

# Visual Studio **LIVE!**

EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

## @ Microsoft HQ

### Elevate Your .NET Development

In Partnership with  Microsoft

**JULY 27-31, 2026**

Microsoft Headquarters, Redmond, WA

#### IN-DEPTH TECHNICAL CONTENT ON:



Modern Software Engineering



Data & Analytics



Developing New Experiences



Human Factors in Engineering



The Core of .NET



Full Stack Web Development



Cloud, Containers & Microservices




Cutting-Edge AI





Get five days of in-depth, expert-led training at Microsoft HQ—then turn ideas into real AI solutions in our hands-on Hackathon, where you'll build, collaborate, and compete for \$25K in prizes.


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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

**THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT LEARNING WHERE THE TOOLS YOU USE EVERY DAY ARE BUILT.** At VSLive! @ Microsoft Headquarters, you're not just attending a conference—you're stepping into the epicenter of .NET, Visual Studio, Azure, and AI innovation. You'll learn alongside the engineers and product teams behind the technologies you rely on, ask your toughest questions face-to-face, and gain insights you simply can't get from a blog post or online video.

We're Angela, Mads, Rocky, and Brian — your Conference Co-Chairs for Visual Studio Live! We're personally inviting you to join us at Microsoft Headquarters in Redmond, WA from July 27–31, 2026. This is your chance to invest in yourself, sharpen your skills, and connect with a community of developers and technologists who share your passion for building great solutions.

The week is designed to maximize learning. Monday kicks off with immersive hands-on labs where you'll build real solutions with expert guidance. Tuesday through Thursday form the heart of the conference with 75-minute breakout sessions, 20-minute Fast Focus sessions on hot topics, and an exclusive "Ask the Visual Studio Team Anything" panel. We'll also feature keynotes from Microsoft on their vision for developers. Friday wraps up with deep-dive workshops that let you spend extended time mastering the topics that matter most to you. With more than 70 sessions across eight tracks, there's something for every developer, architect, and team leader.

One theme runs throughout the event: AI is woven into everything. Artificial intelligence isn't just a single track—it's infused across the conference, just

as it is across our industry. You'll see how GitHub Copilot is redefining developer productivity, learn to build and consume MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers in Visual Studio and C#, add intelligence to .NET applications with Azure AI Foundry and the GitHub Copilot SDK, and explore how AI agents are reshaping DevOps, security, and decision-making.

But AI is only part of the story. The conference spans the full spectrum of modern .NET development. You'll explore .NET 10 and the latest C# features, build web apps with ASP.NET Core and Blazor, and examine cross-platform development with .NET MAUI and the Uno Platform. Data and cloud topics include SQL Server 2025's new vector search capabilities, identity management, API gateways, and modern deployment pipelines. Our Human Factors in Engineering track also addresses the real challenges teams face—burnout, imposter syndrome, team dynamics, and leadership.

Want to get your hands "digitally" dirty? Our hands-on labs include .NET Aspire with ASP.NET Core, building modern applications with SQL Server 2025, ASP.NET Core Razor Pages with EF Core and Copilot, and .NET app modernization. Workshops feature deep dives into Blazor development, secure AI engineering with C# and GitHub, and mastering AI development with GitHub Copilot.

What makes the Microsoft HQ edition of Visual Studio Live! truly unique is the access. Many sessions are delivered directly by Microsoft team members—the people who build Visual Studio, .NET, Azure, SQL Server, and GitHub Copilot. You'll hear how these teams use AI internally, get tips straight from the experts, and share feedback that helps shape the tools you rely on.

Normally we'd end with a simple invitation to join us in Redmond. But this year we have "one more thing": the first-ever VSLive! Hackathon! Two nights of coding at Microsoft HQ with \$25,000 in cash prizes. Not only will you learn from some of the best minds in the industry—you'll also have the chance to show what you can build.

So don't just read about it—come experience it. Join us at Microsoft HQ, ask your hardest questions, build real solutions, and leave with the skills and connections to take your career and your team to the next level.

We hope to see you in Redmond!

### VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS



**Angela Dugan**  
*Vice President of Product Delivery,  
Red Foundry*



**Mads Kristensen**  
*Principal Product Manager, Visual Studio,  
Microsoft*



**Rockford Lhotka**  
*VP of Strategy,  
Xebia*



**Brian A. Randell**  
*Partner,  
MCW Technologies*



# SIX REASONS TO ATTEND VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! @ MICROSOFT HQ 2026



## FIVE DAYS OF DEEP, FUTURE-READY DEVELOPER TRAINING

Immerse yourself in five days of expert-led sessions, hands-on labs, in-depth workshops and keynotes designed for developers working in the Microsoft ecosystem. Learn the latest in .NET 9+, ASP.NET Core, Blazor, C#, GitHub Copilot, Azure, AI-powered development, data and modern app architecture.



## JOIN THE VSLIVE! HACKATHON — BUILD, COMPETE AND WIN

Dive into two high-energy evenings of hands-on coding, creativity and collaboration at the VSLive! Hackathon. Build real apps or AI agents using .NET, Azure, Copilot and modern tech, demo your work live, and compete for cash prizes and recognition. Participation is free with your VSLive! @ Microsoft HQ registration.



## EXPERIENCE MICROSOFT HQ LIKE AN INSIDER

Step inside Microsoft's iconic Redmond campus. Enjoy VIP access to the Microsoft Company Store with exclusive discounts on software, hardware and gear. Attend Mix & Mingle, Ask the Experts and other networking receptions designed to connect you directly with speakers, Microsoft representatives and fellow developers. Explore the campus through guided tours and experience the culture of innovation where the tools you use every day are built.



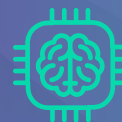
## LEARN DIRECTLY FROM EXPERTS AND MICROSOFT PRODUCT TEAMS AT MICROSOFT

Get answers live, engage with industry leaders, Microsoft engineers and product managers, and join "Ask the Experts" sessions that go beyond slides and blogs. This is your chance to dive into real-world development challenges alongside those who build the tools you use.



## ADVANCE YOUR CAREER WITH CUTTING-EDGE SKILLS

Whether you're building cloud-native apps, AI solutions, cutting-edge web technologies or data platforms, you'll walk away with practical skills and insights that help you stay ahead of the curve and deliver value back at work.



## MASTER AI THAT MOVES YOU FORWARD

Level up with the Cutting-Edge AI track designed for developers who want practical AI skills you can use right away. Learn how GitHub Copilot and Visual Studio are reshaping developer productivity, add AI capabilities to your own .NET apps, modernize legacy systems with AI tools, and build next-generation AI-powered applications on Azure. You'll see real demos, hands-on labs and expert-led sessions that go beyond the buzz and teach you how to apply AI in your day-to-day work.



## THE FUN STUFF: VISUAL STUDIO LIVE! @ MICROSOFT HQ EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

**YOUR ATTENDANCE AT VISUAL STUDIO LIVE!** is about learning from your peers as well as the experts; make the most of your time with us and add these events and activities to your itinerary!

### ACCESS TO THE MICROSOFT COMPANY STORE

*You bring the money, we get you special access!\**

All VSLive! event attendees will have the opportunity to visit the Microsoft Company Store during their time at the conference and have access to employee-only discount pricing. Popular home-use software titles such as Windows and Office are available at 80% off. XBOX and Surface accessories, such as keyboards, mice, controllers, and X-Box headsets, are offered at significant savings of 50% off. At the Redmond campus location, you will also find exclusive Microsoft Surface-branded PC hardware such as laptops and tablets, at employee pricing of 15% off.

VSLive! event attendees will qualify for a VIP pass that allows them access to the special discounts normally reserved only for Microsoft employees. Due to the amazing deals, each attendee is allowed to spend up to a maximum of \$200 (Limit applies to software only.) VIP pass can be used once, either at the Redmond Company Store, or online at <https://store.ecompanystore.com/microsoft/Shop/>. \*\*Restrictions apply.

*\*\*Attendees will be given a voucher/form that allows them access to the employee only discount area to spend up to \$200 of their own money on Microsoft software. No limit on hardware or accessories. 80% off software, 50% off accessories, 15% off hardware. No discount on clothing or apparel.*

*\*\*Passes for Government agencies are NOT authorized. This includes but is not limited to: Military officers, Government agencies or employees, Publicly Funded School employees, Teachers, Police officers, Firefighters or any other Government officials are not eligible for the discount pass due to Microsoft policy.*

*\*\*Redmond Company Store is a cashless store.*

### MEET THE PROS

Let's face it — our talented team of speakers is the main reason you head to Visual Studio Live! events. They share your interest in the latest technologies while refusing to abandon challenging applications out there already. So why not get to know them in a different light during the breaks and networking opportunities we have planned for you at Microsoft HQ? Kick back with the people who love sharing their knowledge and experience to help you get where you want to be professionally.

### MIX & MINGLE

**Monday, July 27**

Kick off your VSLive! experience with a relaxed evening of great conversation, light bites, and a chance to make meaningful connections. Whether you're new to the conference or a returning alum, this casual no-host mixer is the perfect setting to meet fellow attendees, chat with speakers, and enjoy a taste of Bellevue nightlife.

VSLive! will provide light appetizers. Bring your curiosity, your stories, and your appetite for connection.





## THE FUN STUFF *(continued)*

### WELCOME RECEPTION & MICROSOFT ASK THE EXPERTS

SPONSORED BY  Microsoft

**Tuesday, July 28**

Join us for the Microsoft-sponsored Welcome Reception to kick off your VSLive! experience. Unwind after a full day of sessions with drinks, appetizers and conversation. Connect with fellow attendees, speakers and industry professionals in a relaxed setting built for real networking. Take advantage of the Microsoft Ask the Experts opportunity to speak directly with product team members about your questions and technical challenges. Explore exhibitor solutions and participate in the conference raffle for a chance to win prizes.

### MICROSOFT CAMPUS TOURS

*Pre-registration required*

**Tuesday, July 28, 1:30 – 2:45pm**

**Wednesday, July 29, 1:30 – 2:45pm**

**Thursday, July 30, 1:45 – 3:00pm**

Experience Microsoft's iconic Redmond campus with Microsoft Insiders as your guides. Discover cutting-edge workspaces, treehouse meeting spaces, The Commons, wooded trails, and the legendary Lake Bill — and feel the innovation driving one of the world's most influential technology campuses.

### VSLIVE!'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUT IN SEATTLE

**Wednesday, July 29, 5:30pm – 10:00pm**

*Pre-registration & \$10 Confirmation Fee Required*

Step outside the conference and join fellow attendees for VSLive!'s Wednesday Night Out.

Experience the energy and charm of Seattle's iconic Central Waterfront! Join us Wednesday evening as a dedicated bus takes you from our host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, straight to the heart of Downtown — with drop-off at Pier 57 (1301 Alaskan Way).

From there, the night is yours to explore!





## VSLIVE! AI HACKATHON @ MICROSOFT HQ



### BUILD. INNOVATE. COMPETE FOR UP TO \$25K.

Tuesday, July 28, 6:00pm – 10:00pm & Wednesday, July 29, 2026, 5:00pm – 9:00pm

Take your skills beyond the classroom and into real-world application at the **VSLive! AI Hackathon**, a high-energy, two-night coding experience held right on the Microsoft campus.

