Preface

If you are holding this book in your hands, no doubt you want information about Microsoft .NET and you want it now. You have heard about how .NET will allow developers to create programs that will transcend device boundaries and fully harness the connectivity of the Internet in their applications. You have read in the news journals that Microsoft will soon be releasing a new programming language called C# that is derived from C and C++ and is part of Visual Studio.NET. You are curious about .NET, what Microsoft has planned, and how you can be a part of it.

This book contains some of the most requested topics on Microsoft .NET available through the Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN)—Microsoft's premier developer resource. *Microsoft C# Language Specifications* is one book in a series that includes *The Microsoft .NET Framework*, *The Microsoft .NET Framework Developer Specifications*, *Web Applications in the Microsoft .NET Framework*, and *Microsoft VisualStudio.NET*. Within this series, you'll find important technical articles from *MSDN Magazine* and MSDN Online as well as subject matter overviews and white papers from Microsoft and industry experts. You will also find transcripts of key speeches and interviews with top Microsoft product managers. We have also included the documentation and specifications for the new C# language and other key documents. And code…lots and lots of code.

Who Is This Book For?

This book is for developers who are interested in being on the cutting edge of new technologies and languages. It's for developers who are eager to learn, want to stay ahead of the curve, and aren't willing to wait until everything is in place and wrapped up in a pretty package. If you fit these criteria, order a pizza and settle in—this book is for you.

What's in This Book?

This book contains the complete C# specification written by Anders Hejlsberg and Scott Wiltamuth. C# is a modern object-oriented language that enables programmers to quickly and easily build solutions for the Microsoft .NET platform. The framework provided allows C# components to serve as Web services that are available across the Internet, from any application running on any platform. The language enhances developer productivity while eliminating programming errors that can lead to increased development costs. C# brings rapid Web development to the C and C++ programmer while maintaining the power and flexibility required by developers.

This specification is in beta form and is not final. In some cases, you might come across headings with no associated information. These incomplete sections represent areas of the specification that are still being built. That said, the specification does provide a good introduction to the C# language. By reading this book, you will learn about the features of C# and gain an understanding of its concepts and definitions. The specification will help familiarize you with the language and vocabulary of C# and provide a good peek at what is under the hood.

A Warning

Microsoft is offering this material as a first look, but remember that it's not final. Be sure to read any warnings posted on MSDN before installing any beta products. Visit MSDN regularly, and check for updates and the latest information.