

Eclipse IDE Working Group - November 30th, 2021
November 30, 2021

Agenda Topics	Moderator	Minutes
Approve Minutes of November 16, 2021 Meeting	Pradeep	5
Planning Council Top Three Issues	Jonah	25

Attendees

Steering Committee Members:
Quorum 5 of 9

- **Pradeep Balachandran (IBM) / Thomas Watson (IBM)**
- **Sebastian Ratz (SAP) / Yannic Soethoff (SAP)**
- **Manuel Bork (Yatta) / Frederic Ebelshäuser (Yatta)**
- **Jonah Graham (Planning Council Chair)**
- **Mark Goodchild (Renesas)**
- **Abdul Rahiman Imran (Bosch)**
- **Johannes Matheis (Vector)**
- **Martin Lippert (VMware - Participant Representative)**

Supporter Members:

- Remi Schnekenburger (EclipseSource)

Committer Members:

- **Andrey Loskutov**

Other Attendees:

- Paul Buck (Eclipse Foundation)
- **Sharon Corbett (Eclipse Foundation)**
- Ed Merks (Eclipse Foundation, Sim Rel Engineer)
- **Mélanie Bats (Planning Council Observer)**

Minutes

Review and Approve Steering Committee Minutes November 16th

Motion: Approve Minutes of November 16th 2021 - Jonah moves to approve, Manuel seconds.

RESOLVED, the Steering Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of November 16th, 2021 on November 30th, 2021

Planning Council Top Three Issue

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V7LMa0_T7uYPhS1d910R94XNHX7S59Pf-90E4ULLMiw/edit?pli=1#gid=0

Jonah:

Have more than one person working on specific areas of SimRel:

Most areas have a bus factor of 1 - there is a step forward with Ed taking over some release engineering work. Ed is taking on work and Fred is stepping back from it. So there was not a growth in people working on SimRel. Eventually we will be back to where we were.

Jonah: Why is Fred stepping back? Who to ask?

Sharon: does not have the answer and Paul is away.

Action: Sharon will look into this issue and get back to us.

Ed will do more in the future but we would like to understand the net effort.

Jonah is interested in who has knowledge.

Another way is to get more rotation on these jobs - Jonah took over working on EPP (from Marcus) - intention is to document it and then setup rotation to spread knowledge.

Platform release engineering is similar but the same people are doing the work all the time.

Jonah: Do members of this working group have available team members that could assist with a release on a certain project for one release? This would then transfer some knowledge.

Action: Working group members to consider if there is resource in the companies that could assist in this area.

Pradeep: Agrees that rotation is the way forward. In Pradeep's experience he also recommends the following:

1. Focus on documentation.
2. Automate one item before handing it over to the next person. Makes the results consistent.

Pradeep: Funding from the working group is not going to work as we already have allocated the available funding.

Pradeep: What extent will Ed's work cover and we need rotation for the others. Seek Ed's help where he needs assistance.

E.g. 2 people from IBM and 2 from Red Hat involved in the Eclipse platform work consistently.

Manuel: Is there already documentation on the specific areas that need support and what is and is not automated? Starting with such documentation we could determine where best to help.

Jonah thinks the documentation is good - (runs through it 20 times per year) however others should also run through it.

Start with the existing documentation that is available.

Which areas can Ed cover and where does he need help?

Manuel likes this approach. When someone else does the job we can see where the documentation is deficient.

Action: Could the steering group suggest if there is someone in their company that could do this release work for a certain project.

Martin: Let's assume we will not get many volunteers for this work. Every company provides resources? E.g. Every company takes a turn.

Pradeep reminds that certain companies are already engaged - e.g. IBM already has participation.

Jonah: Suggests that a non-IBM person could do platform release instead to then free them up to try something else.

Improve quality on Eclipse Marketplace - Ed is taking responsibility for this assuming he has the hours.

Pradeep: Do we know the effort?

Jonah: It will be an on-going effort - automation will kick in here. Also will help being inside the Eclipse Foundation.

Jonah: There are some entries with incorrect urls. Dead links. This needs to be fixed but will also be an ongoing task.

Frederic: From a previous meeting - Ed is cleaning this up.

Jonah: This is a data task not an Eclipse Marketplace client task. Revisit in the next release cycle to make sure it was cleaned up.

Pradeep: Would like to see a timeline and roadmap for each item.

Pradeep: Would like to see each item in the issue tracker so discussion can happen there.

