

Eclipse Planning Council Meeting
September 1, 2004
Scottsdale, AZ

Attendees

Mike Milinkovich, Eclipse Foundation
John Wiegand, IBM, Platform PMC
Tyler Thessin, Intel, T&P PMC
Derrick Keefe, QNX Software Systems, Strategic Developer
Michael Bechauf, SAP, Strategic Consumers
John Duimovich, IBM, Tools PMC
David Williams, IBM, Web Tools PMC (representing Bjorn Freeman-Benson)
Paul Clenahan, Actuate, BIRT PMC

Absent

Brian Barry, Bedarra Research Labs, Technology PMC

Meeting Objectives:

Here is a sampling of what the Eclipse Development Process document says about the purpose of the Planning Council.

*The Planning Council is responsible for establishing a coordinated **Platform Release Plan** that supports the Roadmap, producing and maintaining a Platform Release Plan that balances the many competing requirements. The Platform Release Plan enumerates the themes and priorities of the release, and contains each **Project Plan**. The Planning Council discharges its responsibility via collaborative evaluation, prioritization, and compromise.*

The Planning Council produces a Platform Release Plan that defines a sequence of Releases in terms of their constituent Project Plans. The Platform Release Plan describes the themes and priorities that focus these Releases, and orchestrates the dependencies among Project Plans.....Each Project Lead with their Development Team produces a Project Plan containing an enumeration of Tasks to be completed for each proposed Release.

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

The Planning Council does not work in isolation. It works in conjunction with the Requirements 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.

History of Eclipse Development Councils

John Wiegand presented the background of how and why the councils were created and the process for creating a road map.

Mike Milinkovich reviewed the requirement collection process as defined and agreed to by the Requirements Council. It was discussed that the primary role of the Planning Council to prepare a Platform Release Plan which is based on the inputs from each of the projects and which is consistent with the Themes and Priorities at a high level. Individual project plans may contain project level themes and priorities which are in addition to the top-level T&P's. Individual projects also have the freedom to omit specific T&P's. Project-level T&P's which contradict the top-level ones would generally be discouraged.

Eclipse Platform Planning Process

John Wiegand presented some background on the Platform PMC planning process.

- PMC synthesize themes from requirements
- PMC will hold to a schedule by dropping content; this is due to the large number of dependencies on the Platform.
- All plan items are derived from Bugzilla. This is to ensure all inputs for planning are covered by EPL. All plan items are derived from Bugzilla and then consolidated as new Bugzilla items. This allows for detailed feedback from the community.
- Create a project rhythm by having 6 week iterations. This creates high quality feedback from the community. Also, ensure project stays on track.
- Provide as much ownership as possible to component owners. This creates an environment of better quality and more functionality produced by the committers.

It was recommended that the EMO create a planning style guide and templates for all projects to use. These would be used for guidance but not an absolute requirement. This would enable consistent communication to the community. It is also important to have plans version controlled so people can see the history of a plan.

ACTION: John Wiegand will draft a document for the plan format guidelines.

The Platform PMC is investigating closing old Bugzilla reports due to the huge investment required to evaluate the reports. There is a need to develop a

consistent mechanism for closing old bugs across all projects. Also, can we create a mechanism to filter bugs to ensure only confirmed bugs reach the committers?

The process of signing up new committers and the status of a committer if they leave an organization was discussed.

ACTION: EMO to ensure committer guidelines and the Eclipse committer agreement is consistent in the case a committer moves from one organization to another.

Presentation of PMC Plans

- Each PMC reviewed high level plans that will be used as input into the final road map.
- In principle it was agreed that all projects should be updated and available within a reasonable timeframe after a Platform release.
- It was discussed what level of testing needs to be done for all of the projects integrated into a single workspace. A consensus was that Eclipse projects should ensure each other projects are using respective technology, ie. 'eat your own dog food'.
- It is agreed that the PMC will provide to the membership a quarterly project update. Each update will have
 - o Executive Summary – highlight important issues, risk factors, points of interest
 - o PMC description
 - o Current release version
 - o Maintenance stream
 - o Release dates
 - o Links to project plan

ACTION: All PMC must document what platforms and version they test. The Requirements Council needs to set a core set of platforms that all projects should consider testing.

Planning Process Discussion

It was agreed that the Planning Council would initiate a process to develop the release plan for the Eclipse roadmap document.

Inputs

- Requirements Council will produce a Themes and Priorities document for the roadmap. This will be used by the Planning Council to develop to planning priorities.
- Each individual PMC will provide a project plan that includes the plans for the current release, the themes for the following release and any inter-dependencies.

Process

- Each project owns their own plans'.
- Each PMC submits existing project plans to the Planning Council, including project themes and priorities and interdependencies
- Planning Council works to identify and resolve any interdependencies
- Planning Council consolidates project plans and ensures release date alignments.
- Planning Council prepares the Platform Release Plan for inclusion in the Eclipse Roadmap
- Provide a draft of the Platform Release Plan by January for community feedback.
- Objective is to have a finalized Roadmap approved by the Board in time for EclipseCon 2005.

Outputs

- Platform Release Plan – the sum of project plans and identified inter-dependencies.
- Plan format guidelines to ensure consistent approach to communication of plans.
- Planning best practices documentation for use across the open source community.
- Quarterly project plan updates for membership at large.

Discuss that a statement of direction needs to be added to the roadmap document to outline the vision of Eclipse and acts as a preamble to roadmap. This will be authored by the EMO based on inputs from strategic members and T&P from RC.

Objective: Have a complete roadmap available for review and approval by board at EclipseCon (Feb. 28)

ACTION: EMO needs to create new project setup guidelines.

ACTION: EMO will send out a template for the quarterly project update. The first quarterly update will be due from each PMC the first week of October.

ACTION: PMCs will provide to EMO and Requirements Council themes and priorities and requirement for their projects by the end of September.

ACTION: Each project will have a release plan completed by next Planning Council meeting on December 1, 2004. Plan must be in the common format provided by John Wiegand.

It was agreed to delay the best practices guidelines until a later date.

ACTION: The Architecture Council is requested to provide compatibility statements.