In addition to five days of **in-depth, expert-led training**, this hands-on Hackathon gives you the opportunity to collaborate with fellow developers, experiment with cutting-edge AI technologies, and bring new ideas to life in a fast-paced, team-driven environment—**with the chance to compete for up to \$25,000 in prizes.**

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

- **VSLive! @ Microsoft HQ attendees:** Complimentary access
- **Local community developers:** \$25 registration (limited space available)

### WHAT TO EXPECT

#### Two Nights of Hands-On Development

Work solo or in teams to design and build a working application or AI-powered solution using .NET, Azure, AI agents, or your preferred stack.

#### Real-World Innovation

Move from concept to prototype—developing solutions that can be demoed, shared, and even extended beyond the event.

#### Mentorship & Collaboration

Connect with experienced developers, industry experts, and peers while receiving guidance throughout the build process.

#### Live Demos & Judging

Showcase your project in front of judges and attendees, with selected teams presenting live demos.

#### Compete for Prizes

Put your skills to the test for a chance to **win up to \$25,000 in prizes and industry recognition.**

### EVENT FORMAT

- **Night 1:** Kickoff, team formation, idea development, and first coding sprint
- **Night 2:** Final build, submission, and demo preparation
- **Finale:** Project demos, judging recap, and awards ceremony

### WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Apply what you learned during the conference in a **real build environment**
- Gain hands-on experience with **AI, cloud, and modern development tools**
- Expand your network and collaborate with like-minded developers
- Walk away with a **portfolio-ready project—and potentially a winning solution**

Whether you come with a team or join one onsite, the VSLive! Hackathon is your chance to **turn ideas into working solutions—and compete on a big stage.**



## AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

		Modern Software Engineering	Data & Analytics	Developing New Experiences	Human Factors in Engineering	The Core of .NET	Full Stack Web Development	Cutting Edge AI	Cloud, Containers, & Microservices	
<b>Pre-Conference Full Day Hands-On Labs: Monday, July 27, 2026</b> (Separate entry fee required)										
START TIME	END TIME									
7:00 AM	8:30 AM	Pre-Conference Full Day Hands-On Lab Registration • Coffee and Light Breakfast								
8:30 AM	12:30 PM	<b>HOL01</b> 🏠 Hands-On Lab: Get Started with .NET Aspire & ASP.NET Core for Distributed Application Building - Jeffrey T. Fritz	<b>HOL02</b> 🏠 Hands-On Lab: .NET App Modernization - Jon Galloway	<b>HOL03</b> 🏠 Hands-On Lab: Build an ASP.NET Core Razor Pages App and EF Core with Copilot in a Day - Philip Japikse	<b>HOL04</b> 🏠 Hands-On Lab: Building Modern Applications with SQL Server 2025: AI and New Developer Features - Leonard Lobel					
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	Lunch @ Microsoft Mixer OR Microsoft Food Hall 4 (Shuttles to Microsoft Food Hall 4 available)								
2:00 PM	5:30 PM	<b>HOL01</b> 🏠 Hands-On Lab: Continued	<b>HOL02</b> 🏠 Hands-On Lab: Cont.	<b>HOL03</b> 🏠 Hands-On Lab: Cont.	<b>HOL04</b> 🏠 Hands-On Lab: Continued					
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Mix & Mingle @ VSLive!								
<b>Visual Studio Live! Day 1: Tuesday, July 28, 2026</b>										
START TIME	END TIME									
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Light Breakfast								
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	<b>T01</b> 🏠 Build Next-Gen Apps with AI	<b>T02</b> 🏠 Performance Tuning Your Apps Using the VS Profiler - Harshada Hole & Nik Karpisky	<b>T03</b> Building Web Applications with ASP.NET Core - Philip Japikse	<b>T04</b> 🏠 What's New for Developers in SQL Server 2025 - Leonard Lobel	<b>T05</b> 🏠 Building MCP Servers with C# and .NET - Eric D. Boyd				
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	<b>T06</b> 🏠 Add AI to Your Own .NET Apps - Jon Galloway	<b>T07</b> 🏠 Hooking Up All the Things, Making Your Developer's Life Easier - Jeffrey T. Fritz	<b>T08</b> TypeScript: Moving Beyond the Basics - Allen Conway	<b>T09</b> Creating REST and GraphQL Database Endpoints with Data API Builder - Leonard Lobel	<b>T10</b> 🏠 Busy Developer's Guide to Python - Ted Neward				
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Networking Break / Visit Exhibitors - Mixer Foyer								
11:15 AM	12:15 PM	<b>KEYNOTE: You and AI – Building Future Together</b> Mads Kristensen, Principal Product Manager, Visual Studio, Microsoft								
12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Networking Lunch / Visit Exhibitors - Mixer Foyer								
1:30 PM	2:45 PM	Microsoft Campus Tour - Registration Required, Space is Limited								
1:30 PM	2:45 PM	<b>T11</b> 🏠 Get the Most Out of VS - Tips/Tricks - Mads Kristensen	<b>T12</b> 🏠 An Inside Look at How Microsoft Builds SQL Features - Bob Ward	<b>T13</b> How to Think in Blazor - John Baluka	<b>T14</b> Burnout in Software Development - Robert Bogue	<b>T15</b> To Be Announced				
3:00 PM	4:15 PM	<b>T16</b> 🏠 Unit Testing on Steroids Using VS. - McKenna Barlow	<b>T17</b> 🏠 Master the Debugger in Visual Studio - Harshada Hole & Cagri (Charlie) Aslan	<b>T18</b> Busy Developer's Guide to Web Assembly - Ted Neward	<b>T19</b> You're Not Paid to Write Code - Tony Champion	<b>T20</b> 🏠 Agentic DevOps with GitHub and Azure DevOps: What Actually Works in 2026 - Brian A. Randell				
4:15 PM	5:45 PM	Microsoft Ask the Experts & Welcome Reception Sponsored by 🏠 Microsoft - 1st Floor Mixer								
6:00 PM	10:00 PM	VSLive! Hackathon (Day 1) - 1st Floor Mixer								

Sessions and speakers subject to change. 🏠 Microsoft session 🏠 Cutting-Edge AI session



## AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE (continued)

		Modern Software Engineering	Data & Analytics	Developing New Experiences	Human Factors in Engineering	The Core of .NET	Full Stack Web Development	Cutting Edge AI	Cloud, Containers, & Microservices
<b>Visual Studio Live! Day 2: Wednesday, July 29, 2026</b>									
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Registration • Coffee and Light Breakfast							
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	<b>W01</b> Beyond Embeddings: Practical Vector Search with DiskANN in SQL Server	<b>W02</b> The Next Generation of Developer Productivity with GitHub Copilot & Visual Studio - <i>Simona Liao</i>	<b>W03</b> The World of Microsoft Office Programming, Integration, and Automation - <i>John Baluka</i>	<b>W04</b> Debugging Like a Coach: Fixing Team Bugs Before They Crash the Game - <i>Amber Vanderburg</i>	<b>W05</b> Orchestrating the Modern Software Factory: GitHub as the Intelligent Control Plane - <i>Esteban Garcia</i>			
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	<b>W06</b> Everything You Need to Know About the Latest in C# - <i>Dustin Campbell &amp; Mads Torgersen</i>	<b>W07</b> How the Visual Studio Team Uses AI Internally - <i>Sebastian Hernandez</i>	<b>W08</b> Building RESTful Services with ASP.NET Core - <i>Phillip Japikse</i>	<b>W09</b> From Business Problems to AI Success: Closing the Gap Between Promise and Reality - <i>Robert Bogue</i>	<b>W10</b> To Be Announced			
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Networking Break / Visit Exhibitors - Mixer Foyer							
11:15 AM	11:35 AM	<b>W11</b> Fast Focus: Dream a Little Dream: Dev with the CLI - <i>Kayla Cinnamon</i>	<b>W12</b> Fast Focus: 20 Minute Speed Round - AI in Visual Studio - <i>Mads Kristensen</i>	<b>W13</b> Fast Focus: Visibility is a Technical Skill - <i>Tony Champion</i>	<b>W14</b> Fast Focus: Using Copilot to Build Migration Tools - <i>Jason Bock</i>				
11:45 AM	12:05 PM	<b>W15</b> Fast Focus: To Be Announced	<b>W16</b> Fast Focus: Caching Options in .NET - <i>Jason Bock</i>	<b>W17</b> Fast Focus: JavaScript Framework/Library Showdown - <i>Allen Conway</i>	<b>W18</b> Fast Focus: Bulletproof in 20 Minutes - <i>Christian Wenz</i>				
12:05 PM	1:30 PM	Networking Lunch / Visit Exhibitors - Mixer Foyer							
1:30 PM	2:45 PM	Microsoft Campus Tour - Registration Required, Space is Limited							
1:30 PM	2:45 PM	<b>W19</b> SQL Projects in SSMS and Visual Studio - <i>Drew Skwiers-Koballa</i>	<b>W20</b> .NET App Modernization - <i>Jon Galloway</i>	<b>W21</b> BFF and SPAs: Best Friends Forever - <i>Christian Wenz</i>	<b>W22</b> VAR, AI Referees, and the Future of Code Reviews - <i>Amber Vanderburg</i>	<b>W23</b> Deploy Like a Pro: Get to Azure with GitHub Actions and GitHub Copilot - <i>Esteban Garcia</i>			
2:45 PM	3:30 PM	Sponsored Break • Exhibitor Raffle @ 3:00 pm (Must be present to win) - Mixer Foyer							
3:30 PM	4:45 PM	<b>W24</b> The Developers Guide to Azure SQL Hyperscale - <i>Bob Ward</i>	<b>W25</b> Building and Using MCP Servers in Visual Studio - <i>Leslie Richardson</i>	<b>W26</b> Getting Started with Cross-Platform Development Using UNO - <i>Tony Champion</i>	<b>W27</b> Fear and (Self) Loathing in IT – A Healthy Discussion on Imposter Syndrome - <i>Angela Dugan</i>	<b>W28</b> Using API Gateways for Flexibility and Governance of Your APIs - <i>Eric D. Boyd</i>			
5:00 PM	9:00 PM	VSLive! Hackathon (Day 2) - 1st Floor Mixer							
5:30 PM	10:00 PM	VSLive!'s Wednesday Night Out							

Sessions and speakers subject to change. Microsoft session Cutting-Edge AI session



## AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE (continued)

		Modern Software Engineering	Data & Analytics	Developing New Experiences	Human Factors in Engineering	The Core of .NET	Full Stack Web Development	Cutting Edge AI	Cloud, Containers, & Microservices
<b>Visual Studio Live! Day 3: Thursday, July 30, 2026</b>									
START TIME	END TIME	<b>Registration • Coffee and Light Breakfast</b>							
7:00 AM	8:00 AM								
8:00 AM	9:15 AM	<b>H01</b> 🇺🇸 .NET MAUI in 2026 - How AI Has Transformed App Development Forever - James Montemagno	<b>H02</b> 🇺🇸 Explore the Future of ASP.NET Core & Blazor in .NET 11 - Daniel Roth	<b>H03</b> Injecting Innovation Into Applications Through Design - Billy Hollis	<b>H04</b> YAML Pipelines for Modern Compute - Mike Benkovich	<b>H05</b> Improving Performance in .NET Applications - Jason Bock			
9:30 AM	10:45 AM	<b>H06</b> 🇺🇸 The Forgotten Features of Visual Studio You NEED in Your Life! - Mads Kristensen	<b>H07</b> 🇺🇸 Turn Every Idea into an AI App with the GitHub Copilot SDK - Kayla Cinnamon & James Montemagno	<b>H08</b> Security APIs with OWASP - Christian Wenz	<b>H09</b> What's New in EF Core 10 - Jim Wooley	<b>H10</b> Running Background Tasks in .NET Core - In App, The Cloud, and Beyond - Spencer Schneidenbach			
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	<b>Hackathon Awards</b>							
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	<b>🇺🇸 KEYNOTE: SQL and AI for Developers in Action</b> <i>Bob Ward, Principal Architect, Microsoft Azure Data, Microsoft</i>							
12:30 PM	1:45 PM	<b>Lunch @ Microsoft Mixer OR Microsoft Food Hall 4</b> <i>Shuttles to Microsoft Food Hall 4 Available</i>							
1:45 PM	3:00 PM	<b>Microsoft Campus Tour - Registration Required, Space is Limited</b>							
1:45 PM	3:00 PM	<b>H11</b> 🇺🇸 The Future of Visual Studio: Interactive Expert Panel - Anson Horton, Mads Kristensen, & Andy Sterland	<b>H12</b> Threat Modeling for AI Agents: From Prompt Injection to Tool Abuse - Spencer Schneidenbach	<b>H13</b> Advanced UI in the Browser with the Uno Platform - Billy Hollis	<b>H14</b> 🇺🇸 Human Skills in an AI World: How Technologists Stay Essential - Angela Dugan	<b>H15</b> 🇺🇸 Be A More Productive .NET Dev with VS Code, Visual Studio, and the CLI - Brian A. Randell			
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	<b>H16</b> 🇺🇸 Developing Modern WinForms Applications - Merrie McGaw	<b>H17</b> 🇺🇸 To Be Announced	<b>H18</b> Too Late for TTD? - Jim Wooley	<b>H19</b> Choose Your Identity Wisely - Mike Benkovich	<b>H20</b> Building Packages and Tools Using the Compiler API - Jason Bock			
<b>Post-Conference Workshops: Friday, July 31, 2026 (Separate entry fee required)</b>									
START TIME	END TIME	<b>Post-Conference Workshop Registration • Coffee and Light Breakfast</b>							
7:00 AM	8:00 AM								
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	<b>F01</b> 🇺🇸 Workshop: Mastering AI Development & Building AI Apps with GitHub Copilot - Kayla Cinnamon & James Montemagno	<b>F02</b> 🇺🇸 Workshop: To Be Announced	<b>F03</b> 🇺🇸 Workshop: Secure AI Engineering with C#, GitHub, and Azure - Brian A. Randell	<b>F04</b> Workshop: Building Blazor Applications - Jason Bock & Allen Conway				
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	<b>Lunch @ Microsoft Mixer</b> <i>Visit the Microsoft Company Store</i>							
1:00 PM	5:00 PM	<b>F01</b> 🇺🇸 Workshop: Continued	<b>F02</b> 🇺🇸 Workshop: Continued	<b>F03</b> 🇺🇸 Workshop: Continued	<b>F04</b> Workshop: Continued				

Sessions and speakers subject to change. 🇺🇸 Microsoft session 🇺🇸 Cutting-Edge AI session

## KEYNOTES

**WANT A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY?** Attend the two keynotes for Visual Studio Live! @ Microsoft HQ to learn what's hot on today's tech landscape and what exciting developments lie ahead for this year and beyond.

### TUESDAY KEYNOTE:

#### You and AI — Building Future Together

Tuesday, July 28, 11:15am – 12:15pm



**Mads Kristensen**  
Principal Product Manager, Visual Studio,  
Microsoft

### THURSDAY KEYNOTE:

#### SQL and AI for Developers in Action

Thursday, July 30, 11:30am – 12:30pm



**Bob Ward**  
Principal Architect, Microsoft Azure Data,  
Microsoft

Come see the Microsoft team show you the latest innovations for SQL, ground to cloud to fabric, to help you build AI applications securely with your data. This will be a heavy demo-oriented session so you can see the code and the details on how you as a developer can build the next-gen of applications with your data.

#### You will learn:

- How to build AI applications securely with your data
- The latest innovations from Microsoft
- Walk away with actual example code you can use



“**The aspect I liked best about the VS Live Conference 2025 was the opportunity to engage directly with industry experts and peers. The sessions were highly relevant, especially the deep dives into the latest advancements in .NET and AI integration. I also appreciated the hands-on labs and the chance to interact with Microsoft engineers in person. The venue and organization were top-notch, which made the entire experience both educational and enjoyable.**”

— Shihab Uddin, Rakuten Group, Inc. Japan



## FULL-DAY HANDS-ON LABS (Separate entry fee required)

Visual Studio Live! @ Microsoft HQ offers four instructor-led, pre-conference Hands-On Labs to help you take your dev skills to a new level. Get intensive, in-depth training to complete your conference experience.

### Topics covered include:

- .NET Aspire & ASP.NET Core
- .NET App Modernization
- ASP.NET Core Razor Pages and EF Core with Copilot
- Building Modern Applications with SQL Server 2025

*These labs are presented on a Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) basis.*

*Attendance for each Hands-On Lab is limited, so be sure to sign up early!*

“Loved the demos and live coding sessions. Please continue with this - very valuable to developers.”

— Sebastian Puerta Hincapie,  
Cambridge Associates

### HOL01

#### Hands-On Lab: Get Started with .NET Aspire & ASP.NET Core for Distributed Application Building

*Intermediate*

JEFFREY T. FRITZ

Monday, July 27, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Spend a day learning how to build distributed applications with the newly announced .NET Aspire stack and ASP.NET Core.

This workshop is for existing .NET developers looking to fully understand what .NET Aspire is, why they should use .NET Aspire, and how to integrate .NET Aspire into their applications.

In the morning, we will go through the basics of .NET Aspire and how to add it to an existing ASP.NET Core API backend and Blazor frontend application to take advantage of resiliency, observability, orchestration, service discovery, and the basics of .NET Aspire components. In the afternoon we will tackle deeper and richer telemetry, integrating databases, custom containers, advanced orchestration, testing, and so much more.

By the end of the day, you will have a grasp of all things .NET Aspire and how to integrate it into your applications and how to continue to deploy your application how you want.

#### You will learn:

- What is .NET Aspire
- Integration basics of .NET Aspire
- Advanced scenarios with .NET Aspire for enhancing apps

#### Attendee Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop computer (Windows or Mac) for this hands-on lab.

#### Computer Setup

- Windows 10/11, macOS, or Linux laptop
- Docker Desktop (or compatible container runtime)
- IDE Setup (choose one)
  - Visual Studio 2022 or or Visual Studio 2026 (latest version)
  - ASP.NET & web development workload installed.
  - Visual Studio Code
  - .NET 9 or .NET 10 SDK
  - C# Dev Kit extension
- JetBrains Rider with .NET Aspire plugin

For more information see: <https://learn.microsoft.com/dotnet/aspire/fundamentals/setup-tooling>

### HOL02

#### Hands-On Lab: .NET App Modernization

*Intermediate*

JON GALLOWAY

Monday, July 27, 8:30am – 5:30pm

[ DETAILS COMING SOON ]

#### Attendee Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop computer (Windows or Mac) for this hands-on lab.
- All other requirements will be posted two (2) weeks prior to the conference

### HOL03

#### Hands-On Lab: Build an ASP.NET Core Razor Pages App and EF Core with Copilot in a Day

*Intermediate*

PHILIP JAPIKSE

Monday, July 27, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Interested in ASP.NET Core and Entity Framework Core, but unsure where to start? Start here with an all-day Hands on Lab where you will build a complete solution using the latest development technology from Microsoft. You will create a data access library using Entity Framework Core, complete with repos and migrations. Next, you will build an ASP.NET Core web application using Razor Pages, leveraging all of the latest ASP.NET Core has to offer, including Tag Helpers, View Components, Dependency Injection, and more!

For those with GitHub Copilot Agent Mode enabled, we'll also explore how to seamlessly integrate Copilot into your workflow. If not, no worries—you'll still be able to fully participate and get the most out of the workshop.

#### You will learn:

- How to use ASP.NET Core to build a web application
- How to use EF Core to build a data access library



## HANDS-ON LABS *(continued)*

- How to use Copilot Agent Mode to speed your development

### Attendee Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop computer (Windows or Mac) for this hands-on lab.
- All other requirements will be posted two (2) weeks prior to the conference

### HOL04

## Hands-on Lab: Building Modern Applications with SQL Server 2025: AI and New Developer Features

*Intermediate*

LEONARD LOBEL

Monday, July 27, 8:30am – 5:30pm

Join Lenni for this immersive full-day hands-on lab workshop designed to get you up to speed with the latest and most powerful developer features in SQL Server 2025 and Azure SQL Database. Bring your laptop and roll up your sleeves. You'll actively build, query, and explore your way through the exciting new capabilities of the platform, guided by expert instruction and real-world examples.

You'll learn about the latest T-SQL enhancements, including fuzzy matching and regular expressions, that let you write more expressive and intelligent queries. You'll also work with the new Change Event Streaming feature to stream data changes directly from SQL Server to Azure Event Hubs—enabling real-time, event-driven systems right on top of your database. And you'll dive into the brand-new native JSON data type, blazing-fast JSON indexing, and updated JSON functions that enable high-performance document-style querying in the database.

You will also dive into the advanced new AI capabilities introduced in SQL Server 2025. You'll build Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) solutions using the native vector data type, vector search, and DiskANN indexing for high-performance semantic search capabilities. You'll also define and reuse AI models securely, enabling natural language querying directly in SQL Server.

By the end of this workshop, you'll have hands-on experience and working knowledge of SQL Server 2025's most important new developer features—and a collection of labs you can reuse long after the event.

### You will learn:

- To use advanced T-SQL techniques—including fuzzy matching and regular expressions—to write smarter, more expressive queries
- Build modern apps with native JSON and vector data types for high-performance document querying and AI-based semantic search
- Enable real-time analytics, monitoring, and event-driven workflows using Change Event Streaming

### Attendee Requirements:

- You must provide your own laptop computer (Windows or Mac) for this hands-on lab.
- All other requirements will be posted two (2) weeks prior to the conference

“ I really enjoyed the people and felt like Microsoft really appreciates developers. The content was rich with information.”

— Bryan Mehr, Sirenix ApS





## FULL-DAY WORKSHOPS

Choose from a range of content and topics by expert presenters with Visual Studio Live! @ Microsoft HQ Post-Conference workshops.

