



MSIL & CLI

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Outline

- **.NET?**
- **.NET framework**
- **Inside the CLR execution engine**
- **Introduction to MSIL**
 - Part I
 - Part II
- **Tools**



.Net?

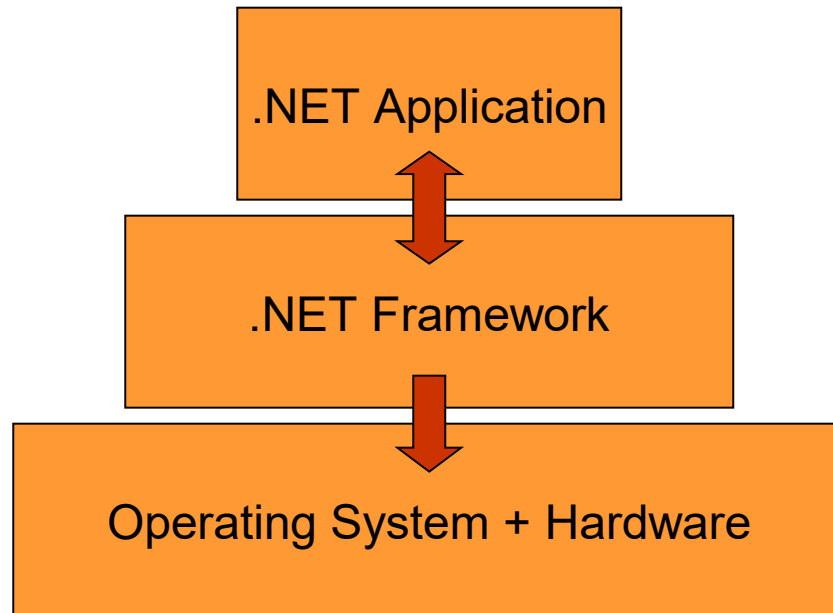


What is .NET?

- **Software platform**
- **Language neutral**
- **Accessible over many devices and operating systems**
- **Component Based**
- **Microsoft's Vision of the future**

What is .NET?

- .NET is a new framework for developing web-based and windows-based applications within the Microsoft environment.





