TG1 Convener's Report to TC39
24 September 2004

Officers

Convener: Mr. William A. Schulze - Macromedia

Editors: Mr. John Schneider – Agiledata on behalf of BEA; Mr. Jeff Dyer - Macromedia

Meetings

The following meetings and phone conferences have occurred since the March 2004 report:

14 June 2004   Face-to-Face, San Francisco, CA, USA, hosted graciously by Macromedia

The next meeting is

28 October 2004   Face-to-Face, Redmond, WA, USA, hosted graciously by Microsoft

Attendees

The meetings were attended by representatives from member companies BEA, IBM, Macromedia, Microsoft, and Mozilla Foundation.

Progress

1   E4X

Since March's meeting, the working group revised one draft, for accuracy, of the ECMAScript for XML specification. There was no material change to the consensus by all members on all technical issues of the last and final draft submitted for approval to TC-39 and the GA.

Draft 18 was submitted for GA adoption and addressed formatting issues and comments from TC39's review.

This submission could not have been accomplished without the hard work of all task group members.

E4X was approved for fast-track status to ISO through the JTC process.

Mr. Rex Jaeschke, in his capacity in support of INCITS/CT22, points out that he will require his US committee to submit any comments they have by the end of Oct 2004. Then he'll run a 30-day ballot on all the comments as a group, forwarding the result early Dec 2004.

His position will be recommending a "Yes" vote. If there is a call for a NO vote, any country voting NO must send a representative to the ballot resolution meeting.

Kurokawa-san, Chair of CLI JIS committee (Japanese SC 22) has formed an ad-hoc group to review E4X for Fast Track Proposal to ISO/IEC JTC1. Kurokawa-san had requested of Macromedia assistance from a local Macromedia Japanese representative to participate in this ad-hoc group. Unfortunately, the Japanese office of Macromedia does not have on staff an individual sufficiently technical to assist in the review or recommendations of E4X.

2   TG-1 member commitment to revise ECMA 262 to Edition 4

(a)   New member joins TG-1:

During the June face-to-face meeting active members were joined by Brendan Eich, CTO of Mozilla foundation. This was in advance of Mozilla Foundation being approved for admission to ECMA as a Not For Profit (NFP) member. This approval was granted at the GA meeting in June. TG-1 is excited to have Mr. Eich participation as he was the original inventor of JavaScript, one of the key language definitions upon which ECMA 262 is based.

(b)   Administrative and Responsibility Changes:

It was voted and unanimously decided by TG-1 members to affect the following changes –

- **Macromedia assumes Convener responsibilities from Microsoft.**

  TG-1 would like to sincerely thank Mr. Rok Yu of Microsoft for his dedication and thoroughness as Convener to the group. His contributions have been significant.

  William Schulze assumes convener duties on behalf of Macromedia.

- **Macromedia joins BEA as co-editors of Edition 4 of ECMA 262**

  John Schneider of Agiledata on behalf of BEA has demonstrated strong commitment and attention to detail as editor of the E4X specification. TG-1 desires to have Mr. Schneider continue in that role as we address the modifications necessary to create Edition 4 of 262. The totality of changes to Edition 4 are estimated to be significant. TG-1 has requested that Jeff Dyer of Macromedia join Mr. Schneider as the co-editor of the Edition 4 262.

(c)   General focus of improvements in Edition 4:

TG-1 made a general decision that it would not attempt to fully implement the current draft proposal of Edition 4, currently titled "JavaScript 2.0 Draft" The group believes that a more incremental approach can be taken while making sure to incorporate the most necessary new features to continue to evolve 262 into a world-class scripting language. Some of the areas of enhancement expected to be integrated are new advanced features such as packages, namespaces, conditional attributes, runtime type checking, and support for E4X (ECMA 357). It is also a goal of the group that Edition 4 present a robust, consistent programming model which developers from the .NET and Java development communities will immediately find familiar and easy to work with. Mr. Dyer has agreed to take the primary initiative in drafting some of these key changes and will present his efforts to TG-1 during the upcoming October meeting.

Drafts to be submitted to TC for adoption

None

Recommendations

None

William A. Schulze

Convener TG1