System.IFormatProvider Interface

```
[ILAsm]
.class interface public abstract IFormatProvider

[C#]
public interface IFormatProvider
```

Assembly Info:

- *Name:* mscorlib
- *Public Key:* [00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 00 00 00 00]
- *Version:* 2.0.x.x
- *Attributes:*
    - CLSCompliantAttribute(true)

Summary

Implemented by classes that supply objects that provide formatting services.

Library: BCL

Description

[*Note:* When a *format specifier* includes symbols that vary by culture, such as the currency symbol included by the "C" and "c" formats, a *formatting object* supplies the actual characters used in a string representation of a numeric value. For example, a formatting object might supply "$" for the currency symbol. The formatting object for system-supplied numeric types is a `System.Globalization.NumberFormatInfo` instance. For `System.DateTime` instances, a `System.Globalization.DateTimeFormatInfo` is used.

`System.IFormatProvider` contains the `System.IFormatProvider.GetFormat` method. The consumer of an object should call this method to obtain a formatting object.

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IFormatProvider.GetFormat(System.Type) Method

```
[ILAsm]
.method public hidebysig virtual abstract object GetFormat(class
System.Type formatType)

[C#]
object GetFormat(Type formatType)
```

Summary

Returns a `System.Object` that provides formatting services.

Parameters

Parameter	Description
formatType	The `System.Type` of the formatting object to be returned.

Return Value

The current instance, if *formatType* is the same type as the current instance; otherwise, a `null` reference.

Behaviors

As described above.

How and When to Override

Implement in classes that provide formatting objects for use in methods that generate or parse string representations of objects, such as `ToString` and `Parse`.