

ECMA TC39 technical meeting - 19 February 1998

Host: Clayton Lewis, Netscape

Attendees:

Norris Boyd	(NS)
Andrew Clinick	(MS)
Mike Cowlshaw	(IBM, Project Editor)
Brendan Eich	(NS)
Waldemar Horwat	(NS)
Roger Lawrence	(NS)
Clayton Lewis	(NS)
Drew Little	(MS)
Karl Matzke	(SunSoft)
Mike McCabe	(NS)
Herman Venter	(MS)
Rok Yu	(MS)

Morning

The morning was spent reviewing the expected comments on the ISO DIS from the USA national body, confirming their correct resolution in the 1998.01.27 draft for Version 1 (V1), and agreeing minor corrections to that draft. The editor will apply the changes to both versions of the documents; Karl Matzke took notes and will prepare the disposition of comments.

Afternoon

The following lists were propagated from the notes of the 1997.10.10 and updated:

Agreed items for Version 2

- caller (omitted from V1)
- do while
- break to label
- continue to label
- switch
- regexp
- === operator (strict equality)
- conditional compilation

literal notation
function closures (expression, nesting)
reveal `__parent__` , `__photo__`
arguments object
exception handling
toSource (people want a way to make objects persistent)
Function.prototype.apply
instanceof

Other Items in consideration for V2

binary object
Date (as presented by Borland in 1997)
generic sequence operations on a string or an array
threading issues
undefined literal, not reserved
parse {int, float} step point result
toString extensions
date to string
toBoolean (object)
Hide proto.property
meta object protocol (MOP)
package concept

The remainder of the meeting discussed various items from the first list in more detail.

Exceptions

Herman Venter (MS) described his proposal

- try/catch with single catch block
- no finally

NS proposal described by Waldemar Horwat

- also try/catch
- multiple catch
- finally
- catch is (a) or (a instanceof b)

After some discussion the committee agreed on:

- try
- catch
- throw [any value]

Issues:

1. Should catch rethrow the exception?
2. Finally?
3. granularity of exception classes
4. default rethrow (or not)
5. scope of caught variable
6. more than one catch?
7. use of 'instanceof' as both parameter and expression?

Instanceof

Minor issues agreed. Herman will write up for next meeting.

Do while

Does not handle labeled break and continue. Semicolon missing at very end. Issue from 12.12 needs to be folded into other section 12 subsections. [Herman will write up.] Issues under 12.7 and 12.8 are agreed.

Switch

Needs constraints (tbd) that allow improved optimization. Otherwise OK.

Array and Object initializers

(Sections 11.1.4/5)

Array literal constructors, proposed:

```
o=new Array(0,1,2)
b=new Array(0)

a=[0,1,2]
b=[0]
c=[0,,2]
d=[0,1,,]      -- d.length = 3
e=[,1]         -- e.length = 2
```

Object literal constructors

```
o=new Object
```

```
o.p=1           -- same as o['p']=1
o['*hi*']=2
o[2]=true

o={p:1, '*hi*':2, 2:true}      -- ok
o2={null:3, true:4, false:5}  -- ok, but no
o3={(x+1):6}                  -- bad
```

Issues:

1. Final comma is ignored. Although this rule was disliked, it does permit sparse and empty lists (Consider [], [,], [,,] having lengths 0, 1, 2).
2. Should the same rule be applied to object initializers (which are even more like C++ syntax)?

Sharp variables

```
x5=#1={self:#1#}
```

Under discussion; some members of the committee did not feel that this proposal added much value.

toSource

(The draft does not use sharp variables yet.) Generally agreed. If this becomes a built-in language item, the proposal may not require the use of sharp variables.

Next TC39 (technical/editing) meetings

1. Interim subcommittee (Clayton/Karl?) to gather ECMA TC39 comments for submission to ISO. No physical meeting required.
2. Friday 20 March 1998. 10am - 6pm. Redmond, WA.

Mike Cowlshaw (mfc@uk.ibm.com)

1998.02.19 & 1998.03.05