.NET Framework

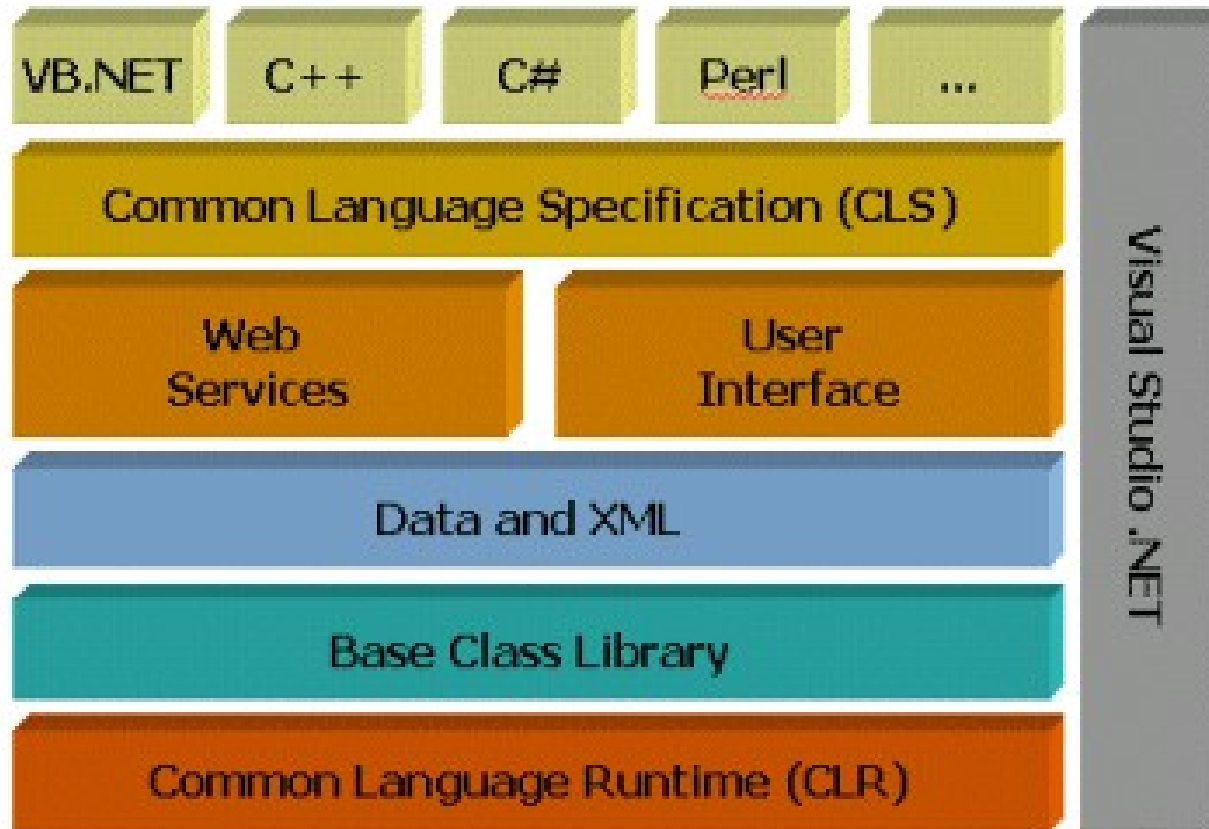


What is the .NET framework

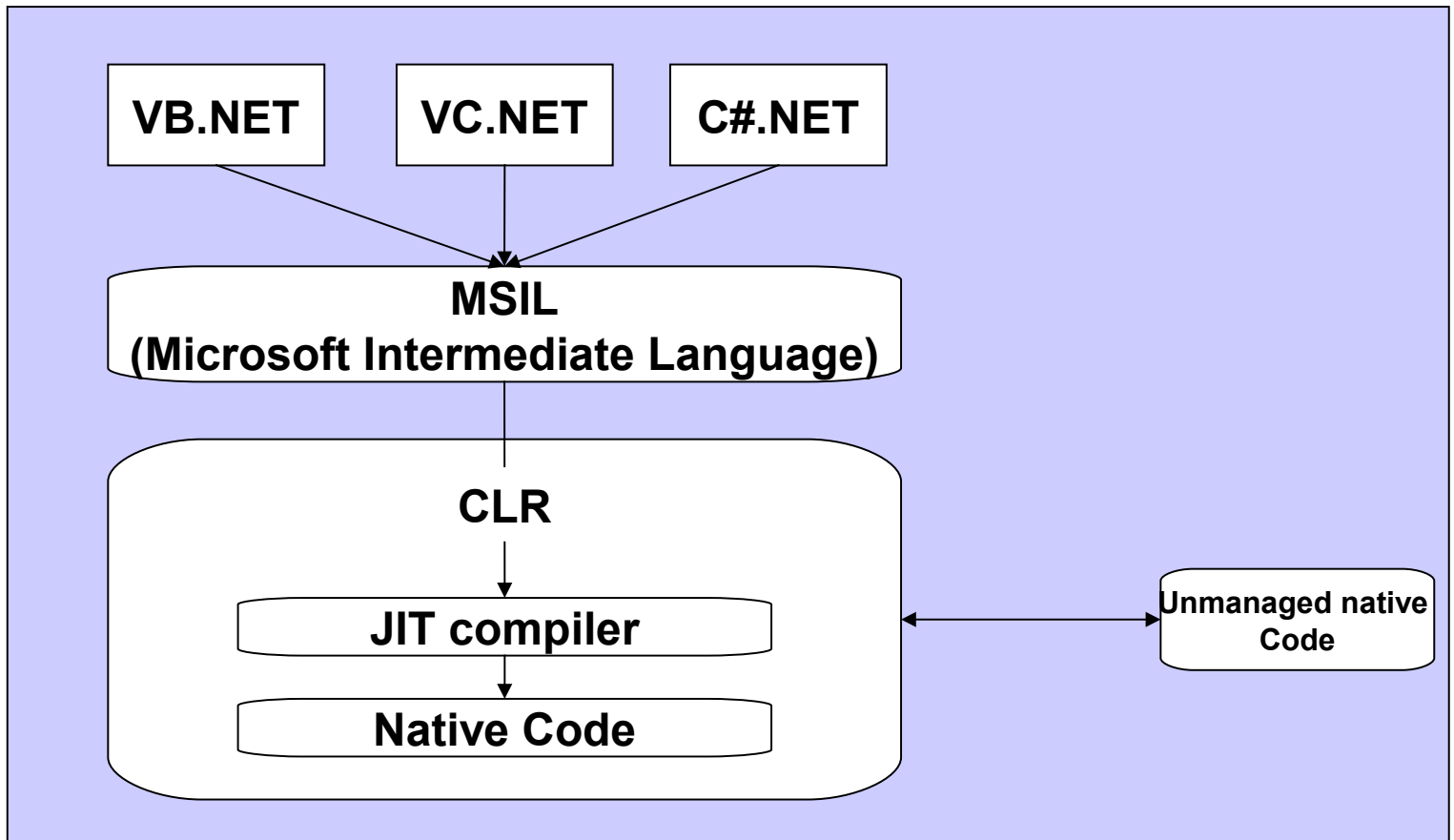
- **Infrastructure for the overall .NET Platform.**
- **Major Components :**
 - Common Language Runtime (CLR)
 - Base Class Library
 - Common Type System (CTS)
 - Common Language Specification (CLS)

