

# ECMA

## Standardizing Information and Communication Systems

### TC39 Chairman's Report to the Co-ordinating Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1999

There have been eight TC39 meetings, one since the last GA:

First;	Mountain View, CA, USA on 21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 1996
Second;	Cupertino, CA, USA, on 14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> January 1997
Third:	Cupertino, CA, USA, on 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> March 1997
Forth:	Mountain View, CA, USA, on 15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> July 1997
Fifth:	Nice, France, 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1997
Sixth:	Mountain View CA Feb 1998
Seventh:	Menlo Park, CA 15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> June 1998
Eighth:	Mountain View, CA 29 <sup>th</sup> March 1999

The schedule has been:

1 <sup>st</sup> draft:	January 1997
Stable draft:	early March 1997
Final draft:	April 1997
GA vote;	June 1997
Acceptance of name of standard by CC	Sept 1997
Fast-Track submission to ISO/IEC JTC 1:	Oct 1997
FT DIS Ballot complete	April 1998
Ballot Resolution	June 1998
Publication as ISO Standard:	Summer 1998

The Scope and Programme of Work of TC39 was accepted by June 1997 GA:

#### Scope

To standardise the syntax and semantics of a general purpose, cross platform, vendor-neutral scripting language.

#### Programme of Work

Develop a scripting language standard, based on initial submissions by Netscape, Microsoft and Borland  
Contribute the ECMAScript Standard to ISO/IEC JTC1

Upon completion of 1, to investigate the further direction of the ECMAScript Standard, and to evaluate and consider proposals for complementary or additional technology

To maintain liaison with appropriate other ECMA TCs and TGs

#### Officers

Chairman: Dr. Clayton Lewis (Netscape)

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Clinick (Microsoft)  
Project editor: Mike Cowlishaw (IBM)

**Latest Status:**

Since our last meeting, ISO published the joint ECMA-262 language standard as ISO/IEC 16262.

At the March meeting, Clayton Lewis was appointed TC39 Chairman with the understanding that Andrew Clinick would assume the chair for the year 2000.

Michael Luna represented the WAP Forum at our March meeting. He presented the current situation with WMLScript and requested a close working relationship with TC39 to achieve language convergence with ECMAScript. In particular, he agreed to ask WAP to draft a document listing WAP requirements for a scripting language in the hope that TC39 could achieve these requirements in a subset of ECMAScript. He reiterated several times WAP's desire to use a subset of standard ECMAScript rather than a specialized language of their own making. Since that meeting, Michael has delivered a first draft of the requirements document to Clayton for initial review, has named a formal technical liaison to TC39, and has requested a formal technical liaison from TC39 to WAP Forum meetings (6 times a year, one week each!!!).

The ECMAScript Components Study Group has been meeting approximately monthly. Richard Wagner of Net Objects/IBM is both chair and editor of the working group. The group completed its initial work on scope, charter, chair and editor and was elevated to working group status at the March meeting. At the same time, it announced completion of its document and presented a draft standard document to TC39 for approval and to forward to the GA in June. TC39 approved the document and requested a few editorial changes. Clayton Lewis forwarded the final document, with all requested changes included, to Jan van den Beld on 30 April, 1999. It is our hope that the June GA will approve the document as an ECMA international standard on ECMAScript Components.

The ECMAScript Working Group met November 19<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup>, January 11/12, February 19<sup>th</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup>. The committee plans to submit a language specification in September for submission to the GA in December. This submission would be ECMAScript Edition 3 and will include all functionality currently being shipped in browsers from Netscape and Microsoft. The committee is simultaneously working hard on ECMAScript 2.0, an ambitious much-improved ECMAScript language definition that it hopes to standardize in the year 2000. The principal goal of ECMAScript 2.0 is to provide support for 'programming in the large' - that is, to support construction of programs written by several different people and assembled, perhaps for the first time, on the user's desktop. Except for ongoing work on existing language features, progress has been slow since the proposal of the new language designs by Netscape. In an effort to get things moving again, language technical leads from Netscape and Microsoft met privately one-on-one on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was a success and for the first time in several months, real progress was made at the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting future language specifications.

Dr. Clayton Lewis  
Chairman TC39