### Topics covered include:

- AI Development & Building AI Apps with GitHub Copilot
- Secure AI Engineering
- Building Blazor Apps

### F01

#### **Workshop: Mastering AI Development & Building AI Apps with GitHub Copilot**

*Intermediate*

KAYLA CINNAMON & JAMES MONTEMAGNO

Friday, July 31, 8:00am – 5:00pm

GitHub Copilot is everywhere now, in the CLI, editors, and your workflows. In this session, we'll show you how to supercharge Copilot with agent files, instructions, and hooks so you can get the most out of your agents. You'll see real demos of planning, coding, reviewing, and automating tasks with Copilot, plus simple patterns for keeping behavior consistent across environments. You will get hands on with custom agents, prompts, hooks, skills, MCP, plugins, and so much more. We will dive into how to create your own MCP servers to extend GitHub Copilot, create custom extension in VS Code, and even how to build our own AI apps powered by the GitHub Copilot SDK.

### F03

#### **Workshop: Modern & Secure AI Engineering with C#, GitHub, and Azure**

*Intermediate / Advanced*

BRIAN A. RANDELL

Friday, July 31, 8:00am – 5:00pm

In this jam-packed, one-day lecture and demo-focused workshop, Brian will take you on a journey through building intelligent AI-powered applications using C#, GitHub Copilot, Azure AI services, and modern DevOps practices. You'll explore essential AI concepts, practical architectural patterns, and best practices for integrating powerful AI models into your applications. Brian will demonstrate state-of-the-art techniques, including Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), semantic search, advanced prompt engineering, and responsible AI practices. You'll also see how DevOps, MLOps, and Platform Engineering come together seamlessly, enabling secure, reliable, and continuous deployment of intelligent applications.

This focused workshop provides clear guidance, live demonstrations, and actionable knowledge—perfect for developers who want a comprehensive overview and practical insights.

#### Welcome & AI Fundamentals

This module provides an introduction to the transformative power of Large Language Models (LLMs) and essential AI tools available for developers. You'll see live demonstrations of GitHub Copilot enhancing coding productivity directly within Visual Studio 2022, Visual Studio Code, and github.com.

- The AI Revolution: How LLMs are reshaping software engineering
- Overview of key AI tools: GitHub Copilot, Azure OpenAI Service, Semantic Kernel
- An overview of self-hosted options for running your LLMs

#### Architectural Patterns for AI-Enhanced Apps

Explore practical architectural patterns crucial for integrating AI capabilities into modern applications. You'll learn about key components like LLM services, embedding models, vector databases, and the powerful Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) technique.

- Patterns overview: LLM services, embeddings, vector databases, semantic search
- Introduction to Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)
- Memory and state management for conversation history

#### Practical Prompt Engineering

This module covers the principles of effective prompt engineering to ensure accurate and reliable results from AI models. You'll learn techniques like crafting clear system and user prompts, employing few-shot examples, and leveraging function-calling capabilities.

- Crafting effective prompts for accurate results
- System vs. user prompts, few-shot prompting, and function calling

#### DevOps Meets MLOps

Learn how modern DevOps practices integrate seamlessly with Machine Learning Operations (MLOps) to enhance AI-driven development. Brian will showcase continuous integration and automated workflows specifically tailored to deploying intelligent applications with examples using GitHub Actions.

- Integrating AI and ML into modern DevOps pipelines
- Continuous integration for AI-driven projects
- Continuous deployment for AI-driven projects

#### Advanced AI Techniques and Agentic Workflows

This module dives deeper into advanced AI capabilities, exploring frameworks that enable agents to handle complex, multi-step tasks. You'll discover how chained reasoning, state management, and tool integration can produce powerful AI workflows. Brian will also cover MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers, innovative technology that enables AI models to interact with external tools, data sources, and services.

- Exploring agent frameworks and chained reasoning
- Tool integration, planners, and state management in AI agents
- Agentic workflows with MCP Servers

#### Securing AI Applications with GitHub Advanced Security

Security considerations unique to AI-driven applications are highlighted here, emphasizing how GitHub Advanced Security (GHAS) helps maintain secure codebases. Brian will show how GHAS can help you produce more secure code and how it works with Copilot to help you build better solutions.

- Security challenges unique to AI-driven codebases
- Leveraging GHAS for automated vulnerability detection and remediation

#### Responsible AI and Data Privacy

This section addresses responsible AI practices, ethical considerations, and essential privacy protections necessary for AI applications. Brian demonstrates practical methods for implementing content moderation and data privacy controls.

- Content moderation and filtering in AI-driven apps

## WORKSHOPS *(continued)*

- Best practices for ethical AI usage and privacy preservation
- Azure content-filtering options

### Deploying AI-Powered Applications to Azure

Conclude the day by exploring deployment strategies for AI applications, weighing the pros and cons of Azure-managed versus self-hosted options. Practical demonstrations will show you how to deploy and monitor a live, production-grade AI-powered application on Azure.

- Choosing Azure vs. self-hosted deployments
- Practical deployment options: Azure App Service, Containers, Azure Functions
- Hybrid solutions using the cloud and edge computing

### You will learn:

- Clearly understand essential AI development concepts and architectural patterns.
- Practical techniques to integrate AI into your development workflows effectively.
- Grasp modern DevOps and MLOps practices tailored for secure, AI-driven application delivery.
- See real-world, production-grade AI applications deployed to Azure and secured through GitHub Advanced Security.

F04

### Workshop: Building Blazor Applications

*Intermediate / Advanced*

JASON BOCK & ALLEN CONWAY

Friday, July 31, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Blazor is a modern .NET application framework, primarily used to build web applications. Since its release in 2020, it has evolved with new features and capabilities, enabling developers with the ability to produce high-quality applications for their uses. In this workshop, we'll cover numerous features that Blazor brings to the table. We'll discuss different hosting models and how you can use them to your advantage. At the end of the workshop, you'll leave with a comprehensive understanding of the Blazor landscape.

This is a lecture-based workshop, not a hands-on lab.

### You will learn:

- How to leverage Blazor on the server, in the browser, and on mobile devices
- How to effectively use the Blazor UI component model to build maintainable apps
- How Blazor fits into an overall app architecture, including authentication, authorization, data access, and more



“ It was a phenomenally well organized and staffed so overall execution great for all of us. If I’m picking my favorite thing it really was the setup of the conference itself. The 15 minute break applied across all tracks meant engaging with other attendees became organic. I’m sure that made a lot of attendees more at ease networking.”

— 2025 Visual Studio Live! attendee



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK



### MODERN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

The heart of Modern Software Engineering is building and delivering software faster, reducing complexity and risk, all without sacrificing quality—quality of the software AND quality of the experience of everyone involved in building and delivering that software. The list of technical strategies, tools, and leading practices that enable modern software engineering is long and evolving rapidly. This track will help you stay on top of leading practices, tools, and strategies both with and without AI. You'll see how good practices today will make your future self, team members, stakeholders, even your boss, happy. You'll see how to build and deploy with modern tooling in Azure DevOps and GitHub, and how to weave AI into your coding and larger engineering practices. From test-driven development to agentic DevOps workflows, from GitHub Actions—powered deployments to orchestrating the modern software factory, this track equips you with the skills and strategies to ship better software, faster.

**You'll find coverage of:**

- Agentic DevOps with GitHub or Azure DevOps
- Busy Developer's Guide to Python
- Deploy Like a Pro: Get to Azure with GitHub Actions and GitHub Copilot
- Orchestrating the Modern Software Factory: GitHub as the Intelligent Control Plane
- Too Late for TDD?
- Workshop: Secure AI Engineering with C#, GitHub, and Azure

#### T10

### Busy Developer's Guide to Python

*Intermediate*

TED NEWARD

Tuesday, July 28, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- How Python works
- Different approaches to coding
- Embrace the snake!

#### T20

### Agentic DevOps with GitHub and Azure DevOps: What Actually Works in 2026

*Intermediate*

BRIAN A. RANDELL

Tuesday, July 28, 3:00pm – 4:15pm

**You will learn:**

- How Agentic DevOps patterns apply across GitHub and Azure DevOps workflows
- Practical guardrails for AI-assisted coding, automation, review, and release processes
- How to identify the metrics and warning signs that reveal whether AI is helping or creating hidden delivery debt

#### W05

### Orchestrating the Modern Software Factory: GitHub as the Intelligent Control Plane

*Advanced*

ESTEBAN GARCIA

Wednesday, July 29, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- How to architect GitHub as the orchestration hub for the full software development lifecycle.
- Discover how to combine Actions, Codespaces, and Copilot to build consistent, scalable engineering workflows.
- Understand how governance, quality, and automation fit into an AI-accelerated software factory.

#### W23

### Deploy Like a Pro: Get to Azure with GitHub Actions and GitHub Copilot

*Intermediate*

ESTEBAN GARCIA

Wednesday, July 29, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

**You will learn:**

- Understand how to design and deploy modern Azure environments using GitHub Actions and IaC templates.
- How GitHub Copilot accelerates pipeline creation, debugging, and environment configuration.
- Leave with patterns for reliable, secure, repeatable Azure deployments using the GitHub platform.

#### H18

### Too Late for TTD?

*Introductory / Intermediate*

JIM WOOLEY

Thursday, July 30, 3:15pm – 4:30pm

**You will learn:**

- Differences between unit testing, integration testing, and functional testing and when to use each.
- How to start adding testing strategies against existing code bases.
- Discover how and when to modify your code to make it more testable including refactoring to support injection and mocking.

“ The access to the Microsoft “ask the experts” was the best part of VSLive! @ Microsoft HQ. I wish that had been longer because that was one of the most valuable parts of the conference.”

— Philippe Asselin, Fundstream, Inc.



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

### DATA & ANALYTICS

Data is the lifeblood of modern applications—and the platforms, tools, and patterns for working with that data are evolving at a breathtaking pace. SQL Server 2025 introduces powerful new capabilities for developers, from built-in vector search with DiskANN to deeper AI integration, while Entity Framework Core 10 continues to streamline how .NET developers interact with their data stores. But the data landscape extends well beyond relational databases. From building flexible REST and GraphQL endpoints with Data API Builder, to rapid development with Azure Cosmos DB, to harnessing the analytical power of SQL Database in Microsoft Fabric, today’s developers need fluency across a broad spectrum of data technologies. And as AI agents increasingly interact with your data, understanding the security implications—from prompt injection to tool abuse—is more critical than ever. This track gives you the practical knowledge and hands-on experience to work confidently across the modern data stack.

**Topics in this track include:**

- Creating REST and GraphQL Database Endpoints with Data API Builder
- Fast Focus: Vibe Coding: Ship It Faster with GitHub Copilot and Azure Cosmos DB
- Hands-On Lab: Building Modern Applications with SQL Server 2025: AI and New Developer Features
- SQL Projects in SSMS and Visual Studio
- Structured Feeds for Your Data-Devouring Apps and Agents
- Threat Modeling for AI Agents: From Prompt Injection to Tool Abuse
- What’s New for Developers in SQL Server 2025
- What’s New in EF Core 10

#### T04

### What’s New for Developers in SQL Server 2025

*Intermediate*

LEONARD LOBEL

Tuesday, July 28, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- Explore new T-SQL features like fuzzy matching and regular expressions.
- To use Change Event Streaming and native JSON enhancements.
- Discover vector data, DiskANN indexing, and AI integration in T-SQL.

