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Visualise and construct your electronics project with a .NET Gadgeteer by Ewan Fisher

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From hobbyists to individuals interested in building serious prototypes, a .NET Gadgeteer is a smart platform for creating your own electronic systems using various hardware modules. It also offers a powerful programming environment.

Using Microsoftâ€™s .NET Micro Framework, the .NET Gadgeteer is a flexible piece of hardware designed to be compatible with a number of different programming languages.

For simple electronics projects or more complicated inventions, .NET Gadgeteer equipment is perfect for making your bespoke project come to life.

How does a .NET Gadgeteer function?

The .NET Gadgeteer itself is a mainboard with an embedded processor that caters for the different modules available. These are simple to install owing to the boardâ€™s plug-and-play interface.

Some of the modules available include: display, camera, networking, storage as well as sensors and input controls. The .NET Gadgeteerâ€™s simple to follow layout has clearly numbered and lettered sockets to display where to plug modules into it. Once these are matched up, you can bask in the self-satisfaction of having assembled your own tailored electronic device.

Perhaps then you can move onto more complicated designs? A number of ideas and instructions on how to bring them to fruition are freely available online with the .NET Gadgeteer web community always on hand to help.

A plethora of compatible support software for your mainboard and modules is also very easily accessible, allowing you to get on with completing your chosen design with complete peace of mind.

Choosing your project

As already mentioned, the .NET Gadgeteer offers numerous possibilities for anyone looking to undertake an exciting and rewarding electronics project.

Puzzles, binary clocks, remote controls and even arcade consoles have all been created and showcased using the .NET framework.

One of the main advantages of harnessing the power of a .NET Gadgeteer and its associated software is the ability to build gadgets and complete projects in a matter of hours rather than days or weeks.

Meanwhile, the open source project behind the .NET evolution allows different hardware manufacturers to create and supply their compatible mainboards and modules to the myriad of groups interested in using the technology.

Ultimately, the .NET Gadgeteer maintains a broad appeal as it provides a platform well-regarded by educators, hobbyists, inventors and professional prototypers alike.

You too can benefit from the hardwareâ€™s relative simplicity and accessibility. If youâ€™re a teacher

looking to educate students about electronics and programming; a hobbyist or inventor looking to impress friends or potential investors with quickly assembled creations; or perhaps a professional prototyper looking to test and assess your concept in to time at all, a .NET Gadgeteer is a great tool.

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Proto-PIC is the best option for electronics enthusiasts when it comes to purchasing electronic components like a .Net Gadgeteer. Their range is cost-effective.

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