

Identification of ICT technical specifications Evaluation Report of ECMAScript

István Sebestyén



Evaluation of ECMAScript standard for MSP

- ECMAScript was proposed as candidate specification by the European Commission
- The main standard ECMA-262 is also an ISO/IEC JTC1 standard (ISO/IEC 16262), so does not need to be evaluated
- However, they were some additional specifications:
 - ECMA-402 (Edition 1) ECMAScript Internationalization API Specification (December 2012)
 - and the technical report ECMA TR/104 ECMA-262 Test Suite (December 2011)
- to be identified in accordance with Article 13 and annex II of Regulation (EU) No. 1025-/2012.



Who was in the evaluation team?

The secretariat of the evaluation group was provided by the Commission services and the group was composed of representatives from following Platform members:

- 1) Ecma International
- 2) DIGITALEUROPE
- 3) CENELEC
- 4) Open Mobile Alliance
- 5) Switzerland

Work was done by email and face-to-face meeting (conferencing)



What is ECMAScript?

- ECMAScript is not a single specification, but a "suite" composed of several specifications and other documents which may be described as "basic internet- and web-standards". <u>ECMAScript is the</u> formal (normative) specification for Javascript.
- It is a general multipurpose programming language which is also one of the main programming languages for the WWW.
- The range of ECMAScript usage is very broad, covering web-client based applications like webbrowsers, or server-based applications like electronic banking, email severs or even computer games.



What is the added value of these ECMAScript components?

- These components are complementary specifications needed to extend ECMA-262 for the following reasons:
- ECMA-402 offers "internationalization" capabilities to the ECMA-262 by ensuring an automatic adaptation to different language environments;
- ECMA TR/104 ensures the effective and testable implementation of ECMA-262 (Test your browser compatibility with ECMAscript: http://test262.ecmascript.org/#).



Opinion of the evaluation team

- "Public procurers can already benefit from the reference to ISO/IEC 16262; the enhancement of the two ECMAScript components would provide additional benefit for the implementation of the ECMAScript."
- The evaluation report provides evidence that the evaluation group has compiled in view of the compatibility of ECMA- 402 and ECMA TR/104 with the requirements for identification laid out in Annex II of the Regulation. Members of the Platform are invited to consider and discuss this evidence in developing the Platform's recommendation to the European Commission.



The Evaluation Task Force believes that:

- The Platform should note the importance of applications being testable, and draws the attention of procurement authorities to the availability of ECMA-TR/104 for testing ECMA-262 and ISO/IEC 16262 implementations.
- The Platform should note the importance of the ECMAScript internationalization capabilities described in ECMA-402. These enhancements to ECMAScript are valuable and should be considered by procurement authorities seeking to build in internationalisation arrangements.
- The evidence documented in this report demonstrates compliance of ECMA-402 with most requirements for identification laid out in Annex II of the Regulation.
- The evidence documented in this report demonstrates compliance of ECMA-TR/104 with the substance of the requirements for identification laid out in Annex II of the Regulation.



Discussion points:

- Status" of ECMA-TR/104. The evaluation team did not reach agreement on whether TR/104 should be referenced. One view: the document is a "Technical Report". By definition, such a document is nonnormative. Other view: It is "not-normative, but standard" as contains an open and expandable set of testing programs.
- Market acceptance of ECMA-402. One view: 3 independent implementations at standards development, 1 commercial implementation and 1 beta implementation after approval is enough.



Thanks. Questions



Rue du Rhône 114 CH-1204 Geneva

T: +41 22 849 6000 F: +41 22 849 6001

www.ecma-international.org