#### T09

### Creating REST and GraphQL Database Endpoints with Data API Builder

*Intermediate*

LEONARD LOBEL

Tuesday, July 28, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- How to expose REST and GraphQL endpoints over your database model.
- Effortlessly apply filtering, sorting, and pagination in your database API calls.
- Secure your database API with authentication and authorization.

#### T12

### An Inside Look at How Microsoft Builds SQL Features

*Intermediate*

BOB WARD

Tuesday, July 28, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

As a developer, you will gain valuable insights on how to apply the techniques used by Microsoft with your own applications.

#### W01

### Beyond Embeddings: Practical Vector Search with DiskANN in SQL Server

*Intermediate / Advanced*

TBD

Wednesday, July 29, 8:00am – 9:00am

**You will learn:**

- Understand when and why to use DiskANN in SQL Server,
- How to store, index, and query vector data alongside relational and text data
- Apply vector search to real-world scenarios using your own data



“The VSLive! tracks were very well done. Very knowledgeable and engaging speakers.”

— Blake LaFuente, NASA



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

W15

### **Fast Focus: To Be Announced**

TBD

Wednesday, July 29, 11:45am – 12:05pm

[ DETAILS COMING SOON ]

W19

### **SQL Projects in SSMS and Visual Studio**

*Level to be announced*

DREW SKWIERS-KOBALLA

Wednesday, July 29, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

In this session, we'll explore the components of a modern database development cycle using Microsoft.Build.Sql SDK-style SQL projects in Visual Studio and SSMS, integrated with GitHub and Azure DevOps.

W24

### **The Developers Guide to Azure SQL Hyperscale**

*Intermediate*

BOB WARD

Wednesday, July 29, 3:30pm – 4:45pm

We'll cover building APIs with JSON, exposing data through REST style access, using vectors for AI driven search, and integrating AI agents via SQL MCP—showing how Hyperscale supports modern app and AI workflows without introducing new databases or abandoning the SQL Server you know and love.

[ DETAILS COMING SOON ]

H09

### **What's New in EF Core 10**

*Intermediate*

JIM WOOLEY

Thursday, July 30, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- Explore the new features of EF Core since the last LTS release
- How to keep up with EF Core changes over time
- Understand how to provide feedback or contribute new features to EF Core

H12

### **Threat Modeling for AI Agents: From Prompt Injection to Tool Abuse**

*Introductory*

SPENCER SCHNEIDENBACH

Thursday, July 30 1:45pm – 3:00pm

**You will learn:**

- Identify LLM-specific attack vectors including prompt injection, tool hijacking, and data exfiltration through seemingly benign queries.
- Apply a threat modeling framework to agentic AI systems that accounts for the unique attack surface created when LLMs can execute code, query databases, and make API calls.
- Implement defensive layers between your LLM and critical systems including proper authorization boundaries, tool call validation, and input sanitization strategies.

H17

### **To Be Announced**

*Advanced*

TBD

Thursday, July 30, 3:15pm – 4:30pm





## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

### DEVELOPING NEW EXPERIENCES

The idea of “user experience” extends far beyond pixels and layouts—it encompasses how users discover, interact with, and derive value from your applications across every platform and form factor. Building truly compelling experiences today means meeting users where they are, whether that’s on mobile devices with .NET MAUI, in the browser with the Uno Platform, or embedded within the Microsoft Office applications they already use every day. AI is transforming the development process itself, accelerating how we build and iterate on multi-platform applications. And thoughtful design—injecting innovation at every level of the user journey—is what separates good applications from great ones. This track explores the frameworks, patterns, and creative approaches you need to build next-generation experiences that delight users and stand out in a crowded market.

**Topics in this track include:**

- .NET MAUI in 2026 – How AI Has Transformed App Development Forever
- Advanced UI in the Browser with the Uno Platform
- Getting Started with Cross-Platform Development Using UNO
- Injecting Innovation into Applications Through Design
- The World of Microsoft Office Programming, Integration, and Automation

### W03

#### The World of Microsoft Office Programming, Integration, and Automation

*Introductory*

JOHN BALUKA

Wednesday, July 29, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- Describe the evolution of Microsoft Office development tools from VBA and .NET to modern JavaScript-based Office Add-ins.
- Identify integration points and automation opportunities across Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access for both desktop and web environments.
- Compare the capabilities and limitations of VBA, VSTO, and Office JavaScript APIs across different Office applications.

### W26

#### Getting Started with Cross-Platform Development Using UNO

*Introductory*

TONY CHAMPION

Wednesday, July 29, 3:30pm – 4:45pm

**You will learn:**

- Understand what UNO is and the problems it is designed to solve
- How a single codebase can target multiple platforms using .NET
- Know when UNO is a good fit and when another approach may be better

### H01

#### .NET MAUI in 2026 - How AI Has Transformed App Development Forever

*Introductory/Intermediate*

JAMES MONTEMAGNO

Thursday, July 30, 8:00am – 9:00am

In this session we’ll not only just see how to customize GitHub Copilot with the latest for mobile and desktop development, but we will also take a look some productivity boosting enhancements of the team has been making to streamline development.

### H03

#### Injecting Innovation Into Applications Through Design

*Introductory*

BILLY HOLLIS

Thursday, July 30, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- Discover techniques to make your team innovation focused, allowing them to build more valuable applications
- See inspirational examples of innovation in apps that provided extraordinary value
- See how current processes and methodologies hamper innovation, and how to overcome that inertia

### H13

#### Advanced UI in the Browser with the Uno Platform


*Introductory*

BILLY HOLLIS

Thursday, July 30, 1:45pm – 3:00pm

**You will learn:**

- See just how advanced UI in the browser can be - without tangling with CSS!
- How to make web apps that supersede HTML-based Single Page Apps
- XAML techniques for advanced UI that solves common business problems

 **Loved the content!! Incredibly applicable to my work, loved Rocky and Phil, they are awesome instructors.”**

— 2025 Attendee



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



### HUMAN FACTORS IN ENGINEERING

Engineering software, systems, and processes are complex! One factor that is key to success that is particularly challenging to account for and that is often not focused on proactively – is the human factor. Drucker famously said that “culture eats strategy for breakfast”, meaning that the best laid system architecture, the most beautifully constructed designs, and the fastest and most efficient DevOps pipelines are only as effective as the people and teams who are implementing those brilliant plans. And to be effective, those individuals and teams need leaders who are connected and present and who provide clear vision and priorities for their teams to align to. They also need to work within a culture that embraces and encourages experimentation, learning, and continuous improvement. They must have access to tools and processes that reduce friction and boost collaboration. The sessions in the Human Factors in Engineering track focus on topics that will be relevant and useful for a lifetime regardless of the platform, languages, and “best practices” that you use along the way.

**Topics in this track include:**

- Burnout in Software Development
- Debugging Like a Coach: Fixing Team Bugs Before They Crash the Game
- Fast Focus: Visibility Is a Technical Skill
- Fear and (Self) Loathing in IT – A Healthy Discussion on Imposter Syndrome
- GitHub Projects: From Business Problems to AI Success: Closing the Gap Between Promise and Reality
- VAR, AI Referees, and the Future of Code Reviews
- You’re Not Paid to Write Code

#### T14

### Burnout in Software Development

*Introductory / Intermediate*

ROBERT BOGUE

Tuesday, July 28, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

**You will learn:**

- Understand the factors that lead to burnout
- Identify activities and perspectives that reduce the incidence of burnout
- Synthesize interventions that will discourage burnout in your organization

#### T19

### You’re Not Paid to Write Code

*Introductory*

TONY CHAMPION

Tuesday, July 28, 3:00pm – 4:15pm

**You will learn:**

- Understand how developer value shifts as you move from execution to ownership
- Recognize the behaviors that separate trusted senior developers from strong individual contributors
- Apply practical strategies to increase influence, clarity, and impact without changing job titles

#### W04

### Debugging Like a Coach: Fixing Team Bugs Before They Crash the Game

*Introductory*

AMBER VANDERBURG

Wednesday, July 29, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- Identify the “silent bugs” in tech teams—bottlenecks, misalignment, and ineffective communication—that hurt performance but often go unnoticed.
- Use data-driven coaching techniques from pro sports (real-time analytics, film reviews, and performance tracking) to improve engineering team efficiency
- Learn how to run engineering retrospectives like a game tape review—breaking down past plays to improve future execution

#### W09

### From Business Problems to AI Success: Closing the Gap Between Promise and Reality

*Introductory / Intermediate*

ROBERT BOGUE

Wednesday, July 29, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- Identify the root causes of AI adoption failures, including insights from MIT research and why human factors outweigh technical hurdles.
- Apply practical frameworks to align AI initiatives with real business problems, ensuring clarity, governance, and measurable outcomes.
- Develop strategies for building organizational readiness and trust, leveraging proven change management principles to move from confusion to confident execution.

#### W13

### Fast Focus: Visibility Is a Technical Skill

*Introductory*

TONY CHAMPION

Wednesday, July 29, 11:15am – 11:35am

**You will learn:**

- Understand why technical work often goes unnoticed even when it is high quality
- Recognize the difference between self promotion and professional visibility
- Apply simple, practical techniques to make technical contributions visible

“The best thing about VSLive! was the hands-on workshop where I could code along with the instructor.”

— Steve Waag, *Art Culinaire*



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

### W22

#### VAR, AI Referees, and the Future of Code Reviews

*Intermediate / Advanced*

AMBER VANDERBURG

Wednesday, July 29, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

**You will learn:**

- Use Critical Thinking + Ethics Checkpoints to Evaluate AI Suggestions
- Define Clear AI–Human Decision Boundaries Using VAR’s Proven Approach
- Implement Practical AI Workflows for Faster, More Reliable PR Reviews

### W27

#### Fear and (Self) Loathing in IT – A Healthy Discussion on Imposter Syndrome

*Introductory / Intermediate*

ANGELA DUGAN

Wednesday, July 29, 3:30pm – 4:45pm

**You will learn:**

- What Imposter Syndrome is
- Recognizing Imposter Syndrome in ourselves and others
- Leveraging Imposter Syndrome as an opportunity to thrive

### H14

#### Human Skills in an AI World: How Technologists Stay Essential

*Introductory / Intermediate*

ANGELA DUGAN

Thursday, July 30, 1:45pm – 3:00pm

**You will learn:**

- The real-world capabilities and limitations of AI in modern software development workflows
- Where caution and human oversight are still essential
- Practical ways to use AI as a career accelerator: improving quality, boosting creativity, and expanding your technical impact



### THE CORE OF .NET

Modern .NET 10 is the open-source and cross-platform foundation for building nearly any kind of app. With .NET 10 recently released, you need to understand the major changes in the platform, not to mention the cool features being added to C#. These are the foundation-level topics you need to know for success in the Microsoft development world, and we’ve got sessions and hands-on options for you to explore! Whether it’s getting the most out of your editor or IDE, mastering the debugger, profiling for performance, or using the latest frameworks for building next-generation distributed solutions with .NET Aspire, this track has the content you need to embrace. And being at Microsoft HQ means you’ll hear directly from the Visual Studio team—including an “Ask the Visual Studio Team Anything” panel—giving you unmatched access to the people building the tools you use every day.

