

ECMA

Standardizing Information and Communication Systems

TC39 Chairman's Report to the Co-ordinating Committee

10th November 1999

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

First;	Mountain View, CA, USA on 21 st - 22 nd November 1996
Second;	Cupertino, CA, USA, on 14 th - 15 th January 1997
Third:	Cupertino, CA, USA, on 18 th - 19 th March 1997
Forth:	Mountain View, CA, USA, on 15 th - 16 th July 1997
Fifth:	Nice, France, 16 th Sept 1997
Sixth:	Mountain View CA Feb 1998
Seventh:	Menlo Park, CA 15 th - 16 th June 1998
Eighth:	Mountain View, CA 29 th March 1999
Ninth:	Bristol, England, 23 rd - 24 th Sept 1999

The schedule has been:

1 st 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
2 nd draft (to become Third Edition)	October 1999
GA vote	Dec 1999
Draft 2 nd Version (perhaps a separate standard)	Dec 2000 (target date only)

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: Dr. Mike Cowlshaw (IBM)

Latest Status:

At the September TC39 meeting the final draft of ECMA-262, Third Edition was brought to TC39 by its working group. The draft was accepted and forwarded for GA approval.

TC39 voted to establish a working group to interact with the WAP Forum to develop specifications for a subset of ECMA-262 appropriate for use on small, wireless devices. Meetings will begin in January. This subgroup will organize, name itself and select a chairperson at its first meeting.

The ECMAScript Components Working Group has been silent since its successful efforts in drafting ECMA-290; though email murmurings suggest it may resume activity in 2000.

The ECMAScript Working Group met May 20th-21st, June 21st, July 12th-13th, September 23rd-24th and October 14th-15th. The committee completed its proposed draft of ECMAScript Edition 3, which includes 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 (though this may be overly ambitious). 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. Work is going relatively slowly, primarily due to the effort put into Edition 3 work. This working group has formed two working subgroups, one on ECMAScript 2.0 and the other on Internationalization facilities for ECMAScript. Dr. Dave Raggett, HP Labs, Bristol England is chairing the former. Richard Gillam, IBM, Cupertino, CA chairs the latter. These working group subgroups typically meet via email and hold meetings coincident with the working group itself, though they have met independently on several occasions.

Mike Cowlshaw announced his intention to step down from his responsibilities as Project Editor and will be replaced starting January 2000 by Sam Ruby, also of IBM. The whole of TC39 would like to express its thanks to Dr. Cowlshaw for his expert stewardship and is looking forward to continuing technical work under the guidance of Mr. Ruby.

Dr. Clayton Lewis
Chairman TC39