TC39 Chairman's Report

April 2009

Title: TC39 ECMAScript

Prepared by: John Neumann

Date: April 28, 2009

1   Officers of the TC

Chair: John Neumann (Microsoft, Yahoo, Mozilla)

Vice Chair: Vacant

2   Executive summary

The TC, having agreed on a roadmap for evolution of the ECMAScript Language, continue to make progress on the release of the next version of the standard (Edition 5). Current plan is to finalize testing and review by July so that the draft can be submitted to the GA for approval in December 2009. The committee made a decision to bypass the use of the name "Edition 4" because of the association this has to a previous effort (since abandoned by the TC). A Google search of "ES4" yields over 70,000 hits on the Internet referring to the previous effort. This association was considered to be a source of future confusion and thus the next edition should be named "Edition 5".

3   Standards & Technical Reports to be submitted to the General Assembly

None

4   Future outlook

ECMAScript Edition 5 (ECMA-262) will be submitted to the GA for approval in December 2009 with subsequent submission to JTC 1 for fast track processing of a new edition of ISO/IEC 16262.

5   Decisions and issues recommended to be raised to the next General Assembly

None

6   Meetings history and plans

Past meetings:

January 28-29, 2009 Sunnyvale, CA

March 24-26, 2009 Sunnyvale, CA

Planned meetings

May 28-29, 2009 Sunnyvale, CA

July 29-30, 2009 Redmond, WA

September 17-19, 2009 Boston, MA (In conjunction with AJAX)

November 5-6, 2009 Santa Clara, CA (In conjunction with W3C)

7 TC details

Activities of this period are focused on completion of Edition 5 with the following schedule and plan:

1. Between now and the July meeting of TC39, TC39 will be conducting interoperability testing of three implementations in the browser environment on the web and in controlled test environment. These implementations include Microsoft, Mozilla, and Opera. In addition, now is the time for the Ecma Secretariat (Mr. Patrick Charollais) to work closely with the Editor, Mr. Allen Wirfs-Brock to perform conversion of the draft standard into a completely aligned Ecma/ISO format - before final approval steps within TC39.

2. During and immediately following the July meeting, final agreement will be reached on the correction to any errors uncovered during testing and internal review of the draft.

3. Final draft will be approved at September meeting and sent to CC and GA for approval.

8 Cooperation with JTC 1

8.1 Draft Edition 5 has been sent to JTC 1/SC 22 for their advanced review and comments.

8.2 Current active liaisons

JTC 1 SC22

8.3 Expecting fast-track for this reporting period and for the next reporting period

ECMAScript Edition 5 will be sent to JTC 1 for fast-track processing following the approval of the standard by the December 2009 General Assembly

9 Other issues (if any)

The Draft Edition 5 has been also sent to the W3C for their advanced review and comments.