Equinox Transition Proposal

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Introduction

- Proposal to transition the Equinox Technology project to the Eclipse PMC
- Become a sibling of Platform, JDT and PDE
- Provide a visible and viable home for furthering the OSGi specifications and their implementations – the basis of Eclipse
- Interest in OSGi and Java component models increasing
    - Apache Felix
    - JSR 277 – Java Module System

Background

- Created in mid 2003 as an incubator to develop runtime technology
- Investigated new component models and mechanisms to enable dynamic behaviour as part of the RCP push.
- Delivered "Eclipse on OSGi" and "Dynamic Registry" in Eclipse 3.0
- Equinox Phase 2 started
    - Continued work on modularity and OSGi R4 spec issues (delivered in Eclipse 3.1)
    - Security work

Proposal

- Provide a focal point for an OSGi community at Eclipse
- Two issues with current Equinox
    - It is a Technology project
        - Optics
        - Complexities wrt timing, PMC coordination, etc
    - It is not designed to have an ongoing deliverable
- Both issues are addressed by moving Equinox to the Eclipse project

Scope

- The new Equinox will be open to:
    - Implementation of all aspects of the OSGi specification (including the MEG and VEG work)
    - Investigation and research related to future versions of OSGi specifications and related runtime issues
    - Non-standard infrastructure deemed to be essential to the running and management of OSGi-based systems
    - Key framework services and extensions needed for running Eclipse (e.g., the Eclipse Adaptor, Extension registry) and deemed generally useful to people using OSGi.
- The new Equinox will not undertake development of the Eclipse Runtime function such as Jobs, Preferences and Content Types.

Organization

- Initially organized as three components
  - Framework – The implementation of the OSGi core framework specification. Work in this component also includes various adaptors and related mechanisms in support of successfully running an OSGi based system.
  - Services – The implementation of other OSGi standard services and facilities. This component may also contain some additional (i.e., non-standard) mechanisms if they are deamed to be generally and widely applicable or interesting.
  - Incubator – Research and prototyping of new techniques and approaches relating to OSGi and componentized runtimes in general.

- Management
  - The current Platform Runtime committers will be grandfathered as full Equinox committers.
  - Current Equinox committers will be grandfathered as committers in the new Equinox Incubator area.
  - The project as a whole will continue to be led by Jeff McAffer, IBM.

Conclusion

- Natural evolution of the project
- Furthers the Java component model approach that is fundamental to Eclipse's success.
- Most of the infrastructure is already in place.
- The name is cool.