

Eclipse Requirements Council Meeting
August 31, 2004
Scottsdale, AZ

Attendees

Dave Thomson, IBM, Strategic Developer
Paul Clenahan, Actuate, Strategic Developer
Par Emanuelsson, Ericsson, Strategic Consumer
Derrick Keefe, QNX, Strategic Developer
Tyler Thessin, Intel, Strategic Developer
Anurag Gupta, Intel, Strategic Developer
Philip Ma, HP, Strategic Consumer
Michael Bechauf, SAP, Strategic Consumer
Mike Milinkovich, Eclipse Foundation

John Wiegand, Board committer representative joined the meeting as an observer.

Absent

Boris Kapitanski, Serena, Strategic Consumer
Mike Norman, Scapa

Meeting Objectives

Here is what the Eclipse Development Process document says about the purpose of the Requirements Council.

There will always be more requirements than resources to satisfy them:

- *Requirements that advance the Eclipse Foundation towards the achievement of its Purposes*
- *Requirements that advance specific Projects*
- *Requirements that satisfy the needs of the Membership at Large*
- *Requirements that grow the Ecosystem*

The Requirements Council reviews and categorizes all of these incoming requirements - from all residents of the Ecosystem - and proposes a coherent set of Themes and Priorities that will drive the Roadmap.

It is important that the Requirements Council becomes the driving force behind a collective process for capturing and organizing requirements for Eclipse. Its quarterly meetings must be part of an overall process, not simply the one-time events where members get together and examine requirements.

The Requirements Council does not work in isolation. It works in conjunction with the Planning and Architecture Councils and provides input to them. Therefore the communications with these other groups will be key to the successful functioning of the Eclipse open source project as a whole.

Purpose of Requirement Council

Michael Bechtauf led a presentation of the history of the formation of the Eclipse Councils and development process. A key reason for creating the requirements council was to ensure input from the Strategic Consumers into the direction of Eclipse.

It was agreed the Requirements Council should take a macro (outside/in) approach to providing direction for Eclipse. The open source community, through the PMC's, are very effective of providing the bottom-up input for what needs to be done for the next releases. The goal is not to replace the current project-level requirements gathering process. Rather, the goal is to augment the requirements gathering process by establishing a common set of Themes and Priorities which span the gamut of Eclipse open source projects.

It was agreed that the Requirements Council should accept input from a wide range of sources, but that the main inputs shall be:

- Requirements as defined by Strategic Consumers and Strategic Developers
- Add-in Providers
- Input from the PMCs --- including their high level themes and priorities
- Market research

The role of the Requirements Council is to take this input and develop the high level themes and priorities for Eclipse. The Themes and Priorities will then be used by the Planning and Architecture Council's to develop the Eclipse Roadmap document. It will also provide guidance to the EMO for what types of new members (e.g. targeted recruitment) and resources are needed for Eclipse.

How are requirements collected today.

Dave Thomson led a discussion on how the requirements process works today in the Platform PMC. A bottom-up and top-down approach is used:

- The PMC component leads use bugzilla to develop a list of things that need to be fixed in the next release and major component pressures.
- PMC lead takes this list and develops approximately 5 major themes for the release.
- Component leads then prioritize their list under each of these themes.

The objective is to be able to provide a useful description of the goals of a specific release. A well defined set of Themes and Priorities facilitates communication and understanding of the objectives to both developers working on the release and its consumers.

Requirements Council Process

It was agreed that the Requirements Council would initiate a process to develop a set of Themes and Priorities for Eclipse. The process is based on the following:

Inputs

- Strategic members present their own requirements.
- Add-in providers prepare a consolidated and prioritized list of their requirements.
- Market Research and strategy prepared by the EMO and Strategic Members.
- PMC's would present their project level requirements, themes and priorities, and inter-project requirements

Process

- The Requirements Council would meet via telephone and face-to-face to consolidate these requirements into themes and priorities.
- The T&P would be used as input into the Planning and Architecture Councils to develop the Eclipse Roadmap document. Specifically, the Themes and Priorities would comprise a section of the Roadmap document.
- The Planning and Architecture Council would provide feedback to the Requirements Council on the feasibility of the T&P.
- As per the Development Process, the Planning Council will be tasked with preparing a Platform Roadmap which is consistent with the Themes and Priorities.
- As per the Development Process, the Architecture Council will be tasked with preparing an Architecture Plan which is consistent with the Themes and Priorities.
- The EMO might also be requested to find additional resources, via targeted recruitment of new members, to address the T&P.

Outputs

- A document of the Themes and Priorities which becomes a section of the Eclipse roadmap.
- Meeting minutes that includes the requirements presented by the Strategic Members.

Detailed Action Items and Deliverables

1. Each Strategic Member is to deliver their requirements by Sept. 30

2. Themes brainstorming session via phone by Oct 30
3. Draft document on themes and priorities by Nov 30 as the output from the next face to face meeting on that date.
4. Board review of draft Themes and Priorities at the Dec. 15th Board meeting
5. Requirements Council finalized the Themes and Priorities by end of Q1
6. Objective is to have a finalized Roadmap approved by the Board in time for EclipseCon 2005.