Laszlo Eclipse Frameworks

Eclipse Technology Project

Project Creation Review

August 12, 2005

Laszlo Eclipse Frameworks Summary

- Creates eclipse frameworks to support rich internet client applications, such as OpenLaszlo
- Proposed for incubation as an Eclipse Technology Subproject
- Sponsoring Entities: IBM and Laszlo Systems
- Project Name: Laszlo Eclipse Frameworks

Key Objectives

- Create an extensible eclipse framework to support OpenLaszlo and other rich client platforms, with full support for visual editing, refactoring, and debugging.
- Create a framework that can be extended to support new language features, or other XML/script-based rich internet markup languages, such as XUL or Xforms.
- Create a framework that can be extended with third-party components by leveraging the existing protocols that support visual editing and debugging.

Key Features

- Leverage the Structured Editor capabilities within the web tools project to create a schema-like XML file that would define the rich editing capabilities for the grammar.
- Integrate XML tags and scripting, while maintaining an internal model of the script that will be kept in sync with the XML model.
- Create a SWT renderer that would interpret LZX tags (the OpenLaszlo language) into Eclipse SWT, generating the corresponding controls, and handling actions appropriately.

Community Response

- Eclipse newsgroup has light traffic, but all comments are positive

- IBM is offering its IDE for Laszlo as an initial code base. There have been over 14000 downloads of IDE4Laszlo from the www.alphaworks.ibm.com site.

Initial Implementation Focus

- Support updates and new functionality in the OpenLaszlo platform
- LZX rendering of SWT
- Performance enhancements

Extension Points

- Ability to “plug-in” a different grammar defined in XML, such as XForms or XUL
- Ability to add visual components and component libraries, by extending the framework to accept UI representations of new components.
- Ability to create custom property editors for runtime visual components
- Ability to create debugging tools based on the remote debugger protocol, enabling the design of APIs to “plug-in” existing debugging tools

Project Participants

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Thank You