Mylyn Reviews
Project Creation Review

Mario Bernhart and Kilian Matt

Introduction

Code reviews have many benefits, most importantly to find bugs early in the development phase and to enforce coding standards or guidelines. Mylyn Reviews provides an integrated code review functionality for Mylyn.

ReviewClipse (RC) will be open-sourced under the EPL and evolve into the Mylyn Reviews project. RC is a free code review tool for Eclipse, which was created at the Research Group for Industrial Software (INSO), Vienna University of Technology. See http://www.inso.tuwien.ac.at/projects/reviewclipse/

Scope

From a Mylyn user's perspective, binding the review to a Mylyn task would be highly beneficial for the following reasons:

- the task is the core element of the developer's work
- a task state may serve as trigger for reviews
- a task relates to corresponding changes (e.g. list of changesets or an attached patch) which may be reviewed together

Mylyn Reviews allows developers to

- do reviews based on Mylyn tasks
- filter the review scope e.g. all test cases
- provide inline-commenting for source code reviews
- incorporate the review tasks in the Mylyn task list

Participants

Initial Committers:
- Mario Bernhart (INSO)
- Christoph Mayerhofer (INSO)
- Kilian Matt (INSO)
- Stefan Strobl (INSO)

Interested parties:
- Vienna University of Technology, Research Group for Industrial Software INSO
- ReviewClipse project
- TaskTop
- Polarion Software (Subversive Team)

Mentors:
- Mik Kersten
- Chris Aniszczyk

Committer Biographies

Mario Bernhart (INSO): Mario is a research assistant at the Vienna University of Technology. He is working in the field of software development, software quality assurance and software testing - both, from an academic and industrial perspective. He is the project lead of ReviewClipse (RC) and presented at ECon09 and ESE09.

Christoph Mayerhofer (INSO): Christoph is currently working as software developer and Eclipse RCP expert in the public transportation domain and is the principal developer of RC.

Kilian Matt (INSO): Kilian is working as a software developer in the mobile telco domain as well as writing this master's thesis. In the RC project he was working on developing new features and preparing the Eclipse incubation. Kilian has open source project experience e.g. he contributed to the Apache Cocoon 3 project.

Stefan Strobl (INSO): Stefan was one of the first field users of the ReviewClipse within an Electronic Health Record (EHR) project and furthermore contributed as developer on RC.
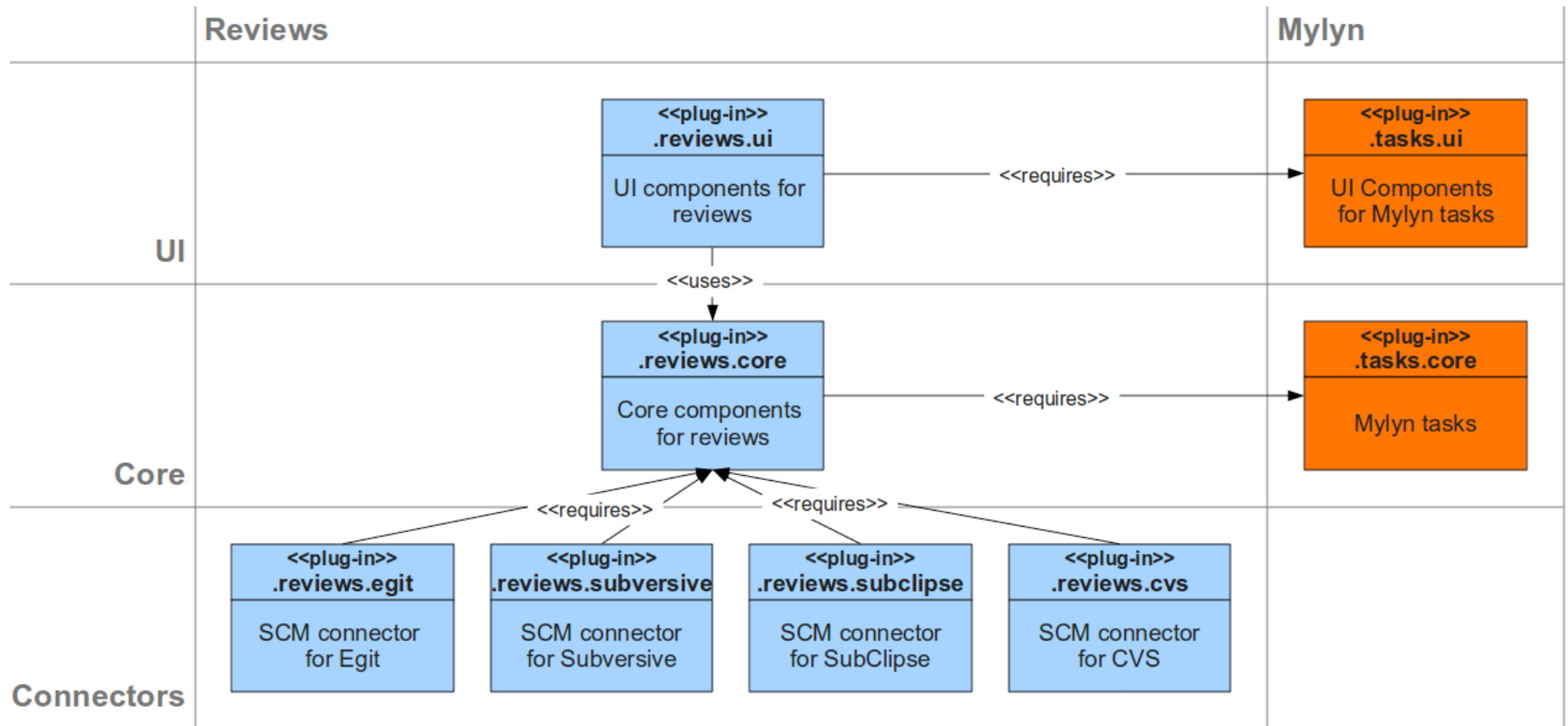
Community

- User community:
ReviewClipse counts around 7000 downloads by 02/2010.
ReviewClipse has an estimate of 1000 active users.

- Developer community:
Currenty ReviewClipse is developed by the INSO, but as several parties have shown interest in the project we are looking forward to attract more developers.

Architecture

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Implementation

Mylyn reviews core functionality:
- Core: review creation, storage, Mylyn connectors
- UI: Mylyn integration, Review editor

Mylyn reviews SCM adapters:
- Plugins for SVN (Subversive, Subclipse), CVS and git.

Tentative Plan

- Release v0.1 under the EPL as soon as possible
- Next development
    - Patch based reviews (March 2010)
    - Task changeset and context based reviewing (May 2010)
    - Inline commenting
- Graduation from Incubation timely for a Helios release.