.NET Framework structure

(http://www.dotnet101.com/articles/art014_dotnet.asp)



Compiling process in .NET





Compiling process in .NET

- **Compiled into the Intermediate Language (IL), Not directly compiled into machine code**
- **Metadata accompanies the IL, it describes the contents of the file (e.g.. parameters, methods...)**
- **The Manifest describes what other components the Intermediate Language (IL) executable needs**



Common Language Runtime (CLR)

- **CLR works like a virtual machine in executing all languages**
- **Checking and enforcing security restrictions on the running code**
- **Manages memory through an extremely efficient garbage collector**
- **Common Type System (CTS)**
- **Conversion from IL into code native to the platform being executed on**



Common Language Runtime (CLR)

- **All .NET languages must obey the rules and standards imposed by CLR. Examples:**
 - Object declaration, creation and use
 - Data types, language libraries
 - Error and exception handling
 - Interactive Development Environment (IDE)



Common Type System (CTS)

- **CTS is a rich type system built into the CLR**
 - Implements various types (int, double, etc)
 - And operations on those types
- **Strictly enforces type safety**
- **Ensures that classes are compatible with each other by describing them in a common way**
- **Enables types in one language to interoperate with types in another language**



Common Language Specification

- **CLS is a set of specifications that language and library designers need to follow**
 - This will ensure interoperability between languages
- **Specification that a language must conform to, to be accepted into the .NET framework**
- **The specification are detailed at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/net/ecma/>**



Intermediate Language (IL)

- **.NET languages are not compiled to machine code. They are compiled to an Intermediate Language (IL).**
- **CLR accepts the IL code and recompiles it to machine code. The recompilation is just-in-time (JIT) meaning it is done as soon as a function or subroutine is called.**
- **The JIT code stays in memory for subsequent calls. In cases where there is not enough memory it is discarded thus making JIT process interpretive.**



Some CLI implementation

- **CLR** – Microsoft’s commercial offering
- **SSCLI (code-named “Rotor”)** – Microsoft’s Shared Source CLI
- **Mono** - open source project initiative sponsored by **Ximian** (now a part of **Novell**)
- **Portable .NET** – by Southern Storm Software, Pty Ltd, an Australian company
- **OCL** – portions of the implementation of the CLI by **Intel**



