ecma
INTERNATIONAL

Excerpts

Minutes of the: *meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee*

held in: *Geneva*

on: *23 – 24 April 2013*

Chairman: Ms J. Auber (HP)

Secretary: Mr. I. Sebestyen (SG Ecma)

Attending: Mr. K. Brookes (Sony), Mr. O. Elzinga (Ecma), Dr. J. Friedrich (IBM), Mr. D. McAllister (Adobe), Ms I. Valet-Harper (Microsoft), Mr. K. Yamashita (Hitachi).

Excused:

0   Approval of the agenda

The draft agenda of the meeting was approved (CC/13/014 Draft agenda cc meeting, April 2013 (Rev. 1)) by the CC with minor additions. Under 2.2 "Ecma By-laws and Rules – Participation of non-members in Ecma activities" also the Emails to the SW-copyright group of Mr. Nied and Ms Valet-Harper have been included.

1   Review of TC Activity reports

The TC Chairmen's reports were presented as follows:

TC12   Mr. Elzinga
TC20   Mr. Elzinga
TC26   Mr. Sebestyen
TC31   Mr. Sebestyen
TC32   Mr. Elzinga
TC38   Mr. Elzinga
TC39   Mr. Sebestyen
TC43   Mr. Sebestyen
TC45   Ms Valet-Harper
TC46   Mr. Sebestyen
TC47   Mr. Elzinga
TC48   Mr. Elzinga
TC49   Mr. Sebestyen
TC50   Mr. Elzinga

Chair: **Mr. John Neumann** (Microsoft, Yahoo, Mozilla), Vice Chair: Vacant.

Work on the new Edition of ECMAScript continues and a new target date of December 2014 for GA approval. The reason is: Though the group works very hard, but too much additional work is still needed. A new Edition of ECMA-402 ("Internationalization") has started and is also in progress now with expected completion of December 2014.

It was noted that after the June 2013 GA – if it gets approved – the TC39 RF (Royalty Free) TG will be launched. Target for start is mid September 2013. By the September 2013 TC39 meeting it would be clear who the RF TG members are. Then there would be an opt-out draft when members had the possibility to opt out with their patents (if there are any).

TC39 will begin work on a first version of a separate JSON standard in co-operation with IETF. Not much new work is expected, the JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) standard should document current practice. It was noted that the current ECMAScript 5.1 fully incorporates JSON (and makes no normative reference to the current IETF RFC). The current IETF RFC is only informational and has expired. That is the reason why IETF wants to make a standard of it. However, in the last TC39 meeting it was reported and discussions with IETF have confirmed that the Ecma and the IETF JSON versions are at the moment not fully compatible. However, this must be solved in the course of the work.

It has been agreed with IETF that IETF will set up an email group and when there will be a stable draft parallel approval process both in IETF and Ecma will start. In order to have a fast approval and not to lose any time the CC should request the GA for a possible postal ballot on JSON (it is expected before the December 2013 GA). This was agreed by the CC.

Mr. Sebestyen said that with IETF this is a clear compromise, but because of the very different processes (no members in IETF, IPR process differences etc.) Ecma also has to standardize JSON. As a result we would have a stable formal JSON standard in Ecma. Also if the TC39 RF TG is created, one may think about to move JSON under this RF policy,so the Ecma standard would have more weight.

Regarding TC39 membership a few more membership is expected, but not significantly more, because TC39 is already large for an Ecma group.

On Test262 we get signals that both from 3rd party members and liaison organizations that they want to contribute with new tests. Unfortunately in the IPR group the appropriate software copyright policy is not approved yet. We should progress this faster.

New topics around current TC39 topics in separate TCs are encouraged. Hopefully that could bring new membership to Ecma.

Next meeting of TC39 will be in May in London.

2 Ecma policy matters

2.1 Ecma IPR Policy matters: decisions for approval at the GA

The following documents were reviewed:

GA/13/023   Experimental TC39 RF TG Policy package (Rev. 1)

CC/13/009   Registration Form for a TC39 Royalty Free (RF) Task Group (TG) (supersedes 2012/035)

CC/13/010   Draft Ecma experimental royalty-free patent policy, 6 December 2012 (supersedes 2012/040)

CC/13/011   Withdrawal Form from a TC39 Royalty Free (RF) Task Group (TG)

CC/13/012   Opt Out Form for a TC39 Royalty Free (RF) Task Group (TG)

Ms Auber reported about the work of the IPR Adhoc Group and introduced the above documents which also have also been distributed to the GA as a ZIP file (GA/13/023: Experimental TC39 RF TG Policy package (Rev. 2)). Vote and Decision on the package will be made at the June GA meeting.

