.3.10.5 Member names reserved for finalizers .....	292
15.4 Constants .....	292
15.5 Fields .....	294
15.5.1 General .....	294
15.5.2 Static and instance fields .....	295
15.5.3 Readonly fields .....	295
15.5.3.1 General .....	295
15.5.3.2 Using static readonly fields for constants .....	296
15.5.3.3 Versioning of constants and static readonly fields .....	296
15.5.4 Volatile fields .....	297
15.5.5 Field initialization .....	298
15.5.6 Variable initializers .....	298
15.5.6.1 General .....	298
15.5.6.2 Static field initialization .....	299
15.5.6.3 Instance field initialization .....	300
15.6 Methods .....	301

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

15.6.2 Method parameters .....	303
15.6.2.1 General .....	303
15.6.2.2 Value parameters .....	304
15.6.2.3 Reference parameters .....	305
15.6.2.4 Output parameters .....	305
15.6.2.5 Parameter arrays .....	306
15.6.3 Static and instance methods .....	309
15.6.4 Virtual methods .....	309
15.6.5 Override methods .....	311
15.6.6 Sealed methods .....	313
15.6.7 Abstract methods .....	314
15.6.8 External methods .....	315
15.6.9 Partial methods .....	315
15.6.10 Extension methods .....	318
15.6.11 Method body .....	319
15.7 Properties .....	319
15.7.1 General .....	319
15.7.2 Static and instance properties .....	321
15.7.3 Accessors .....	321
15.7.4 Automatically implemented properties .....	326
15.7.5 Accessibility .....	326
15.7.6 Virtual, sealed, override, and abstract accessors .....	328
15.8 Events .....	329
15.8.1 General .....	329
15.8.2 Field-like events .....	331
15.8.3 Event accessors .....	332
15.8.4 Static and instance events .....	333
15.8.5 Virtual, sealed, override, and abstract accessors .....	334
15.9 Indexers .....	334
15.10 Operators .....	338
15.10.1 General .....	338
15.10.2 Unary operators .....	339
15.10.3 Binary operators .....	340
15.10.4 Conversion operators .....	340
15.11 Instance constructors .....	343
15.11.1 General .....	343
15.11.2 Constructor initializers .....	344
15.11.3 Instance variable initializers .....	344
15.11.4 Constructor execution .....	345
15.11.5 Default constructors .....	346
15.12 Static constructors .....	347
15.13 Finalizers .....	349
15.14 Iterators .....	351
15.14.1 General .....	351
15.14.2 Enumerator interfaces .....	351
15.14.3 Enumerable interfaces .....	351
15.14.4 Yield type .....	351
15.14.5 Enumerator objects .....	351
15.14.5.1 General .....	351

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

15.14.5.3 The Current property .....	353
15.14.5.4 The Dispose method .....	353
15.14.6 Enumerable objects .....	354
15.14.6.1 General.....	354
15.14.6.2 The GetEnumerator method.....	354
15.15 Async Functions.....	354
15.15.1 General.....	354
15.15.2 Evaluation of a task-returning async function .....	355
15.15.3 Evaluation of a void-returning async function .....	355
<b>16. Structs .....</b>	<b>357</b>
16.1 General .....	357
16.2 Struct declarations .....	357
16.2.1 General.....	357
16.2.2 Struct modifiers.....	357
16.2.3 Partial modifier .....	358
16.2.4 Struct interfaces.....	358
16.2.5 Struct body .....	358
16.3 Struct members.....	358
16.4 Class and struct differences .....	358
16.4.1 General.....	358
16.4.2 Value semantics .....	359
16.4.3 Inheritance .....	360
16.4.4 Assignment.....	360
16.4.5 Default values.....	360
16.4.6 Boxing and unboxing.....	361
16.4.7 Meaning of this .....	361
16.4.8 Field initializers.....	362
16.4.9 Constructors.....	363
16.4.10 Static constructors .....	364
16.4.11 Automatically implemented properties.....	364
<b>17. Arrays.....</b>	<b>365</b>
17.1 General .....	365
17.2 Array types .....	365
17.2.1 General.....	365
17.2.2 The System.Array type .....	365
17.2.3 Arrays and the generic collection interfaces .....	366
17.3 Array creation.....	367
17.4 Array element access .....	367
17.5 Array members.....	367
17.6 Array covariance.....	367
17.7 Array initializers.....	368
<b>18. Interfaces.....</b>	<b>371</b>
18.1 General .....	371
18.2 Interface declarations .....	371
18.2.1 General.....	371
18.2.2 Interface modifiers.....	371
18.2.3 Variant type parameter lists .....	372

