

[0130] The CLS and the CTS

Common Language Specification (CLS)

- Common set of operations that any CLS-compliant language allows
- Basically, a document that says "If you want to be a .NET language, then you have to do the following..."
- Amazing Fact: C# is not 100% CLS-compliant!

The Common Type System (CTS)

The CTS allows .NET languages to create data elements that are exactly the same even though the languages are different. It is what allows .NET programs to have binary interoperability. The CTS is actually quite amazing. Java doesn't have anything similar to the CTS. The CTS clearly differentiates C# from Java.

At a high level, here's what the CTS provides all .NET languages:

- Intrinsic CTS Types
 - String, Boolean, Int, Long, Object, etc.
- CTS Classes
- CTS Interfaces
- CTS Structures
- CTS Enumerations
- CTS Delegates

We'll be going over these in way more detail later in this course.