

## Re: Console Applications

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.csharp/2004-03/6354.html>

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Michael,

First of all let me welcome you to the wonderful world of .NET and to congratulate you on your excellent choice of programming language ;) To get back to your problem; the short answer to your question is that your application runs out of code to execute and there for terminates. If you were to add a loop such as a while-loop then the application would stay in that loop thus not running out of code to execute.

The easy, and most common way, to prevent the application to terminate before you want to (so you perhaps can read the output it created) you could add `Console.ReadLine()` at the end of your `Main` method. This tells the console application to wait for you to input something, and not continue until you have done so. This makes your console application pause just before it is about to terminate

Try the following:

```
[STAThread]
static void Main(string[] args)
{
    Console.WriteLine("Hello World!");
    Console.ReadLine();
}
```

And you should see that your application does not end without you pressing enter. The reason most books does not include this is because they expect you to execute it from the .NET Command Prompt (like a DOS prompt but with .NET environment variables set) where the window still stays open when the application has finished executing.

Hope this helps,

//Andreas

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> *I'm a complete newbie at programming. I chose to learn C# as my programming language. Every book I purchase starts with console applications. Each time I try to run the apps that I build, it will only display for a few seconds then it will disappear? I'm running Windows XP and have VS.net. Is there some way that I can view the output of my console applications with out it shutting off on me? I'm getting discouraged because I want to build Windows apps and not console apps right now? I can't seem to run any command line apps. I'm stuck because these books teach you the basics of the language using console apps. I want to skip past this but I miss out on so much. Please help!!!!*