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

18.2.3.2 Variance safety .....	372
18.2.3.3 Variance conversion .....	373
18.2.4 Base interfaces .....	373
18.3 Interface body .....	374
18.4 Interface members .....	374
18.4.1 General .....	374
18.4.2 Interface methods .....	375
18.4.3 Interface properties .....	376
18.4.4 Interface events .....	376
18.4.5 Interface indexers .....	376
18.4.6 Interface member access .....	377
18.5 Qualified interface member names .....	378
18.6 Interface implementations .....	379
18.6.1 General .....	379
18.6.2 Explicit interface member implementations .....	380
18.6.3 Uniqueness of implemented interfaces .....	382
18.6.4 Implementation of generic methods .....	383
18.6.5 Interface mapping .....	384
18.6.6 Interface implementation inheritance .....	387
18.6.7 Interface re-implementation .....	388
18.6.8 Abstract classes and interfaces .....	389
<b>19. Enums .....</b>	<b>391</b>
19.1 General .....	391
19.2 Enum declarations .....	391
19.3 Enum modifiers .....	391
19.4 Enum members .....	392
19.5 The System.Enum type .....	394
19.6 Enum values and operations .....	394
<b>20. Delegates .....</b>	<b>395</b>
20.1 General .....	395
20.2 Delegate declarations .....	395
20.3 Delegate members .....	396
20.4 Delegate compatibility .....	396
20.5 Delegate instantiation .....	398
20.6 Delegate invocation .....	399
<b>21. Exceptions .....</b>	<b>403</b>
21.1 General .....	403
21.2 Causes of exceptions .....	403
21.3 The System.Exception class .....	403
21.4 How exceptions are handled .....	403
21.5 Common exception classes .....	404
<b>22. Attributes .....</b>	<b>405</b>
22.1 General .....	405
22.2 Attribute classes .....	405
22.2.1 General .....	405
22.2.2 Attribute usage .....	405

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

22.2.4 Attribute parameter types .....	407
22.3 Attribute specification .....	408
22.4 Attribute instances .....	414
22.4.1 General .....	414
22.4.2 Compilation of an attribute .....	414
22.4.3 Run-time retrieval of an attribute instance .....	414
22.5 Reserved attributes .....	415
22.5.1 General .....	415
22.5.2 The AttributeUsage attribute .....	415
22.5.3 The Conditional attribute .....	416
22.5.3.1 General .....	416
22.5.3.2 Conditional methods .....	416
22.5.3.3 Conditional attribute classes .....	418
22.5.4 The Obsolete attribute .....	419
22.5.5 Caller-info attributes .....	420
22.5.5.1 General .....	420
22.5.5.2 The CallerLineNumber attribute .....	421
22.5.5.3 The CallerFilePath attribute .....	421
22.5.5.4 The CallerMemberName attribute .....	421
22.6 Attributes for interoperation .....	422
<b>23. Unsafe code .....</b>	<b>423</b>
23.1 General .....	423
23.2 Unsafe contexts .....	423
23.3 Pointer types .....	426
23.4 Fixed and moveable variables .....	428
23.5 Pointer conversions .....	429
23.5.1 General .....	429
23.5.2 Pointer arrays .....	430
23.6 Pointers in expressions .....	431
23.6.1 General .....	431
23.6.2 Pointer indirection .....	431
23.6.3 Pointer member access .....	432
23.6.4 Pointer element access .....	433
23.6.5 The address-of operator .....	433
23.6.6 Pointer increment and decrement .....	434
23.6.7 Pointer arithmetic .....	435
23.6.8 Pointer comparison .....	435
23.6.9 The sizeof operator .....	436
23.7 The fixed statement .....	436
23.8 Fixed-size buffers .....	439
23.8.1 General .....	439
23.8.2 Fixed-size buffer declarations .....	439
23.8.3 Fixed-size buffers in expressions .....	440
23.8.4 Definite assignment checking .....	441
23.9 Stack allocation .....	441
<b>Annex A. Grammar .....</b>	<b>443</b>
A.1 General .....	443
A.2 Lexical grammar .....	443