Inside the CLR Execution engine

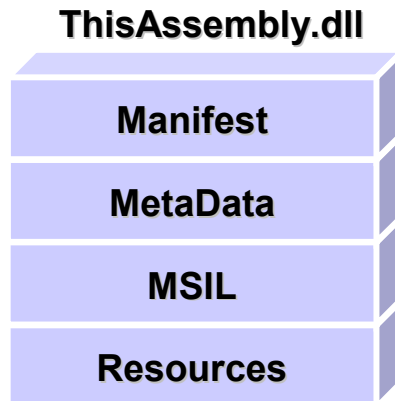


Assemblies

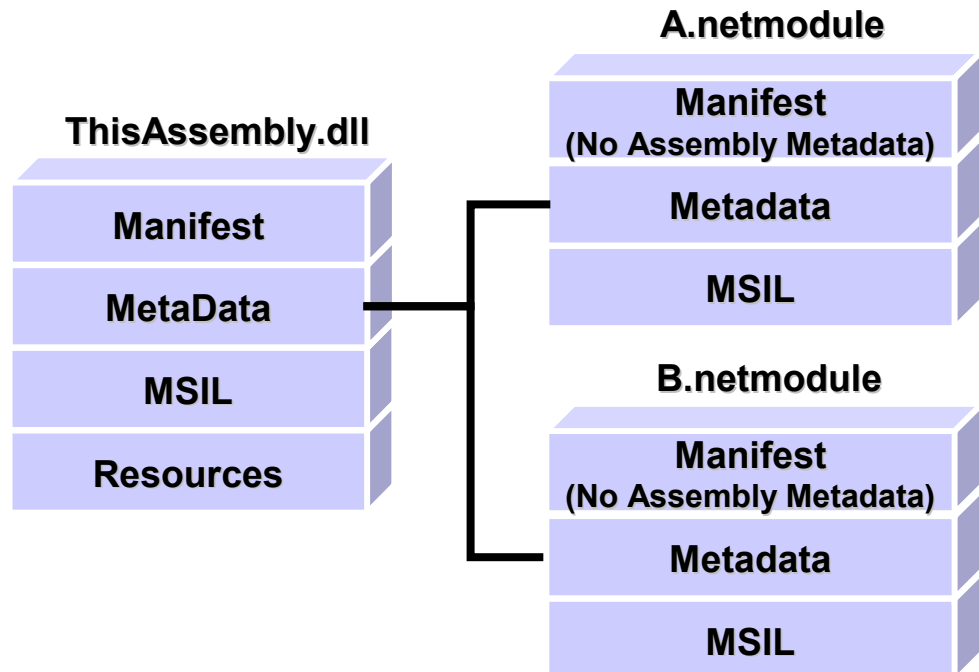
- Assemblies are the smallest unit of code distribution, deployment and versioning
- Individual components are packaged into units called **assemblies**
- Can be **dynamically loaded into the execution engine on demand** either from local disk, across network, or even created on-the-fly under program control

Single file and multi file assembly

Single File Assembly



Multi File Assembly





Assembly characteristics

- **Self-describing**
 - To enable data-driven execution
- **Platform-independent**
- **Bounded by name**
 - Locate assemblies by querying four-part tuple that consists of a human-friendly name, an international culture, a multipart version number, and a public key token.
- **Assembly loading is sensitive to version and policy**
 - Assemblies are loaded using tunable bidding rules, which allow programmers and administrators to contribute policy to assembly-loading behavior.
- **Validated**
 - Each time an assembly is loaded, it is subjected to a series of checks to ensure the assembly's integrity.



