Creation Review:
Eclipse Packaging Project (EPP)

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Background

- **The Eclipse Platform SDK is the most popular download offering**
  - when Eclipse was young, this was almost everything that Eclipse.org had to offer
  - today Eclipse is offering tools from A (AspectJ) to W (Web Tools Platform) in more than 60 projects

- **Developers are interested in downloading tools that may differ quite a bit from the SDK download**

- **Developers generally prefer a single download to get started**
  - this is especially important for developers that are new to Eclipse

Create entry level downloads based on defined user profiles

– Improve the usability and out-of-box experience of developers

– The project will define an initial set of user profiles that will specify the requirements for a particular download package.

- Examples: Java Developer, Java EE Developer, C/C++ Developer, RCP Developer

Provide an installer for multiple platforms

– The original proposal had asked for contributions in this area

– Focus is initial delivery of an Eclipse based applications

– The Packaging project aims for building installers for all platforms supported by all the Eclipse projects

- in the Europa time-frame we concentrate on installers for the Windows and the Linux platform

Provide a platform that allows the creation of packages (zip/tar, installable downloads) from an update site

The EPP project goal is to provide ready-to-install packages.

- **Extending an existing Eclipse installation, other aspects of provisioning, and extending the Eclipse Update Manager is not part of this project.**

- **Creating a general purpose multi platform install framework with all bells and whistles.**

User Community

- **Many positive comments in the eclipse.org.technology.packaging newsgroup**

- **Proposal has led to community involvement**
  - Instantiations will contribute code (install framework) and developers
  - Eclipse platform team will provide guidance on PDE packager

- **2 conference calls to refine the project scope**

Initial committers

- Markus Knauer (Innoopract): Project Lead
- Dan Rubel (Instantiations): Co-Project Lead
- Leif Frenzel (Innoopract)
- Elias Volanakis (Innoopract)
- Mark Russell (Instantiations)
- Alexander Kazantsev (xored software)

Interested parties

- Pascal Rapicault (IBM): Advisor
- Thomas Hallgren (Buckminster Project)
- Henrik Lindberg (Buckminster Project)

- **Definition of the final packaging architecture is part of the initial project phase**
  - Re-using existing functionality is a key element

- **If possible the packaging platform itself and the EPP tools will be built upon the PDE build and packaging features**

- **The initial installer will based on the code contribution of the Instantiations installer framework**

Code Contribution

- **Instantiations plans to contribute the source code of their install framework**

- **Information of its features can be found in the packaging newsgroup**
  - "Re: Eclipse Install Manager" - 2007-01-08 - Dan Rubel
  http://www.eclipse.org/newsportal/article.php?id=28&group=eclipse.technology.packaging#28

- **Additional information about the install framework**
  - Installer Framework API docs
  http://downloads.instantiations.com/RCPPackagerDoc/integration/latest/docs/html/toc.html

Roadmap

- **2007-02 0.5M1: initial definition of entry level downloads**

- **2007-03 0.5M2: basic implementation of EPP platform**

- **2007-05 0.5M3: feature complete for Europa release**

- **2007-06 0.5: beta available for all Eclipse projects**