

ECMAScript 4th Edition – Project Editor's Report

8 November 2007

Lars T Hansen, Adobe Systems

Background Materials

The primary background materials for the specification are the following:

- Ecma 262 3rd Edition Specification
- Unofficial 3rd Edition errata, hosted at mozilla.org
- ES4 baseline document, January 2006 (based on ActionScript 3)
- The TG1 wiki at wiki.ecmascript.org
- The TG1 bug tracking system at bugs.ecmascript.org
- The TG1 reference implementation for ES4
- Standards, like the IEEE 754r draft for decimal arithmetic

The secondary background materials are the following:

- Materials prepared by TG1 members, including documents describing incompatibilities and variations among ES3 implementations, errors in ECMA-262 3rd editions, and so on
- The 2003 ES4 draft specification, prepared by Waldemar Horwat

Status

At this time we are no longer accepting new proposals for the language. We are, however, making adjustments to the language, including adding small features when they improve the language at little or no cost, and removing facilities that appear to be ill-defined, offer little benefit at high cost, fit poorly with the language, or compromise backward compatibility. The adjustments are informed by the specification writing, by experience with the reference implementation, and by experience with TG1 members' commercial implementations of Proposed ES4 or subsets thereof.

The following normative documents have been created:

- Specification for ES4 Predefined Libraries (incomplete draft, 20 September 2007)

The following non-normative documents have been created:

- Proposed ECMAScript 4th Edition – Language Overview (23 October 2007)
- Incompatibilities between ES3 and Proposed ES4 (5 November 2007)

Plan

The specification will have three main parts:

- Introduction, Overview, and Tutorial
- The Core Language
- The Predefined Libraries

The specification will consist of prose augmented by formal specification of many aspects of the semantics and the predefined libraries. The formal specification will in large part be extracted directly from the reference implementation. Suitable structures will be incorporated in the RI and in the specification to avoid overspecification from the use of executable code.

Schedule

The following rough milestones exist for the production of the specification:

February 2008	Complete rough draft of the Language Specification
April 2008	Draft Language Specification Multi-round public review starts
September 2008	Public review ends
October 2008	Submission to TC39 for approval