

The .NET Platform and C#

Michael Hansen

Virtual Machine

- ▶ **Common Language Runtime (CLR)**
 - ▶ Windows 98 and up (Microsoft)
 - ▶ Mac OS X, Linux, BSD, Solaris, Wii, PS3, iPhone (Mono)
 - ▶ Browser plugin (Silverlight, Moonlight)
- ▶ **Just-in-time compilation (JIT)**
 - ▶ Code compiled on first use, optimized for local machine
 - ▶ Static compilation available (NGEN, Mono AOT)
- ▶ **Common Language Infrastructure (CLI)**
 - ▶ Security (sandboxing, trust levels)
 - ▶ Memory management (garbage collection)
 - ▶ Exception handling



Software Library

- ▶ **Base class library (BCL)**
 - ▶ Large collection of commonly needed libraries
 - ▶ I/O, GUI, networking, web development, numeric, cryptography, database, imaging, utility, interoperability
 - ▶ Subsets available in non-desktop .NET versions
- ▶ **3rd party libraries**
 - ▶ GTK# - Cross-platform GUI
 - ▶ IKVM.NET – JVM and core libraries for .NET
 - ▶ NPlot – Charting, targets in-memory bitmaps
 - ▶ OpenTK – OpenGL, OpenAL, 3-D maths
 - ▶ QuickGraph – Managed port of BGL



.NET Versions



The .NET Framework Stack

← Adding DLR, STM (maybe)

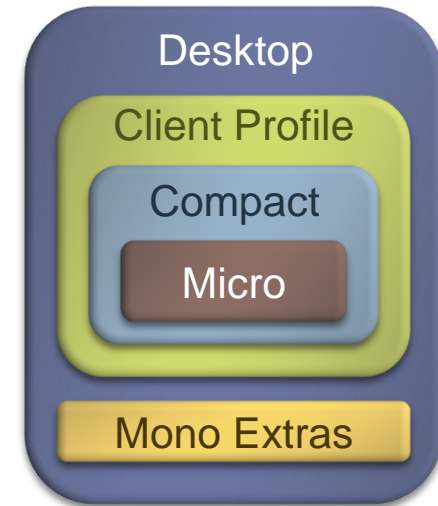
← CLR Version 2.0

← Added Generics

 Supported on Mono

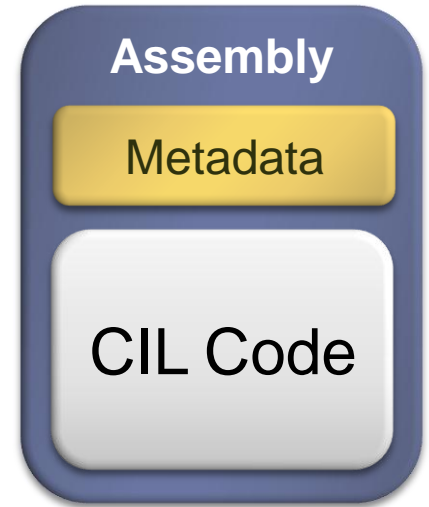
Implementations

- ▶ Microsoft .NET (Windows only)
 - ▶ Gold standard
 - ▶ Desktop > Client Profile > Compact > Micro
- ▶ Mono (cross-platform)
 - ▶ .NET infrastructure + extras
 - ▶ Includes GTK#, SIMD library, SQLite, etc.
- ▶ Rotor (shared source CLI)
 - ▶ Microsoft “open source” implementation of CLI
 - ▶ Subset of .NET 2.0 BCL included
- ▶ DotGNU (not dead yet)
 - ▶ FSF implementation



Assemblies

- ▶ **Basic unit of code**
 - ▶ Includes both executables and libraries
 - ▶ Contains metadata, signature (optional)
- ▶ **Common Intermediate Language (CIL)**
 - ▶ Virtual machine code for CLR
 - ▶ All languages compile down to CIL
- ▶ **Common Type System (CTS)**
 - ▶ Rules for cross-language type safety
 - ▶ Object-oriented
 - ▶ Value types – structs, on stack
 - ▶ Reference types – pointers, on heap



Deployment (1 of 2)



- ▶ **Stand-alone desktop (cross-platform)**
 - ▶ Runtime must be present
 - ▶ Native libraries, additional assemblies bundled
- ▶ **ClickOnce (Windows only)**
 - ▶ Web-based deployment (like Java Web Start)
 - ▶ Automatic updates, integrates with client shell
 - ▶ Sandboxed, installed per-user
- ▶ **Silverlight (cross-platform)**
 - ▶ Browser plugin (Moonlight on Linux)
 - ▶ CLR, DLR, subset of BCL
 - ▶ WPF-based GUI, video/audio controls



Deployment (2 of 2)



