**Managed Execution Process**

This page is specific to

**Microsoft Visual Studio 2008/.NET Framework 3.5**

Other versions are also available for the following:

[Microsoft Visual Studio 2003/.NET Framework 1.1](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/k5532s8a(VS.71).aspx)

[Microsoft Visual Studio 2005/.NET Framework 2.0](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/k5532s8a(VS.80).aspx)

[.NET Framework 3.0](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/k5532s8a(VS.85).aspx)

[Microsoft Visual Studio 2010/.NET Framework 4](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/k5532s8a(VS.100).aspx)

The managed execution process includes the following steps:

1. [Choosing a compiler](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cds9hbbb.aspx).

To obtain the benefits provided by the common language runtime, you must use one or more language compilers that target the runtime.

1. Compiling your code to [Microsoft intermediate language (MSIL)](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/c5tkafs1.aspx).

Compiling translates your source code into MSIL and generates the required metadata.

1. [Compiling MSIL to native code](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ht8ecch6.aspx).

At execution time, a just-in-time (JIT) compiler translates the MSIL into native code. During this compilation, code must pass a verification process that examines the MSIL and metadata to find out whether the code can be determined to be type safe.

1. [Running code](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/8t3521k6.aspx).

The common language runtime provides the infrastructure that enables execution to take place as well as a variety of services that can be used during execution.