

# Sparkplug Steering Committee Minutes

## June 18, 2020

### Attendees

Jeff Knepper, Canary Labs  
Arlen Nipper, Cirrus Link Solutions, Chair  
Don Pearson, Inductive Automation  
Mao Huang, ORing Industrial  
Ian Skerrett, HiveMQ  
Todd Anslinger, Chevron  
Wes Johnson, Cirrus Link Solutions  
Jackie Eldridge, Inductive Automation  
Frédéric Desbiens, Eclipse Foundation  
Sharon Corbett, Eclipse Foundation  
Ioana Maftai, Eclipse Foundation  
Christie Witt, Eclipse Foundation

### Absent:

N/A

### Minutes

#### Approved Minutes

The Minutes of June 4, 2020, Steering Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

#### Minute of Meetings

Frédéric asked the Committee to start thinking about taking on the responsibility of the minutes of the meetings for going forward as this is a Steering Committee responsibility to ensure compliance with the [Eclipse Anti-Trust policy](#). The Eclipse Foundation helps committees in this governance area with a view to handoff.

### July 2, 2020 Meeting

Frédéric informed the Committee, the Eclipse Foundation will be closed on July 2, 2020. As a result, the Steering Committee could proceed as planned, reschedule, cancel, etc.

Resolved, the Steering Committee agreed to skip the July 2nd meeting and remain with the regular meeting cadence.

### Specification Project and TCK (Work Ahead)

#### Project

Wes Johnson, Project Lead of the Sparkplug Specification Project, joined the call and presented an overview of the [development plan](#) for moving forward. Wes outlined three main goals; release, TCK and a Compatible Implementation which must all coincide together.

Work is underway to convert the current specification document into an adoc format and will use the opportunity of its move to the Eclipse Foundation Sparkplug Specification Project to begin the modification/evolution work that is required. An additional benefit of converting to the asciidoc format is the creation of annotations that tie into the TCK to provide reporting and tested by the TCK itself.

Project will use GitHub issues for bugs, enhancements and futures. There is already a set of issues (low hanging fruit) that can be created in order to create the process.

The Specification Committee is the body that approves a release of a specification; the project team is doing the work.

#### TCK

Roadmap towards the first major release may include little change; clean up, develop TCK with Compatible Implementation in Tahu. The TCK development is the biggest chunk of work to be completed. One of the first goals is to have a call with the project committers to discuss how to break this work up; two types of roles edge (devices) and hosts (consumers of the data). TCK will need to support both in terms of how the test kit must work. Is it two TCKS or two profiles and one TCK (not much difference from a technical standpoint). Frédéric will sync up with Paul Buck regarding this to determine if two sets of tests or one. It is actually two sets of tests against two different clients. Lots of testing to be done including manual testing as state management must be done manually. Ultimate goal to automate as much as can be automated; however, it is fairly involved. Frédéric suggested perhaps a bundle requirement; containerized way to execute the TCK?

Recommendation to initially focus on Java language support as that is where the expertise lies

in the working group and get it done quickly improving support of other languages later.

### Spec Project Timeline

Conversion has started; initial CQ to be created the week of June 22, 2020, push into GitHub next week. Week of June 22, 2020 arrange an initial call with the committers to kickoff development. Developers are new to Eclipse which could determine effectiveness as committers to the project.

### Target Date of Release One

Dependent upon the TCK effort and how quickly the group comes together and gets working. Important for the Steering Committee to give the committers time and resources needed to contribute to both the spec project and Tahu.

### Feedback on Messaging and Website

Christie Witt of the Eclipse Foundation was invited to the meeting to review/deliver feedback as a designer on the existing wireframes with the Committee in order to translate it to running on the website.

Discussion followed covering the following areas:

Like of new diagrams, keep top right menu, remove some elements

Mission statement reworked around the three points

Placement of join membership button. "Join Us" needs to be defined to bring people in to understand specification and project before focusing on the charter. Join Calls in the future Join Us or Learn More button - one page could answer both of these requests (learn more; then join us; hand in hand. The three steps speak to both of these.

Event section could be on join us page

Landing Page then move to more information and sub pages; clear and concise message - Why, what is expected of me and how do I move forward if interested...

FAQ? Newcomers? Learn More? Ian and Jeff will work on the prototype and then bring back to the Committee. Ian suggested not to write a lot of text but provide a guide to discover relevant information. Ian will provide a draft of key links that could be then layed out.

[Webinar recording leading to Whitepaper Creation](#)



It was suggested that Arlen tell the story via a webinar and then use a ghostwriter to write the whitepaper based on the webinar.

Break it out into a 10 minute sections vs 1 hour; powerful assets when broken out

Eclipse Foundation can host the webinar and external partners could write the white paper to accelerate the process.

Arlen will develop some content and put on Agenda for the next call.

This was challenged from the point of view of what is marketable sooner. Potential to use the existing December 9th webinar, chop it up into seven minute sections and get that out there now. Keeping in mind the audience; younger generations are not interested in reading whitepapers; however providing video clips of little nuggets would be engaging.

Christie indicated the Eclipse Foundation marketing could help with intro for each of the videos (visual jingle). She will require source files and video introduction to be posted. Diversity of the membership spans from 20 - 65 years of age).

Should IoT have its own YouTube channel or use the general Eclipse Foundation channel? To be discussed at the next meeting.

Intellectual property of the icons used in the wireframe was discussed and the fact the News api does not support icons so modifications could be required. If use of external icons, licensing information would need to be provided to ensure compliance. Jeff reminded the html provided was never meant to be used. Marketing and Webdev may feel free to spin/touch everything.

It was agreed to clean up messaging at this time to match wireframe as much as possible and get the redesign worked into the Webdev team's schedule.

**Meeting Adjourned.**