Self-describing

- **Modules:**

- Blueprint for types in the form of metadata and CIL
- Single file containing the structure and behavior for some or all the types and/or resources found in the assembly

- **An assembly always contains at least one module but has the capacity to include more**
- **Assemblies themselves have metadata that describe their structure: *manifest***



Manifest

- **Compound name for the assembly**
- **Describe the public types that the assembly exports**
- **Describe types that the assembly will import from other assemblies**

```
.assembly extern mscorlib
{
    .ver 0:0:0:0
}
.assembly HelloWorld
{
    .ver 0:0:0:0
}
.module HelloWorld.exe
// MVID: {D662624F-D333-48B7-
    ACB2-E06B4F75DC3D}
.imagebase 0x00400000
.subsystem 0x00000003
.file alignment 512
.corflags 0x00000001
// Image base: 0x06d20000
```

Take a look at metadata

ScopeName : HelloWorld.exe

MVID : {D662624F-D333-48B7-ACB2-E06B4F75DC3D}

Global functions

Global fields

Global MemberRefs

TypeDef #1

TypeDefName: Hello.World.Hello (02000002)

Flags : [Public] [AutoLayout] [Class] [AnsiClass] (00000001)

Extends : 01000001 [TypeRef] System.Object

Method #1 [ENTRYPOINT]

MethodName: hello (06000001)

Flags : [Public] [Static] [ReuseSlot] (00000016)

RVA : 0x00002050

ImplFlags: [IL] [Managed] (00000000)

CallConvtn: [DEFAULT]

ReturnType: Void

No arguments





Tools

- **Download & install from Microsoft®**
 - .NET Framework Redistributable Package version 1.1
 - [.NET Framework SDK Version 1.1](#)
- **Tools**
 - C# compiler: Csc.exe
 - IL assembler: ilasm.exe
 - IL disassembler: ildasm.exe



Path

- **csc.exe**

c:\WINDOWS\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v1.1.4322

(for MS. CLR)

- **ilasm.exe**

C:\WINDOWS\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v1.1.4322

(for MS. CLR)

- **ildasm.exe**

C:\Program Files\Microsoft.NET\SDK\v1.1\Bin

(for MS. CLR)



If you have

Microsoft Visual Studio .NET 2003

- **csc.exe**

c:\WINDOWS\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v1.1.4322

(for MS. CLR)