**Topics in this track include:**

- Building Packages and Tools Using the Compiler API
- Everything You Need to Know About the Latest in C#
- Fast Focus: Caching Options in .NET
- Get the Most Out of VS – Tips/Tricks
- Hands-On Lab: Get Started with .NET Aspire & ASP.NET Core for Distributed Application Building
- Improving Performance in .NET Applications
- Master the Debugger in Visual Studio
- Panel: Ask the Visual Studio Team Anything
- Performance Tuning Your Apps Using the VS Profiler
- Running Background Tasks in .NET Core – In App, the Cloud, and Beyond
- The Forgotten Features of Visual Studio You NEED In Your Life!
- Unit Testing on Steroids Using VS

### T02

#### Performance Tuning Your Apps Using the VS Profiler

*Intermediate*

HARSHADA HOLE & NIK KARPISKY

Tuesday, July 28, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- Run and interpret CPU and .NET Allocation traces using the Visual Studio Profiler
- Validate performance improvements with BenchmarkDotNet and unit tests
- Apply insights to real-world open source code and accelerate optimization with GitHub Copilot

### T11

#### Get the Most Out of VS - Tips/Tricks

MADS KRISTENSEN

Tuesday, July 28, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

[ DETAILS COMING SOON ]

### T16

#### Unit Testing on Steroids Using VS.

*Intermediate*

MCKENNA BARLOW

Tuesday, July 28, 3:00pm – 4:15pm

**You will learn:**

- Understand how AI-assisted tooling fits into modern unit testing workflows, including where it excels and where human judgement still matters.
- Use test agents and lightweight agentic flows to quickly bootstrap and expand unit test coverage, especially for large or unfamiliar codebases.
- Apply practical strategies for combining unit testing practices with AI-powered tools to improve productivity, confidence, and test quality.



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

T17

### Master the Debugger in Visual Studio

Intermediate

HARSHADA HOLE & CAGRI (CHARLIE) ASLAN

Tuesday, July 28, 3:00pm – 4:15pm

**You will learn:**

- Apply the Debugger Agent to guide issue investigation and resolution
- Analyze call stacks, execution flow, and program state more effectively
- Discover powerful, underused features in the Visual Studio debugger

W06

### Everything You Need to Know About the Latest in C#

Intermediate

DUSTIN CAMPBELL & MADS TORGERSEN

Wednesday, July 29, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- About the evolution of C# from version 14 to preview version 15 and beyond
- How complex language features are developed and refined across multiple C# versions
- Gain insight into the future direction of C# and how developer feedback influences upcoming features



W11

### Fast Focus: Dream a Little Dream: Dev with the CLI

Intermediate

KAYLA CINNAMON

Wednesday, July 29, 11:15am – 11:35am

**You will learn:**

- Use GitHub Copilot CLI to move from idea to implementation in the terminal by prompting for a plan, generating changes, and iterating quickly in one workflow.
- Apply a few high-leverage commands and patterns (e.g., initializing repo instructions, reviewing/diffing changes, and using file references for better grounding) to make results more consistent and actionable.
- Keep the agent “on rails” by using predictable controls (slash commands/shortcuts and permissions-oriented workflow) so you stay in charge while Copilot does the busywork.

W16

### Fast Focus: Caching Options in .NET

Intermediate

JASON BOCK

Wednesday, July 29, 11:45am – 12:05pm

**You will learn:**

- Understand the advantages and disadvantages to caching
- See what options are available to .NET developers
- Effective patterns and principles for caching in a .NET application

H05

### Improving Performance in .NET Applications

Intermediate

JASON BOCK

Thursday, July 30, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- Understand how to address performance issues in code
- Discover techniques to eliminate bad code before it becomes an issue
- See how different tools work in .NET to find and fix slow code

H06

### The Forgotten Features of Visual Studio You NEED in Your Life!

Intermediate

MADS KRISTENSEN

Thursday, July 30, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- Discover lesser-known tools, settings, and shortcuts in Visual Studio that can significantly improve daily development workflows.
- Practical tips and tricks that reduce context-switching and streamline debugging, editing, and project navigation.
- Walk away with a curated list of hidden features and extensions to immediately boost productivity.

H10

### Running Background Tasks in .NET Core - In App, The Cloud, and Beyond

Introductory

SPENCER SCHNEIDENBACH

Thursday, July 30, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- Evaluate the trade-offs between built-in and third-party background task solutions (such as BackgroundService vs. Hangfire) based on feature requirements, complexity, and development experience.
- Match task characteristics to the appropriate execution strategy by analyzing whether your workload is timer-based, short-lived, long-running, or requires failure recovery.
- Implement resilient background task patterns that account for failure scenarios and enable reliable recovery in production .NET Core applications.

“The content at VSLive! @ Microsoft HQ was the best I’ve experienced in all the conferences I’ve attended.”

— Michael Jensen, Leidos



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

### H11

#### **The Future of Visual Studio: Interactive Expert Panel**

ANSON HORTON, MADS KRISTENSEN  
 & ANDY STERLAND

Thursday, July 30, 1:45pm – 3:00pm

Join Visual Studio experts Andy Sterland, Anson Horton, and Mads Kristensen for an interactive, no-holds-barred session. As we continue updating Visual Studio 2026, we want your input to help shape Visual Studio 2027. Nothing is off-limits: ask about core engineering, new features, hidden gems, roadmap, pain points, extensibility, best practices. Anything Visual Studio-related, the panel will answer them all, candidly and in-depth.

### H20

#### **Building Packages and Tools Using the Compiler API**

*Intermediate*

JASON BOCK

Thursday, July 30, 3:15pm – 4:30pm

**You will learn:**

- Gain insight into the Compiler API
- See how developers can build packages and tools using the Compiler API
- Where the Compiler API adds value to your code

“**The best part of VSLive! @ Microsoft HQ was getting to hear about the future of ai/ copilot for visual studio and other programming updates.**”

— Arnthor Gudmundsson, LS Retail



#### **FULL STACK WEB DEVELOPMENT**

Web development is the dominant approach for building enterprise software. To provide your best on every project, you need to understand the server and browser client worlds. On the server, there's ASP.NET using .NET 10, Razor Pages, and support for building RESTful services. The browser client is evolving rapidly, with constant changes and updates to Blazor, JavaScript, TypeScript, WebAssembly, and other related frameworks. You need to think about your apps “in production” and consider long-term security with OWASP best practices, API architecture patterns like BFF (Backend for Frontend), and modern JavaScript framework choices. Your need to keep up to date with all these technologies has never been greater, and we're here to give you the knowledge you need!

**Topics in this track include:**

- BFF and SPAs: Best Friends Forever
- Building RESTful Services with ASP.NET Core
- Building Web Applications with ASP.NET Core
- Busy Developer's Guide to WebAssembly
- Fast Focus: Bulletproof in 20 Minutes
- Fast Focus: JavaScript Framework/Library Showdown
- Hands-On Lab: Build an ASP.NET Core Razor Pages App and EF Core with Copilot in a Day
- Hooking Up All the Things, Making Your Developer's Life Easier
- How to Think in Blazor
- Security APIs with OWASP
- The Future of Web Development with ASP.NET Core & Blazor in .NET 10
- TypeScript: Moving Beyond the Basics
- Workshop: Building Blazor Applications

### T03

#### **Building Web Applications with ASP.NET Core**

*Intermediate*

PHILIP JAPIKSE

Tuesday, July 28, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- ASP.NET Core foundations
- ASP.NET Core MVC and Razor Page
- What makes ASP.NET Core great

### T07

#### **Hooking Up All the Things, Making Your Developer's Life Easier**

*Intermediate*

JEFFREY T. FRITZ

Tuesday, July 28, 9:30am – 10:45am

In this session, we'll explore how Aspire helps you connect “all the things” in your application ecosystem: APIs, databases, messaging systems, and cloud services without drowning in boilerplate. We'll configure new integrations for our existing systems and containers that we need in our development workspace.

### T08

#### **TypeScript: Moving Beyond the Basics**

*Intermediate / Advanced*

ALLEN CONWAY

Tuesday, July 28, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- Advanced TypeScript language features available beyond the basics
- How to leverage the building blocks of TypeScript and build upon them with advanced features to make web client development more powerful
- About additional TypeScript language features like advanced types, decorators, mixins, symbols, generics, iterators, and declaration merging



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

### T13

#### How to Think in Blazor

Intermediate

JOHN BALUKA

Tuesday, July 28, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

**You will learn:**

- Develop a Blazor-first mindset by rethinking common web development patterns through the lens of C# and Razor components.
- Gain practical insight into Blazor's full-stack capabilities, including when and how to leverage client-side vs. server-side features to build responsive, maintainable web apps.
- Identify common pitfalls and anti-patterns when transitioning from JavaScript-centric thinking to Blazor-based development.

### T18

#### Busy Developer's Guide to Web Assembly

Intermediate

TED NEWARD

Tuesday, July 28, 3:00pm – 4:15pm

**You will learn:**

- Discover the assembly language of the browser
- How to build WASM modules
- Understand the point and promise of Web Assembly

### W03

#### Building RESTful Services with ASP.NET Core

Intermediate

PHILIP JAPIKSE

Wednesday, July 29, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- ASP.Net Core foundations for RESTful Services
- Building RESTful services with ASP.NET Core
- Advanced features like data shaping and content negotiation

### W17

#### Fast Focus: JavaScript Framework/Library Showdown

Introductory

ALLEN CONWAY

Wednesday, July 29, 11:45am – 12:05pm

**You will learn:**

- About the main frameworks and libraries for modern web client development
- About the main differences between Angular, React, Vue, and how WebAssembly/Blazor fits in the picture
- About what backing factors will help guide the way to making a good decision about the framework and library chosen

### W18

#### Fast Focus: Bulletproof in 20 Minutes

Intermediate

CHRISTIAN WENZ

Wednesday, July 29, 11:45am – 12:05pm

**You will learn:**

- Understanding how a web application pen test works
- Understanding what auditors are looking for
- Understanding security features in ASP.NET Core and how to leverage them

### W21

#### BFF and SPAs: Best Friends Forever

Intermediate / Advanced

CHRISTIAN WENZ

Wednesday, July 29, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

**You will learn:**

- Understanding security risks for SPAs when using OAuth flows
- Understanding the BFF pattern
- About ASP.NET Core implementation options for BFF

### H02

#### Explore the Future of ASP.NET Core & Blazor in .NET 11

Advanced

DANIEL ROTH

Thursday, July 30, 8:00am – 9:15am

What's next for web development on .NET? In this session, we'll explore the future direction of ASP.NET Core and Blazor in .NET 11, highlighting the themes, priorities, and opportunities shaping the platform's next chapter.

