



Implementing Contributor License Agreements

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Motivation



- Make it easier for people to contribute to Eclipse projects
- Embrace the “git way”
 - Implement signed-off-by
- Reduce the workload on committers and the EMO for contributions
- Maintain our great IP management

Changing Our Contribution Workflow



- Current work flow assumes two roles:
 1. Committers
 2. Contributors
 - No differentiation between someone who reports one bug, versus contributes 15 features/patches
- Suggestion: have three roles
 1. Committers
 2. Contributors
 3. Users (what we now call Contributors)

Current workflow



Eclipse.org account

Welcome to the Eclipse.org community. Use the form below to create a new account to access our [forums](#), [Bugzilla](#), [Wiki](#) and other Eclipse sites.

Please note: Eclipse is an open and transparent community. Most of what you submit on our site will be visible to everyone, and your email address may be visible to users who use Bugzilla, Gerrit, Git, and our mailing lists. You may prefer to use an email account specifically for this purpose.

Password recovery

So you lost the sticky note that your password was written on? No worries -- just enter your email address and we'll send you instructions for resetting your password.

E-mail address:

Create a New Account

E-mail address*:

First name*:

Last name*:

Password*:

Password (again)*:

(5 + 3) x 2 = ?*:

I agree to not create an account for the sole purpose of posting SPAM. I also agree to the Eclipse.org [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).*

Current workflow



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Welcome to the Eclipse.org community! Your account has been created successfully, and we've sent a confirmation to the email address you have provided. In that email there are instructions you must follow in order to activate your account.

If you have not received the email within a few hours, and you've made sure it's not in your Junk, Spam or trash folders, please contact webmaster@eclipse.org

Current workflow



▶ **Eclipse Account Registration** from Eclipse Webmaster to you

Dear Steven,

Thank you for registering for an account at Eclipse.org. Before we can activate your account one last step must be taken to complete your registration.

To complete your registration, please visit this URL:

https://dev.eclipse.org/site_login/r.php?t=fcb4e8574bc7b3b7b91388eb85c72e9cd2d66eb1cd48aaacdeddbcbecaf0e6

Your Username is: mmilinkov@yahoo.ca

If you have any problems signing up please contact webmaster@eclipse.org

– Eclipse webmaster

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Eclipse.org account

Thank you for confirming your email address. Your Eclipse.org account is now active and you may now [log in](#). Please note that some Eclipse.org pages may require you to provide your login credentials.

Jump to:

- [Bugzilla](#)
- [Git source repositories](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Eclipse Marketplace](#)

Current workflow: The “3 Questions”



- All contributions today are to have the following 3 questions asked and answered in Bugzilla or Gerrit:
 1. I have authored 100% of the content I'm contributing;
 2. I have the rights to donate the content to Eclipse; and
 3. I contribute the content under the project's license(s) (e.g. EPL)
- Generally regarded as an impediment to git-based workflows and hence to contributions

Current workflow



[Alexander Nyßen](#) 2008-02-05 07:47:59 EST

[Comment 27](#) [\[reply\]](#) [\[-\]](#)

I hereby confirm that the code of the patch/enhancement was written 100% by myself, and I agree to contribute the code to Eclipse under the terms of the EPL.

Alexander Nyßen

That's ok but...



- We want to encourage more community contributions by smoother workflows and processes
- We want to move to signed-off-by
 - Getting some push back on perceived reduction of IP cleanliness
- We always want to improve our recordkeeping
 - Currently no connection between the “3 questions” statement and the contribution. Can happen in different channels or systems

Proposal



- For contributors who want to actually send us code (especially via git, github or git signed-off-by) they need to electronically sign a Contributor License Agreement
- The CLA is basically:
 - The same licensing content as what's in the current Terms of Use
 - Plus language similar to the “3 questions”

CLA Example (from Netty)



The Netty Project - Individual Contributor License Agreement v1.0

Thank you for your interest in The Netty Project (the "Project"). In order to clarify the intellectual property license granted with Contributions from any person or entity, the Project must have a Contributor License Agreement ("CLA") on file that has been signed by each Contributor, indicating agreement to the license terms below. This license is for your protection as a Contributor as well as the protection of the Project and its users; it does not change your rights to use your own Contributions for any other purpose. If you have not already done so, please complete and sign, then submit this Agreement by filling this electronic form and pressing the Submit button at the end of this electronic form. Please read this document carefully before signing and keep a copy for your records.

You accept and agree to the following terms and conditions for Your present and future Contributions submitted to the Project. In return, the Project shall not use Your Contributions in a way that is contrary to the public benefit. Except for the license granted herein to the Project and recipients of software distributed by the Project, You reserve all right, title, and interest in and to Your Contributions.

1. Definitions.

Ignore the terms. This is for illustration only.

CLA Example (from Netty)



Legal name *

Your full name as written in your passport (e.g. Heuseung Lee)

Public name

Your full name, alias, or nickname that people call you in the Project (e.g. Trustin Lee) - leave this field empty if it's identical to your legal name.

E-mail address *

Github user name *

Mailing address *

Country *

Electronic signature *

Type "I AGREE" to accept the terms above

Completely Automated



- The Netty example uses Google Docs, ours would be based on the new PMI (project management infrastructure)
- Will require some changes to our databases and processes
 - Added git commit triggers (see below)
 - Added/revised workflows for users and contributors for signing CLAs, etc.

Smoother Workflow



- Committers will no longer ask the “3 questions” on Bugzilla or Gerrit. Instead, they will be provided with a UI to check that the contributor has a CLA on file.
 - We may be able to automate the CLA check on Gerrit. Further investigation is required.
- Works with all contribution channels: EGit, Orion, Gerrit, and command line git

Authentication & Enforcement

- Fully automated enforcement based on git triggers
- Author
 - All contributions rejected by git if the author is not a known Contributor (e.g. signed CLA on file) or Committer
 - Signed-off-by must be set to the same credentials
- Committer
 - Contributions can only be put into Eclipse’s git repos if the person is an Eclipse Committer

This is superior to the current approach, where it is possible that code could be committed without the “3 questions” being asked and answered.

Benefits



- Eclipse is one of very few open source organizations which currently does not use CLAs.
 - More consistency with developer expectations
 - Well known approach, and generally well regarded as best practice
- Easier for our contributors
 - No more “3 questions”
 - Works with all contribution channels
 - Automated workflow which matches expectations
- Easier for our committers
 - No more “3 questions”
 - Works with all contribution channels
 - Automatically enforced to prevent mistakes
- Easier for EMO
 - No more manual checks for “3 question” completeness
 - Works with all contribution channels

Next Steps



- Draft CLA for IP Advisory Committee review
- Communicate direction to community
 - Blogs, committer emails
- Construct project plan for execution
 - git triggers
 - PMI integration
 - Database recordkeeping for CLAs



Thank You!

Questions?

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