- **ilasm.exe**

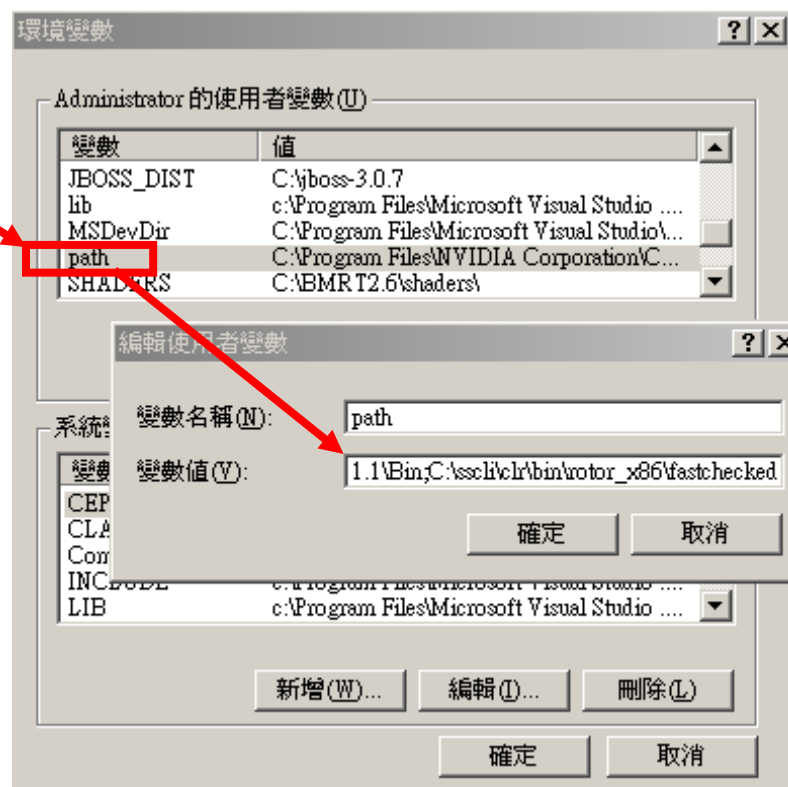
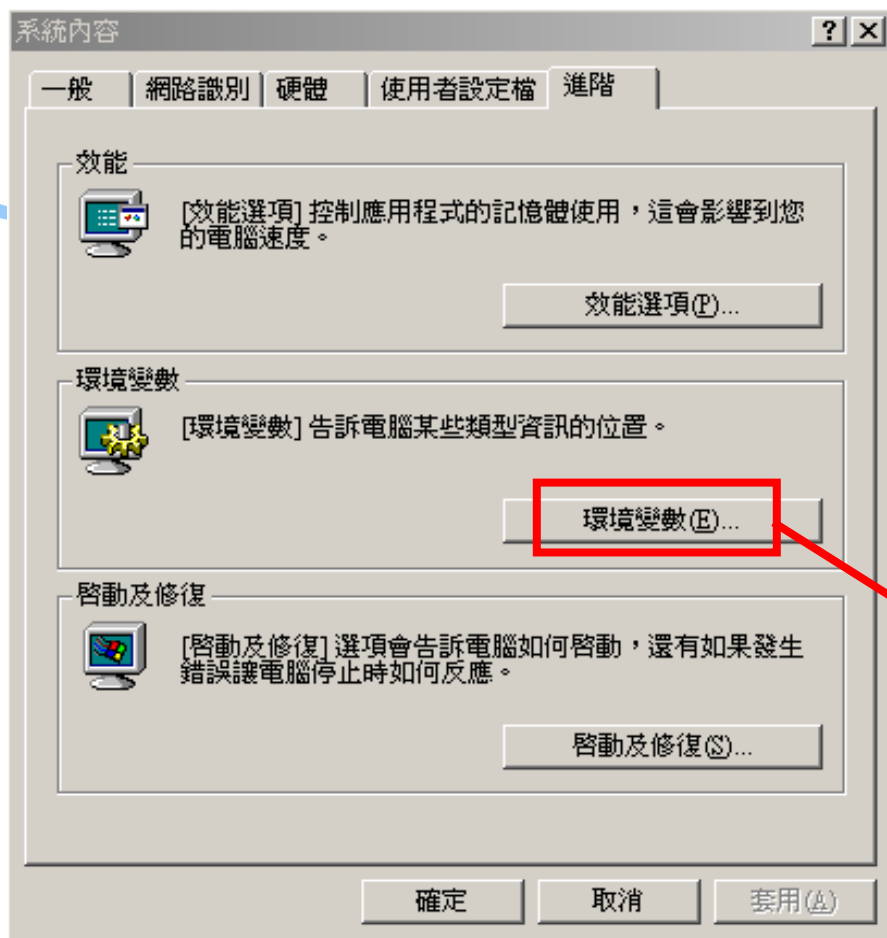
C:\WINDOWS\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v1.1.4322

(for MS. CLR)

- **ildasm.exe**

C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio .NET 2003\SDK\v1.1\Bin

(for MS. CLR)



CSC

The screenshot illustrates the process of compiling and running a C# program using the Visual C# Compiler (csc).

Code File (Hello.cs):

```
using System;

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

Command Prompt (MyHello.exe):

```
D:\test>csc /target:exe /out:MyHello.exe Hello.cs
Microsoft (R) Visual C# .NET Compiler version 7.10.3052.4
for Microsoft (R) .NET Framework version 1.1.4322
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation 2001-2002. All rights reserved.

D:\test>MyHello.exe
Hello World!
```

Red arrows indicate the flow of the process: from the `Hello.cs` file to the `csc` command, and from the `MyHello.exe` output to the execution command.



References

- **Standard ECMA-334(c#)**

- <http://www.ecma-international.org/publications/standards/6c02.htm>