Creation Review for the Proposed e4SL Project

Planned review date of April 22
Yves YANG
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1. Background

Microsoft Silverlight is a cross-browser, cross-platform, and cross-device plug-in for delivering the next generation of media experiences and rich interactive applications for the Web.

Eclipse is an open source community, whose projects are focused on building an open development platform comprised of extensible frameworks, tools and runtimes for building, deploying and managing software across the lifecycle.

Both Microsoft Silverlight and Eclipse technologies focus on delivering a rich, differentiating and interoperable environment to their respective audiences: Web Users and Developers respectively.

By integrating the Microsoft Silverlight technology with the Eclipse platform, this project proposes to extend the Silverlight Development Experience to all Web Application Developers should they be running Windows, Linux or Mac OS. Precisely, it is in fact an extensible and complete framework for developing SilverLight Applications using Eclipse.

Comments should be made on the e4sl newsgroup:
news://news.eclipse.org/eclipse.sldt

2. Scope

The primary purpose of this project is to provide an extensible framework and exemplary tools for the development of RIA web applications using Microsoft™ Silverlight, including an integration with Java-based Web services.

Silverlight applications development

This environment provides the all necessary tools to simplify the RIA Web development on Microsoft™ Silverlight:

- Silverlight project creation and resource management
- XAML visual editor with instant preview
- Controller class editors for Silverlight programming languages of such as C# and JavaScript
- Build, run and debug

Integration between Silverlight and Java-based web sites and services

In today's heterogeneous computing environments and with the emergence of Web services and service-oriented architectures, interoperability has become a critical business and IT need. The interoperability between Silverlight and Java middle wares is the main focus of this project. Based on the standard technologies, this project will propose the common patterns with necessary tools, best practices, or out-of-the box solutions to help developers to connect quickly the RIA Web application on Microsoft™ Silverlight with Java-based enterprise services.

3. Relationship with Other Eclipse Projects/Components

e4SL leverages the Eclipse platform blocks to provide features such as resource management, source edition, code generation, build and launch of applications. WTP components are the most heavily used.

e4SL also extends the following components:

- XML editor
- Java Script editor
- HTML editor

4. Mentors

- Ed Merks (Macro Modeling)
- Wayne Beaton, Eclipse Foundation

5. Initial Committers

The initial committers for this project would be:

- **Yves Yang**, Soyatec (project lead) –Yves YANG, main founder of Soyatec and Committer of Eclipse VE and e4, has over 17 years of experience working with OO software development. He was the chief architect of EclipseUML (First EMF/UML native Eclipse Modeler) and co-founder/CTO of Omondo from 2002 to early 2006. In Soyatec, regarding UI programming, he has leaded and developed a first solution of XAML for Java: eFace, and contributed a Declarative UI in e4: XWT.
- **Thomas Guiu**, Soyatec – Thomas has more than 6 years' experience in Eclipse development. He had developed EclipseUML from 2002 to early 2006. And then he is the principal developer of eUML2, eFace, eclipse4SL and XWT in Soyatec. He is specialized in most of the eclipse frameworks: GEF, EMF, GMF and UML2.
- **Bing Qian**, Soyatec – Bing has more than 5 years' experience in Eclipse development. He is the team leader of Soyatec in China. He has worked on TOS for Talend.

- **Bo Zhou** ([Soyatec](#)), – Bo has more than 5 years' experience in Java and 2 years' in Eclipse development. He has worked on several projects as one of main developers in eclipse such as eFace, eclipse4SL, VE and XWT in Soyatec.
- **Jin Liu** ([Soyatec](#)), Jin has more than 3 years' experience in Java and Eclipse development. He has worked on several projects as one of main developers in eclipse such as eUML2, eFace, eclipse4SL, VE and XWT in Soyatec.
- **Remy Chi Jian Suen** ([independent](#)), Remy is one of most active contributor in eclipse:
    - Top Contributor of 2008 - Eclipse Community Award,
    - EclipseCon 2007, Panelist at "The 2006 Google Summer of Code at Eclipse",
    - Committer on the Eclipse Communication Framework project, designing user interfaces and implementing network protocols in Java
    - Committer on the Eclipse Platform UI project, interests around JFace, Workbench, and general UI polish

6. Code Contributions

[Soyatec](#) will offer an initial code contribution, which is hosted on sourceforge: http://eclipse4sl.sourceforge.net. The e4SL implementation consists in Java packages: the org.eclipse.e4sl.* namespace.

7. Interested Parties

Thus far, interest in this component has been expressed by:

- [Microsoft](#)
- [Soyatec](#)
- [CAS](#)
- Reinhold Bihler reinhold.bihler@gmx.de
- [effisoft-group](#)

8. Developer Community

The team of initial committers will explore statements of interest from additional developers experienced in Web and UI development or willing to gain such experience.

9. User Community

It is expected that the user community for this component will consist primarily of Web developers, given that it is essentially tools for building RIA Web applications for the Microsoft Silverlight technology, connecting to Java Business Logic.

10. Tentative Plan

The first official release of the project is released December 15 2008. The goal of this release is to meet the key requirements for Silverlight development in Eclipse by providing a toolkit covering the entire development cycle:

- Silverlight project creation and resource management
- XAML editor with immediate preview
- C# and JavaScript editor
- Build and run

More advanced features will be released in Spring 2009. Summer major release is planned for June 2009 aligned with annual release of Eclipse.

Afterwards, we will focus on interoperability between Silverlight and Java, but also on bringing the development story to other platforms (Apple, Linux…).

11. Copyright Statement

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