

2.1.4 Extension of experimental software copyright policy:

What about 3rd party (non-Ecma) contributions and what about use of free, open source software?

Back ground:

The request comes from TC39, e.g. in TC39/2011/044 – Chairman’s Report to the CC.

“TC39 is currently developing a set of tests (to be published as a Technical Report when complete) against the ES 5 specification. These tests (referred to collectively as Test262) are contributed by the members (comment Istvan: MS, Google) under the Software Licensing Policy approved by the Ecma GA. While this is still work in progress, TC39 members are applying these tests to their Industry browser implementations to ascertain the degree that they correctly implement the ES 5 specification. The test suite is publically accessible at <http://test232.ecmascript.org>. Work in this area has exposed a potential problem “How do we deal with the test contributor who is not a member of Ecma nor employed by an Ecma member”?

Apparently this is an issue. But also in the development of the new ES “Harmony” (ES 6 – next big version). There apparently also ideas (codes) are supposed to come from 3rd parties (i.e. not Ecma members). Similar question was asked: What about taking free, open source software (components) into ES “Harmony”?

So far, our reply was: Let us gather experience with the current experimental software version and then to think about expansion. We suggested that if the above two cases occur the software should come via an Ecma TC39 member who is bound to the experimental policy, and thus act as a “sponsor” for such software.

How should be the CC reaction to this request?

- a) Wait until we have more experience
- b) No, we shall see how to include this into the policy. If so, how should that be done? E.g. by calling together the “CC-expanded” IPR group.
- c) Something else.....