

Minutes of the:

Ecma TC39, ES3.1WG

Phone conference

held on:

22 April 2008

1 Roll call and logistics

1.1 Participants

Doug Crockford (Yahoo!), Collin Jackson (Stanford), Pratap Lakshman (Microsoft), Mark Miller (Google), Adam Peller (IBM), Allen Wirfs-Brock (Microsoft) and Kris Zyp (The Dojo Foundation).

2 Agenda

String and Array static generics

Meta

Date Object

Getters/setters

2 Minutes

String and Array static generics

Which ones do we want ?

Refer

http://wiki.ecmascript.org/doku.php?id=es3.1:targeted_additions_to_array_string_object_date;
what about string.trim? No other browser seems to implement this natively - Need String.trim - highly desired - almost every Ajax library implements it anyway - everybody puts on the the prototype - we may want to make it a static method (similar to ES4) - lets generalize the problem - if we want to add any more of such generics where should they go? As statics ? Or to the prototype ? - in general we may want to add them as static methods - - although that seems the less desirable place to put it.

Whitespace definition could be an issue - keep the whitespace definition same as the one used by RegExp - none of the primordial members are "readonly" - add "trim" without the "readonly" property set - as long as frameworks can lock them down later that should be Ok.

Should we disallow transferring the 'trim' method ? - perhaps it should throw an exception if its 'this' is not bound to a string - No! - it should be similar to other methods on String - it should do a ToString on the 'this' if it is not bound to a String.

Meta

Initial sketch of a design pattern for supporting meta operations upon objects circulated by email - mixed interest at the ES4WG meeting; conservative approach preferred.

Add new static functions as ReadOnly, DontDelete properties of Object constructor - parameterize with literal arguments enable possible analysis and static implementation of complex objects - why not introduce a new global object "Meta" and hang these static functions of that ? - high cost; we have not introduced any new global names yet - note the provision to define a property as well as to define multiple properties - each such property is described using the descriptor - multiple properties are described by more than one descriptor enclosed in the [] - do we see the need to add any more hooks ? - how about indicating

constraints like non-overridable properties (i.e. a subtype cannot introduce a property with the same name) - how about 'only invocable as a function (or as a constructor) ? - all, need to go through the sketch and send feedback - will be circulated over the es3.x-discuss list after this review.

Decimal

Decimal was discussed at the ES4 meeting - two part proposal tabled (a) mandatory library and (b) optional decimal as canonical Numeric type; library is guaranteed available for sophisticated developers, leaves room for adopting canonical decimal - (b) was strongly shot down; preference for using Number as a wrapper type and augment it with methods related to Decimal.

Date Object

Would like to see what are the differences from the ES4 proposal - resolve over email - circulate over es3.x-discuss.

Getters/setters.

All, need to go through the sketch and send feedback.

Meeting adjourned.