This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

A.2.2 Tokens .....	444
A.2.3 Keywords .....	446
A.2.4 Operators and punctuators .....	448
A.2.5 Pre-processing directives .....	448
A.3 Syntactic grammar .....	450
A.3.1 Basic concepts .....	450
A.3.2 Types .....	450
A.3.3 Variables .....	451
A.3.4 Expressions .....	452
A.3.5 Statements .....	458
A.3.6 Namespaces .....	461
A.3.7 Classes .....	462
A.3.8 Structs .....	469
A.3.9 Arrays .....	469
A.3.10 Interfaces .....	469
A.3.11 Enums .....	470
A.3.12 Delegates .....	471
A.3.13 Attributes .....	471
A.4 Grammar extensions for unsafe code .....	472
<b>Annex B. Portability issues .....</b>	<b>477</b>
B.1 General .....	477
B.2 Undefined behavior .....	477
B.3 Implementation-defined behavior .....	477
B.4 Unspecified behavior .....	478
B.5 Other Issues .....	478
<b>Annex C. Standard library .....</b>	<b>479</b>
C.1 General .....	479
C.2 Standard Library Types defined in ISO/IEC 23271 .....	479
C.3 Standard Library Types not defined in ISO/IEC 23271:2012 .....	488
<b>Annex D. Documentation comments .....</b>	<b>491</b>
D.1 General .....	491
D.2 Introduction .....	491
D.3 Recommended tags .....	492
D.3.1 General .....	492
D.3.2 <c> .....	493
D.3.3 <code> .....	493
D.3.4 <example> .....	494
D.3.5 <exception> .....	494
D.3.6 <include> .....	495
D.3.7 <list> .....	495
D.3.8 <para> .....	496
D.3.9 <param> .....	497
D.3.10 <paramref> .....	497
D.3.11 <permission> .....	497
D.3.12 <remarks> .....	498
D.3.13 <returns> .....	498
D.3.14 <see> .....	499

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

D.3.16 <summary> .....	499
D.3.17 <typeparam> .....	500
D.3.18 <typeparamref> .....	500
D.3.19 <value> .....	500
D.4 Processing the documentation file .....	501
D.4.1 General .....	501
D.4.2 ID string format.....	501
D.4.3 ID string examples .....	502
D.5 An example .....	506
D.5.1 C# source code.....	506
D.5.2 Resulting XML .....	508
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>511</b>

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <http://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Ecma International (as ECMA-334) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was assigned to Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, and adopted under the "fast-track procedure".

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/IEC 23270:2006), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— addition of:

- default and hidden options on the #line preprocessing directive,
- fixed-size buffers in unsafe code,
- automatically implemented properties,
- implicitly typed local variables and arrays,
- object and collection initializers,

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

- lambda expressions,
  - expression trees,
  - improved type inference,
  - extension methods,
  - query expressions,
  - optional parameters,
  - named arguments,
  - generic variance,
  - dynamic binding,
  - asynchronous functions
  - caller-info attributes;
- removal of:
- concept of a null type;
- integration of:
- nullable value types,
  - generic types and functions,
  - iterators.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 23270:2018". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Introduction

This specification is based on a submission from Hewlett-Packard, Intel, and Microsoft, that described a language called C#, which was developed within Microsoft. The principal inventors of this language were Anders Hejlsberg, Scott Wiltamuth, and Peter Golde. The first widely distributed implementation of C# was released by Microsoft in July 2000, as part of its .NET Framework initiative.

Ecma Technical Committee 39 (TC39) [later renamed to TC49] Task Group 2 (TG2) was formed in September 2000, to produce a standard for C#. Another Task Group, TG3, was also formed at that time to produce a standard for a library and execution environment called Common Language Infrastructure (CLI). (CLI is based on a subset of the .NET Framework.) Although Microsoft's implementation of C# relies on CLI for library and run-time support, other implementations of C# need not, provided they support an alternate way of getting at the minimum CLI features required by this C# standard (see Annex C).

As the definition of C# evolved, the goals used in its design were as follows:

- C# is intended to be a simple, modern, general-purpose, object-oriented programming language.
- The language, and implementations thereof, should provide support for software engineering principles such as strong type checking, array bounds checking, detection of attempts to use uninitialized variables, and automatic garbage collection. Software robustness, durability, and programmer productivity are important.
- The language is intended for use in developing software components suitable for deployment in distributed environments.
- Source code portability is very important, as is programmer portability, especially for those programmers already familiar with C and C++.
- Support for internationalization is very important.
- C# is intended to be suitable for writing applications for both hosted and embedded systems, ranging from the very large that use sophisticated operating systems, down to the very small having dedicated functions.
- Although C# applications are intended to be economical with regard to memory and processing power requirements, the language was not intended to compete directly on performance and size with C or assembly language.