### H08

#### Security APIs with OWASP

Intermediate

CHRISTIAN WENZ

Thursday, July 30, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- Understanding common API security risks
- Mitigating common API security risks
- Understanding specific safeguards in ASP.NET Core Web API





## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

### **CLOUD, CONTAINERS, & MICROSERVICES**

Cloud computing is no longer new. For most organizations, it's not a matter of "if", it's more about how much, with a focus on the big three: AWS, Azure, and GCP. Container technologies such as Kubernetes (aka K8s) and Docker are having a large impact on cloud computing, as well as on software architecture. This is perhaps most clear when thinking about service-oriented, or microservice, software architectures and how they can be used to leverage cloud- and container-based environments. Identity management, API governance, and modern deployment pipelines are critical pieces of this puzzle—and getting them right means the difference between a secure, scalable architecture and a fragile house of cards. It is hard to imagine any enterprise development scenario where one or more of these trends would not be high on the list of critical skills.

**Topics in this track include:**

- Choose Your Identity Wisely
- Using API Gateways for Flexibility and Governance of Your APIs
- YAML Pipelines for Modern Compute

### W28

#### **Using API Gateways for Flexibility and Governance of Your APIs**

*Introductory / Intermediate*

**ERIC D. BOYD**

Wednesday, July 29, 3:30pm – 4:45pm

**You will learn:**

- Overview of API Gateway
- Getting started with Azure API Management
- Integrating APIM with your solutions

### H04

#### **YAML Pipelines for Modern Compute**

*Intermediate*

**MIKE BENKOVICH**

Thursday, July 30, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- YAML Pipelines and Workflows for modern compute
- Patterns for workflow, from PR to Infrastructure to documentation
- Best practices for CI/CD

### H19

#### **Choose Your Identity Wisely**

*Intermediate*

**MIKE BENKOVICH**

Thursday, July 30, 3:15pm – 4:30pm

**You will learn:**

- What options are there for Identity Providers
- How do I choose between them?
- Live coding examples using them

“The best thing about VSLive! @ Microsoft HQ was meeting with Microsoft product owners and developers.”

— Robert Garner, Central New Mexico Community College





## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*



### CUTTING-EDGE AI

Artificial intelligence has moved from buzzword to essential developer tool, and at Microsoft HQ, you'll experience this transformation firsthand. The Cutting-Edge AI track goes beyond theory to show you how AI is being woven into the tools, frameworks, and workflows that .NET developers use every day. From GitHub Copilot's next-generation productivity features to building and consuming MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers in Visual Studio and C#, you'll see how AI is reshaping the development experience from the ground up. You'll learn how to add AI capabilities to your own .NET applications using Azure AI Foundry and the GitHub Copilot SDK, modernize legacy applications with AI-assisted tooling, and build next-generation AI apps with .NET and Azure. Whether you're looking to supercharge your productivity with AI-powered development tools or architect intelligent applications for your users, this track gives you the hands-on experience and practical knowledge to put AI to work in your .NET world.

**Topics in this track include:**

- .NET App Modernization
- Add AI to Your Own .NET Apps
- AI Foundry
- Be a More Productive .NET Dev with VS Code, Visual Studio, and the CLI
- Build Next-Gen AI Apps with .NET and Azure
- Building and Using MCP Servers in Visual Studio
- Building MCP Servers with C# and .NET
- Developing Modern WinForms Applications
- Fast Focus: Using Copilot to Build Migration Tools
- Hands-On Lab: .NET App Modernization
- How the Visual Studio Team Uses AI Internally
- SQL and AI for Developers in Action
- The Next Generation of Developer Productivity with GitHub Copilot & Visual Studio
- Turn Every Idea into an AI App with the GitHub Copilot SDK
- Workshop: Mastering AI Development & Building AI Apps with GitHub Copilot

#### T01

### Build Next-Gen Apps with AI

TBD

Tuesday, July 28, 8:00am – 9:15am

[ DETAILS COMING SOON ]

#### T05

### Building MCP Servers with C# and .NET

Introductory / Intermediate

ERIC D. BOYD

Tuesday, July 28, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- Understand the Model Context Protocol (MCP) and how AI clients and agents use MCP tools, resources, and prompts.
- Build MCP servers using C# and .NET, including tool definitions, JSON-RPC messaging, input/output schemas, and request handling.
- Design, develop, and deploy enterprise-ready MCP tools.

#### T06

### Add AI to Your Own .NET Apps

JON GALLOWAY

Tuesday, July 28, 9:30am – 10:45am

[ DETAILS COMING SOON ]

#### W02

### The Next Generation of Developer Productivity with GitHub Copilot & Visual Studio

Intermediate

SIMONA LIAO

Wednesday, July 29, 8:00am – 9:15am

**You will learn:**

- Choose and apply the right agentic workflow for your task, with the addition of structured planning and parallel execution
- Customize agents and create safe-guarded automation for your team and repo
- Understand token consumption for your chat sessions and Copilot subscription

#### W07

### How the Visual Studio Team Uses AI Internally

Intermediate

SEBASTIAN HERNANDEZ

Wednesday, July 29, 9:30am – 10:45am

**You will learn:**

- How Visual Studio engineers use AI differently across workflows.
- How to identify practical patterns for integrating AI into their own development workflows while maintaining accountability and quality.
- How to recognize how Visual Studio fits into modern, AI-accelerated development.



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS BY TRACK *(continued)*

### W12

#### Fast Focus: 20 Minute Speed Round - AI in Visual Studio

Intermediate

MADS KRISTENSEN

Wednesday, July 29, 11:15am – 11:35am

[ DETAILS COMING SOON ]

### W14

#### Fast Focus: Using Copilot to Build Migration Tools

Intermediate

JASON BOCK

Wednesday, July 29, 11:15am – 11:35am

**You will learn:**

- Understand how to use Copilot to create tools
- See how different libraries can be used to drive migration
- Effective techniques to combine Copilot and .NET

### W20

#### .NET App Modernization

Intermediate

JON GALLOWAY

Wednesday, July 29, 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Modernizing legacy .NET applications has never been faster—or more achievable. In this session, you'll see how Visual Studio 2026, .NET, and GitHub Copilot work together to streamline the upgrade journey, from initial assessment to a clean, modern codebase.

### W25

#### Building and Using MCP servers in Visual Studio

Introductory / Intermediate

LESLIE RICHARDSON

Wednesday, July 29, 3:30pm – 4:45pm

Model Context Protocol (MCP) is a rapidly evolving standard for connecting tools, data, and workflows to AI models. In this session, you'll learn how to build MCP servers using C#, and how to use them effectively inside Visual Studio to supercharge your development workflow. We'll cover practical tips, patterns, and gotchas when authoring MCP servers, show how they plug into everyday developer scenarios, and take a look at where the C# MCP SDK and Visual Studio tooling are headed.

### H07

#### Turn Every Idea into an AI App with the GitHub Copilot SDK

Introductory / Intermediate

KAYLA CINNAMON & JAMES MONTEMAGNO

Thursday, July 30, 9:30am – 10:45am

We'll build a small AI-powered app from scratch, connect it to a few tools, and talk through what works well, what can go wrong, and how to keep things under control.

### H15

#### Be A More Productive .NET Dev with VS Code, Visual Studio, and the CLI

Introductory / Intermediate

BRIAN A. RANDELL

Thursday, July 30, 1:45pm – 3:00pm

**You will learn:**

- Tips for getting More out of Visual Studio 2026
- Tips for getting more out of Visual Studio Code
- Tips for getting more out of the CLI

### H16

#### Developing Modern WinForms Applications

MERRIE MCGAW

Thursday, July 30, 3:15pm – 4:30pm

[ DETAILS COMING SOON ]

“ I liked that each speaker seemed to genuinely be passionate about their topic, and spoke colleague to colleague as opposed to vague, marketing pitch level discussions. I also liked how each presenter had a depth of knowledge on the topic presented and was able to provide insight into a variety of situations impacted by their topic, rather than not being able to deviate from the prepared slides.”

— 2025 Visual Studio Live! attendee

# CONFERENCE CHAIRS & SPEAKERS

## CONFERENCE CHAIRS



**Angela Dugan**  
Vice President, Product  
Delivery, Red Foundry  
Visual Studio Live!  
Conference Co-Chair



**Mads Kristensen**  
Principal Product Manager,  
Visual Studio, Microsoft  
Visual Studio Live!  
Conference Co-Chair



**Rockford Lhotka**  
VP of Strategy, Xebia  
Visual Studio Live!  
Conference Co-Chair



**Brian A. Randell**  
Partner,  
MCW Technologies  
Visual Studio Live!  
Conference Co-Chair

## SPEAKERS



**Cagri (Charlie) Aslan**  
Principal Software  
Engineering Manager,  
Microsoft



**John Baluka**  
Independent Software  
Developer



**McKenna Barlow**  
PM on the .NET Tools  
Team, Microsoft



**Mike Benkovich**  
Consultant, Cloud  
Architect, Developer



**Jason Bock**  
Staff Software Engineer,  
Rocket Mortgage



**Robert Bogue**  
President,  
Thor Projects LLC



**Eric D. Boyd**  
Founder and CEO,  
responsiveX



**Dustin Campbell**  
Principal Software  
Engineer, .NET  
Developer Experience  
Team, Microsoft



**Tony Champion**  
President,  
Champion DS



**Kayla Cinnamon**  
Senior AI Developer  
Tools Advocate,  
Microsoft



**Allen Conway**  
Principal Consultant,  
Xebia



**Angela Dugan**  
Vice President,  
Product Delivery,  
Red Foundry



**Jeffrey T. Fritz**  
Program Manager,  
Microsoft



**Jon Galloway**  
Principal Program  
Manager, Microsoft



**Esteban Garcia**  
Head of GitHub AI  
Services, Lantern



**Sebastian Hernandez**  
Software Engineer II,  
VS Version Control,  
Microsoft



**Harshada Hole**  
Sr. Product Manager,  
Microsoft



**Billy Hollis**  
Developer. Designer.  
Speaker. Author.



**Anson Horton**  
Partner Architect for  
Visual Studio, Microsoft



**Philip Japikse**  
Author, Speaker  
CTO / Chief Architect,  
Pintas & Mullins



**Nik Karpinsky**  
Principal Software  
Engineering Lead,  
Microsoft



**Mads Kristensen**  
Principal Product  
Manager, Visual Studio,  
Microsoft



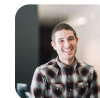
**Simona Liao**  
Product Manager,  
Microsoft



**Leonard Lobel**  
CTO,  
Sleek Technologies, Inc.



**Merrie McGaw**  
WinForms Developer,  
Microsoft



**James Montemagno**  
Principal Lead Program  
Manager, Developer  
Community, Microsoft



**Ted Neward**  
Principal,  
Neward and Associates



**Brian A. Randell**  
Partner,  
MCW Technologies



**Leslie Richardson**  
Sr. Product Manager,  
Microsoft



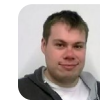
**Daniel Roth**  
Principal Product  
Manager, ASP.NET,  
Microsoft



**Spener Schneidenbach**  
AI Architect & CTO,  
Aviron Labs



**Drew Skwiers-Koballa**  
Principal Program  
Manager, Microsoft



**Andy Sterland**  
Principal PM Manager,  
Microsoft



**Mads Torgersen**  
C# Lead Designer,  
.NET Team, Microsoft



**Amber Vanderburg**  
Founder,  
Pathwayz Group



**Bob Ward**  
Principal Architect for  
Azure Data team,  
Microsoft



**Christian Wenz**  
CEO, Actition GmbH  
Microsoft MVP



**Jim Wooley**  
Senior Delivery Principal,  
Slalom Consulting



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ScaleOut Software develops industry-leading distributed caching software that enables applications to store large volumes of fast-changing data and accelerate performance. Designed for use in mission-critical applications across a wide range of industries, ScaleOut's in-memory computing software enables fast data access with transparent scaling, high availability, and real-time analytics. New technology called "active caching" lets applications embed user-defined data structures and message-processing code written in C# and Java. Proven in more than two decades of production use, ScaleOut's comprehensive suite of products helps companies meet the challenges of managing live data at scale. Learn more at [scaleoutsoftware.com](http://scaleoutsoftware.com).