The experimental TC39 RF policy is additional to the normal Ecma Patent Policy and it is only valid for TC39. Experimental means that based on experience further changes are possible. The idea is to create within TC39 a Royalty Free Task Group which is permitted to produce RF standards. The scope of the group has to be approved by the GA. Membership is via a separate application form possible. Also termination from the group. Opt out for certain patents by RF TG members is possible on well defined draft standards and at well defined time-windows.

Schedule: At the June 2013 GA the Experimental TC39 RF (Royalty Free) policy and the TC39 RF TG (after approval of scope by the GA) will be launched. Deadline for joining is by mid September 2013. At the first new draft standard there would be an "opt-out possibility" for members when members had the possibility to opt out with their patents. Opt out means that their relevant patent in the draft standard is not available for RF.

There are two policy documents and several operational documents (such as forms). The latter are expected to change more frequently.

Ms Valet-Harper submitted to the meeting a new document (email) for submission of non-members to TC39 RFTG work. It was decided to deal with this under 2.2. People were encouraged to look at the new document during the night.

Otherwise the CC had no comments to the TC39 RF TG policy.

2.2 Ecma By-laws and Rules – Participation of non-members in Ecma activities

2.2.1 Invited Experts, Observers, Liaison Representatives

Mr. Sebestyen introduced the CC/13/019 (Invited expert: rules and forms). This document came out from the discussions in the IPR Adhoc Group, where the subject of "Invited experts" to face-to-face TC39 meetings (especially in connection with a possible TC39 RF TG) was discussed extensively. It was recognized that the issue is not only related to TC39 but to Ecma in general. Therefore it was decided that the CC should pick up this subject at the April meeting and provide an Ecma-wide general solution. The above document is a first draft to codify occasional non-Ecma member participants in a **face-to-face** Ecma meeting.

Mr. Sebestyen noted that there is nothing new in what he has described in the draft only the codification of the practice that Ecma is doing for many-many years, but which has not been described in the Ecma By-laws and Rules.

1) Ecma Invited Experts – participating in Ecma face-to-face meetings - shall be a very small number of experts, who are needed to complete the Ecma work and whose contributions are regarded as exceptionally important. They participate free of charge on invitation by Ecma in an Ecma TC and may contribute to an Ecma standard.

2) With Ecma Invited Experts there is no intention whatsoever to introduce a non-paying individual membership category. Therefore Invited Experts in Ecma work should be regarded as exceptional and rare. It is encouraged that instead of Invited Experts the company / organization with whom the invited expert is affiliated with (if he has such relationship) becomes Ecma Member itself.

3) The Ecma TC decides who should be invited to participate in the work of the TC. The request goes to the Secretary General of Ecma, who may or may not issue an invitation to the Invited Expert.

4) The Invited Expert has to fill in and sign a separate Form (derived from the application form for formal Ecma memberships, which clarifies that he will follow all basic Ecma policies).

5) The Ecma Secretariat administers countersigns all Invited experts.

6) This status is granted until withdrawal by the Invited Expert or the Ecma Secretariat. Equally the invited expert status expires when the associated TC finishes its work and closes down.

Invited Observers or Representatives of Liaison Organizations to an Ecma face-to-face are not regarded as "Invited Experts". They may not submit contributions to an Ecma standard or Technical report and they cannot vote on them. They are permitted to the Ecma meeting with the procedure under item 3 but they do not have to fill in a form as described in item 4 above.

The CC has agreed to the above principles and **Mr. Sebestyen** will update the draft based on the input received from the CC meeting.

2.2.2 Non-Ecma-member contributions to TC39 RF TC Work

Then the CC has discussed the email of Ms Valet-Harper and Mr. Nied on the subject of submission of non-members to TC39 RFTG work.

The CC has then developed and agreed on the following click-though web form (to be put on the TC39 web pages):

Contribute to Ecma TC39 Royalty Free Task Group as a non-member

Join as an Ecma member

Please fill in your personal information below : items marked with a * are mandatory

Title	[▼]
Last name*	[ ]
First name*	[ ]
Affiliation*	[ ]
Phone*	[ ]
Email*	[ ]
License*	☐ Herewith, • I confirm that I have the right to provide all contributions I will make, and if I am making a contribution on behalf of an organization, I confirm that I have the right to make this contribution on behalf of my organization and to bind my organization to the obligations below • I (or my represented organization) grant Ecma the irrevocable right to use, free of charge, all or parts of my contributions for the purposes of standardisation • In case the implementation or use of the resulting standard incorporating said contributions requires patents or any other kind intellectual property rights that I (or my represented organization) own, I (or my represented organization) grant a license free of charge to an unrestricted number of applicants on a worldwide, non-discriminatory basis, and under other reasonable terms and conditions to manufacture, use and/or sell implementations of the standard.
Submit contribution (link)	

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This will be an additional TC39 RFTG Operational document added to the informational package sent to the GA. TC39 has to decide which of their drafts will be open to this

process. The CC decided to send the form also to the IPR Ad-hoc Group for comments (this has been done).