Improve graphical layer to not lack behind operating system changes

Lots of smaller changes in this area.

Idea is for it to be a contract resource. 4-6 months.

Alex has suggested possible resources:

- Alexandr Miloslavskiy
- Rolf Theunissen
- Nikita Nemkin
- Paul Pazderski

Martin: Remembered there was money left in the budget for some engineering tasks.

Sharon: Confirms that there is some budget.

Jonah: Suggests this is a specific selling point of joining the group. This is a new package of work not technical debt.

Manuel: We are talking about smaller things but plan B could be to split the budget and prioritize to get some done not all.

Johannes: Would like to understand/see these issues.

Martin: Is there an umbrella bug that we can view all of these issues.

Pradeep: High-DPI or Dark Theme there might be an umbrella ticket.

Pradeep: There is not one contact person it depends on the area. It is not only the operating system but also the windowing toolkit. Linux is an issue with many GTK variants. Each platform Windows, Mac, Linux has one expert. Alex from Red Hat is the Linux expert for example. Keeping up with the underlying changes in the OS is the challenge.

Martin: Can we provide a resource to the planning council and then they manage it from there? Then we do not need to discuss the technical details of which items are worked on and which are not.

Jonah: Members of this group need to be clear about their priorities. E.g. Are the customers just Windows for commercial projects? Each member should make this clear.

Update installer for PGP signing capabilities:

There are people working in this area. The priority of this could be lower.

Ed is working on the installer.

Martin: The installer release engineering is one area with a risk.

Jonah: To add some details to the areas with only one person working on it. (Done, Platform, SimRel, EPP and Oomph (installer))

Identify risky projects:

Jonah: Related to item 1. Ed has made some progress with the dependency chart.

Not sure how to improve the situation once the risky projects are identified.

This action is still with Ed.

Martin hopes this job will allow us to focus on spending on the important projects and not focusing on little used projects.

Manuel suggests we define criteria to evaluate each activity to decide what to do, e.g. impact on user and risk to over SimRel project.

Pradeep mentions the blast radius - effect on other projects is a key criteria.

Pradeep: More data is needed here to make some decisions.

Work with projects to remove redundant versions of libraries:

Jonah: Tied to some extent to the risky project issue.

Some projects are stuck on old library versions that are redundant.

No-one to work currently on getting this resolved.

Remove duplicate libraries in the SimRel.

Pradeep: Ed can work on this on the side. This will be incremental progress.

Jonah: Sees this is a nag job to tell the projects to fix themselves.

Martin: If there are dormant projects that are being nagged. Should we reduce the scope of SimRel and get that in great shape rather than trying this for everything.

Jonah: Some companies would prefer a smaller or no SimRel and just use the marketplace.

Andrey Loskutov: Bugzilla/Gerrit shutdown

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dFAGX2P5cKnmfppyGhTqUlt0iGAHaRXm1BW7_hVufBw/edit

2 goals on the table for 2022. Eclipse TLP migration to GitHub (code and PRs)

In the future both services will be shut down - Bugzilla will then lose documentation. Can we keep a snapshot forever as read only.

Action: We should mark this Bugzilla/Gerrit shutdown for the next meeting agenda.

Pradeep: It looks like the graphical layer issue is the one that needs the external resources.

Pradeep: Would like to understand what we can do with the budget as we don't think it can be completed with this budget.

Martin: Can we contact the suggested resources to see what they think?

Jonah: Perhaps the Eclipse Foundation should reach out since the contract would be with them?

Sharon: Are we committed to spending that line item in the budget on this. Steering committee needs to take a resolution for this.

Manuel: Don't we need to wait until we have identified the dependent project issues?

Jonah: The planning council is clear that this is very important. So action is really needed. This is a defined risk today on the SWT layer.

This is what the planning council originally "voted" on:

Graphical layer lacks behind operating systems and exposes multiple issues which render a lot of other work invisible for users e.g.:

* No reliable Edge integration on Windows and IE being actively replaced by MS and practically useless

* Dark themes on most OS are inconsistent despite huge user interest in them

* System integration (desktop launcher and etc.) lacking on Linux.

This is just the tip of the iceberg but these things make a lot of features and plugins look unprofessional and/or unfinished due to such issues ruining the overall pleasant experience.

Pradeep: Can you share the information with the steering committee? Even without the resolution today we can at least start the discussion without commitment.

Sharon: This would need to be clearly framed that it is potential work, no commitment. So we should be cautious.