

DRAFT

Long Term Support (LTS) Program

Eclipse Foundation

Version 1.0 Board
15-October-2010

Vision Statement

*“As Eclipse is entering the mainstream, **long-term support and maintenance** is becoming increasingly important to both consumers and adopters. The Eclipse Foundation is working to build an ecosystem to ensure these long term requirements are satisfied.”*

Executive Summary

- There is a clear need for LTS in many organizations, for many Eclipse Projects
- There is a burgeoning Ecosystem of organizations and Individuals capable of providing LTS
- The Eclipse Foundation can create value for this ecosystem:
 - By creating a matchmaking service
 - Coordinating LTS consumers and providers
 - Managing IT infrastructure for development, build, signing and distribution
 - Managing the IP process of these relationships

The Challenge

- Major release each June
 - SR1 Release in September
 - SR2 Release in February
- There are no SR3, SR4, (etc), releases – a new major platform releases each year
 - Organizations requiring support for a specific release beyond a year need to find a third party to do so, or do it themselves
 - Meanwhile, new development and patches occur only on the latest major release stream

Challenges in Current Approach

- Little/No co-ordination between Support Offering Companies, Support Offering Individuals, Self Service IT Teams
- No centralized builds, bug tracking, SCM, code signing, downloads
 - All new development happens in new streams, so organizations needing LTS on old streams, need to do it themselves.
 - Each consumer is investing heavily in redundant infrastructure and processes

IPzilla

Bugzilla

Contributions
& Patches

SCM

Builds

Signing

Release &
Download

Git clone of
main SCM repos



Contributions
& Patches

SCM

Builds

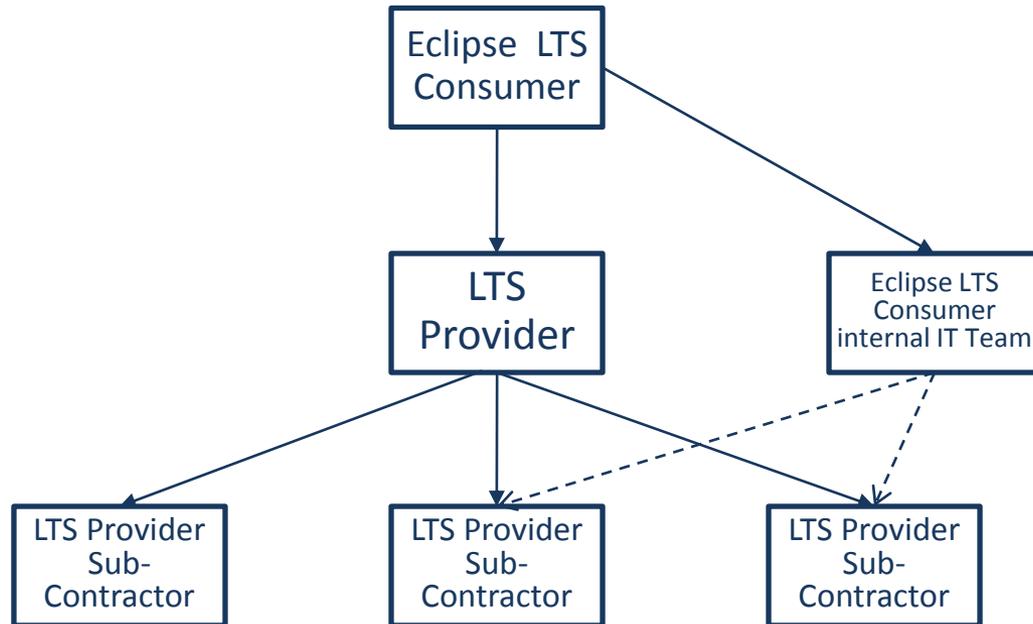
Signing

Release &
Download

**New
Infrastructure
Required**

Private
Infrastructure

Value Chain & Choices



1. Matchmaking Service

- Create an "Eclipse LTS" brand that is restricted to LTS providers, and uniquely identifies offerings originating from the LTS program
- Maintain a database of qualified LTS suppliers
 - Must be an Eclipse Foundation Member
 - Must have a committer on relevant eclipse projects, or be able to prove competency with the technology
 - Must be certified as qualified to use the Eclipse LTS IT Infrastructure by completion of test proving competency. This will include competency with the SCM, Build and Release processes as well as understanding the IP Policies, code signing and download processes.
- Promote LTS suppliers on relevant eclipse.org properties and channels
- Provide a personalized service to prospective LTS users to help them find the most suitable LTS providers
- Organize a twice annual general meeting of LTS users and providers to discuss new improvements in the Ecosystem and as a way to increase matchmaking

2. IT Infrastructure (1 of 2)

- **SCM** - The SCM infrastructure must be well suited to managing multiple versions of the Eclipse projects, and able to merge, tag and manage these versions with relative ease. It must be able to scale to potentially dozens of large LTS providers.
- **Builds and Signing** - A key benefit to participants in the LTS program is the ease of which new builds may be created. The LTS infrastructure will support the ability to create new signed builds with relative ease.

2. IT Infrastructure (2 of 2)

- Testing and QA - Detailed unit testing and UI testing are beyond the scope of the services provided by the LTS program, but the ability for LTS providers to build and run unit tests as part of the overall infrastructure must be provided.
- Release and Download - LTS providers and users will need access to their builds within their own organization, and the LTS infrastructure will support this distribution.

3. Licensing and IP Services

- Binaries created as part of the LTS build infrastructure will **not** be EPL, but instead will be a license drafted in such a way as to restrict use to the qualified participants, but allowing LTS providers flexibility downstream. Also, the EPL requires that derivative works make source available even when binaries are licensed under different terms.
- To support these IP requirements, the Eclipse Foundation will:
 - Ensure the LTS IT infrastructure and processes can easily push derivative works back to the common build and bug tracking system.
 - Create a new Binary distribution license and IP Processes that addresses the needs of the LTS ecosystem

Key Checkpoints

- The following represent key checkpoints that need to occur on the path of launching this program:
 - There must be at least two key customers and LTS providers willing to fund the creation of the program and infrastructure
 - There must be support from the Platform project to create a build environment hosted at the Eclipse Foundation
 - There must be a suitable binary license available or created to satisfy the IP requirements of the LTS program

Conclusions and Next Steps

- The Eclipse Foundation is seeking feedback from prospective Consumers, MSP and PSP organizations
- Our goal is to have a detailed program in place and formal launch for EclipseCon 2011