



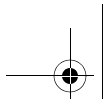
Foreword

In the early days of development of the .NET Framework, before it was even called that, I spent countless hours with members of the development teams reviewing designs to ensure that the final result would be a coherent platform. I have always felt that a key characteristic of a framework must be consistency. Once you understand one piece of the framework, the other pieces should be immediately familiar.

As you might expect from a large team of smart people, we had many differences of opinion—there is nothing like coding conventions to spark lively and heated debates. However, in the name of consistency, we gradually worked out our differences and codified the result into a common set of guidelines that allow programmers to understand and use the Framework easily.

Brad Abrams, and later Krzysztof Cwalina, helped capture these guidelines in a living document that has been continuously updated and refined during the past six years. The book you are holding is the result of their work.

The guidelines have served us well through three versions of the .NET Framework and numerous smaller projects, and they are guiding the development of WinFX, the next generation of APIs for the Microsoft Windows operating system.



xviii  **FOREWORD**

With this book, I hope and expect that you will also be successful in making your frameworks, class libraries, and components easy to understand and use.

Good luck and happy designing.

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