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## VENUE & TRAVEL



### CONFERENCE LOCATION & SHUTTLE

#### MICROSOFT COMMONS MIXER (BUILDING 98) & MICROSOFT BUILDING 92

16070 N.E. 36th Way / 15255 NE 40th St.,  
Redmond, WA 98052

#### SHUTTLE SERVICE TO AND FROM THE MICROSOFT CAMPUS

VSLive! will be providing daily complimentary shuttle transportation between the Hyatt Regency Bellevue and the Microsoft Campus. This shuttle service will be available to all attendees with a valid conference badge daily over the duration of VSLive!. Buses will depart every 15 - 20 minutes at peak hours and every hour otherwise. Please allow extra time during peak traffic periods.

#### PARKING AT MICROSOFT

Complimentary parking is available under the Microsoft Commons Mixer (Building 98). All attendees must enter the Microsoft Commons Mixer (Building 98) & Microsoft Building 92 through the marked attendee entrance.

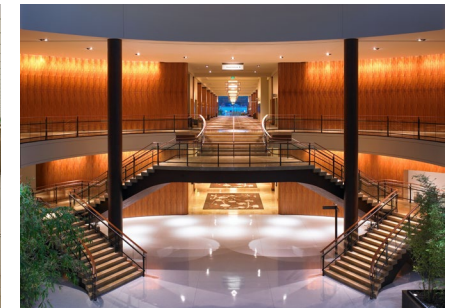
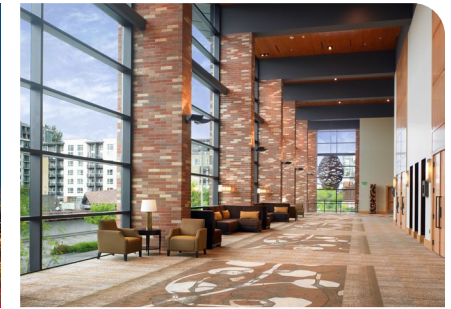
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## VENUE & TRAVEL *(continued)*



## HOTEL & TRAVEL

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900 Bellevue Way N.E.  
Bellevue, WA 98004

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**BOOK BY: JULY 10, 2026**

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*\*The \$255.00 room rate is based on single or double occupancy and excludes applicable state and local taxes.*

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Self-parking is \$37.00 per day for Sunday night through Thursday night stays (plus applicable taxes) Friday and Saturday night stays are complimentary (8:00pm Friday until 12:00am Sunday).

Valet Parking at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue is \$47.00 per day (plus applicable taxes).



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Every Conference Package grants you access to Keynotes, Sessions, Lunches, and Activities for the days included in your package.

	<b>5-DAY</b> + Full Day Hands-On Lab and Workshops (Monday - Friday)	<b>4-DAY</b> + Friday Workshops (Tuesday - Friday)	<b>3-DAY</b> (Tuesday-Thursday)	<b>HANDS-ON LAB</b> (Monday Only)	<b>WORKSHOP</b> (Friday Only)
<b>SUPER EARLY BIRD</b> REGISTER BY MAY 15	\$2,825	\$2,325	\$1,825	\$700	\$650
<b>EARLY BIRD</b> REGISTER BY JUNE 19	\$2,925	\$2,425	\$1,925	\$750	\$650
<b>STANDARD</b> REGISTER BY JULY 27	\$3,225	\$2,725	\$2,125	\$750	\$650

## ADD THE HOTEL PACKAGE

At the Hyatt Regency Bellevue

VSLive! will provide daily complimentary shuttle transportation between the Hyatt Regency Bellevue and the Microsoft Campus.

**5 DAY HOTEL PACKAGE\***

**\$1,500**

Check In: Sunday, July 26 | Check Out: Friday, July 31

**4 DAY HOTEL PACKAGE\***

**\$1,200**

Check In: Monday, July 27 | Check Out: Friday, July 31

**3 DAY HOTEL PACKAGE\***

**\$900**

Check In: Monday, July 27 | Check Out: Thursday, July 30

\* The Hotel Package includes applicable state, local and occupancy taxes.



## DISCOUNTS & SPECIAL SAVINGS

### TEAM DISCOUNTS: BRING THE TEAM AND SAVE BIG!

Visual Studio Live! @ Microsoft HQ offers savings to teams of 3 or more from the same company and registering for the same package. Looking to bring 10 or more? Contact our Conference Registrar at [sross@converge360.com](mailto:sross@converge360.com) or at 949.296.9840.

### TEAM PACKAGES *(Pricing listed is per attendee)*

Every Conference Package grants you access to Keynotes, Sessions, Lunches, and Activities for the days included in your package.

	<b>5-DAY</b> + Full Day Hands-On Lab and Workshops <i>(Monday - Friday)</i>	<b>4-DAY</b> + Friday Workshops <i>(Tuesday - Friday)</i>	<b>3-DAY</b> <i>(Tuesday-Thursday)</i>	<b>HANDS-ON LAB</b> <i>(Monday Only)</i>	<b>WORKSHOP</b> <i>(Friday Only)</i>
<b>SUPER EARLY BIRD</b> REGISTER BY MAY 15	<b>\$2,525</b>	<b>\$2,025</b>	<b>\$1,725</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$650</b>
<b>EARLY BIRD</b> REGISTER BY JUNE 19	<b>\$2,625</b>	<b>\$2,125</b>	<b>\$1,725</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$650</b>
<b>STANDARD</b> REGISTER BY JULY 27	<b>\$2,925</b>	<b>\$2,425</b>	<b>\$1,725</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$650</b>

## MORE DISCOUNTS

### ALUMNI

Welcome back! If you have attended any Visual Studio Live!, TechMentor or Live! 360 event, you qualify for our special alumni discount. You should receive alumni special promotions, but if not, please contact our Conference Registrar at [sross@converge360.com](mailto:sross@converge360.com) or 949.296.9840.

### EDUCATION

We offer full-time college students and faculty from accredited universities a discount. To receive this discount, please contact our Conference Registrar at [sross@converge360.com](mailto:sross@converge360.com) or 949.296.9840. Subject to Visual Studio Live! verification.

### INTERNATIONAL

Attendees traveling from outside the United States are eligible for our international discount to help make participation more accessible. To receive this discount, please contact our Conference Registrar at [sross@converge360.com](mailto:sross@converge360.com) or 949.296.9840. Discount eligibility is subject to Visual Studio Live! verification.

### GOVERNMENT/NON-PROFIT

Employees of a national, federal, state, provincial, or local government entity are eligible to take advantage of our discount. To receive this discount, please contact our Conference Registrar at [sross@converge360.com](mailto:sross@converge360.com) or 949.296.9840. Subject to Visual Studio Live! verification.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**VIRTUAL**



LIVE! 360 2-DAY TRAINING SEMINAR  
**Copilot Studio, Microsoft Agent Framework and Foundry: Building Multi-Agent AI Systems**  
JUNE 8-9, 2026

[live360events.com](https://live360events.com)

**VIRTUAL**



LIVE! 360 2-DAY HANDS-ON TRAINING SEMINAR  
**AI-Powered .NET Development with Claude & Claude Code**  
JULY 9-10, 2026

[live360events.com](https://live360events.com)

**VIRTUAL**



VSLIVE! 4-DAY HANDS-ON TRAINING SEMINAR  
**Immersive .NET Full Stack Training with Copilot: 4-Day Hands-On Experience**  
JULY 14-17, 2026

[vslive.com](https://vslive.com)

Visual Studio **LIVE!**  
EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS



**Visual Studio Live! San Diego**  
SEPTEMBER 14-18, 2026  
Bahia Resort Hotel

[vslive.com/sandiego](https://vslive.com/sandiego)

THE  
**AI PIVOT**  
CONFERENCE



**The AI Pivot Conference - AI for SMBs**  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2026  
JW Marriott Anaheim Resort, Anaheim, CA

[theapivot.ai](https://theapivot.ai)

**VIRTUAL**



LIVE! 360 6-WEEK TRAINING & CERTIFICATION COURSE  
**Mastering the Microsoft Agent Framework: Building Enterprise-Ready AI Agents with Microsoft Foundry**  
OCT 6 - NOV 10, 2026

[live360events.com](https://live360events.com)



**UPCOMING EVENTS** *(continued)*

**VIRTUAL**

**BLAZOR DEVELOPER**  
HANDS-ON SKILLS FOR REAL-WORLD .NET TEAMS  
YAHUI CERTIFIED

**VSLIVE! 6-WEEK TRAINING & CERTIFICATION COURSE**  
**Blazor Developer Accelerator: Hands-On Skills for Real-World .NET Teams**  
OCT 7 - NOV 11, 2026

[vslive.com](https://vslive.com)

**ORLANDO**  
**LIVE! 360**  
**TECH CON 2026**  
**FLORIDA**

**Visual Studio LIVE!**  
EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

**Data Platform LIVE!**  
EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

**TECHMENTOR**  
EXPERTISE. TECHNOLOGY. PEOPLE. PROGRESS.

**Artificial Intelligence LIVE!**  
EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

**AI Enterprise Architecture LIVE!**  
EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

**Cybersecurity & Ransomware LIVE!**  
EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

**Visual Studio Live! Orlando / Part of Live! 360**  
NOVEMBER 15 - 20, 2026  
Loews Royal Pacific Resort, Orlando, FL

[live360events.com/orlando](https://live360events.com/orlando)

**VIRTUAL**

**VSLIVE! 4-DAY HANDS-ON TRAINING SEMINAR**  
**Immersive .NET Full Stack Training with Copilot: 4-Day Hands-On Experience**  
DECEMBER 15-18, 2026

[vslive.com](https://vslive.com)

**Visual Studio LIVE!**  
EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPERS

**Visual Studio Live! Las Vegas**  
MARCH 22-26, 2027  
Planet Hollywood Las Vegas Hotel & Casino

[vslive.com/lasvegas](https://vslive.com/lasvegas)

**LIVE! 360**  
TECH EVENTS WITH PERSPECTIVE

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