- ▶ **ASP.NET (cross-platform)**
 - ▶ Web application framework
 - ▶ mod_mono on Apache
 - ▶ Web service hosting (WCF)
- ▶ **Windows Mobile**
 - ▶ Compact Framework needed
- ▶ **MonoTouch**
 - ▶ iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (yes, already)
- ▶ **Xbox 360**
 - ▶ XNA Game Framework
 - ▶ Windows XP and up



C# Language (1 of 3)

▶ Interfaces

- ▶ Poor man's concepts
- ▶ Explicit inheritance required

```
1 public interface Printable
2 {
3     bool IsReady { get; }
4     void Print(string text);
5 }
```

▶ Reflection

- ▶ Access metadata for any object at runtime

```
1 myObject.GetType().GetMethods(...)
```

▶ Generics

- ▶ Poor man's templates
- ▶ Constraints

```
1 var strings = new List<string>();
```

```
1 class PrintableList<T> : List<T>
2     where T : Printable
3 {
4 }
```



C# Language (2 of 3)

▶ Extension Methods

- ▶ Static methods -> instance methods

```
1 static string Capitalize(this string s)
2 {
3     return (Char.ToUpper(s) + s.Substring(1));
4 }
5
6 "mike".Capitalize() // -> "Mike"
```

▶ LINQ, Anonymous Types

```
1 from emp in employees
2 where (emp.Performance > 5) &&
3     (emp.felonies.Count == 0)
4 orderby emp.YearsOfService desc
5 select new {
6     Id = emp.Id,
7     Name = emp.Last + ", " + emp.Last
8 };
```



Anonymous Type



C# Language (3 of 3)

- ▶ λ -expressions

```
1 Enumerable.Range(0, 10).Select(x => x * x);
```

- ▶ Synchronization

- ▶ Any reference type

```
1 lock (anyObject) {  
2     // Access to anyObject is synchronized  
3 }
```

- ▶ Unsafe code (Full Trust required)

```
1 void BadCopy(byte[] src, byte[] dest) {  
2     fixed (byte* pSrc = src, pDest = dest) {  
3         for (int i = 0; i < src.Length; ++i) {  
4             *pSrc = *pDest;  
5         }  
6     }  
7 }
```



Threading (1 of 2)

- ▶ .NET Version ≤ 3.5
 - ▶ Explicit management
 - ▶ Create, destroy manually

```
1 void ThreadProc() {  
2     // ...  
3 }  
4  
5 new Thread(ThreadProc).Start();
```

- ▶ Thread pool
 - ▶ User work items, asynchronous callbacks

```
1 void Callback(IAsyncResult result) {  
2     var clientSocket =  
3         (Socket)serverSocket.EndAccept(result);  
4 }  
5  
6 serverSocket.BeginAccept(Callback, state);
```



Threading (2 of 2)

▶ NET 4.0

- ▶ Parallel LINQ, for, foreach (IEnumerableable)

```
1 from item in source.AsParallel()  
2 where Compute(item)  
3 select item;
```

▶ Tasks

- ▶ Automatically scheduled on threads (customizable)
- ▶ Can be canceled, waited on, return values, spawn sub-tasks

```
1 Parallel.Invoke(() => Task1(), () => Task2());
```

▶ Futures

- ▶ Value property will block until computation completes

```
1 var result = Future.StartNew<int>(() => ComputeValue());  
2 Console.WriteLine(result.Value);
```

Thanks



Other Languages

- ▶ Supported by Microsoft
 - ▶ C#, VB.NET, Managed C++, Managed JScript
 - ▶ IronPython, IronRuby
 - ▶ Can use subset of language's standard libraries
 - ▶ F# - functional language based on ML, Ocaml
 - ▶ Powershell - object-oriented (vs. text) command shell
- ▶ 3rd Party
 - ▶ Boo – Python-inspired, powerful meta-programming
 - ▶ IronScheme – R6RS compliant, CLI integration
 - ▶ LSL – Scripting in Second Life (using Mono)
 - ▶ BrainF**K, LOLCode – Why not?



Name That Language!

1 `Console.WriteLine("Hello World");`

2 `puts "Hello World"`

3 `Console::WriteLine("Hello World");`

4 `print "Hello World"`

5 `printfn "Hello World\n";;`

6 `Console.WriteLine("Hello World")`

7 `"Hello World"`

8 `VISIBLE "HAI WORLD"`



Name That Language!

1 `Console.WriteLine("Hello World");`

C#

2 `puts "Hello World"`

IronRuby

3 `Console::WriteLine("Hello World");`

Managed C++

4 `print "Hello World"`

IronPython

5 `printfn "Hello World\n";;`

F#

6 `Console.WriteLine("Hello World")`

VB.NET

7 `"Hello World"`

Powershell

8 `VISIBLE "HAI WORLD"`

LOLCode



Questions?

