Eclipse Development Process: Reality

September 20, 2007

Eclipse Development Process

- http://www.eclipse.org/projects/dev_process/
- Cross-linked single Process document and a set of Guidelines and Advice

- Structure of Projects
- Phases of Projects
- Reviews for Phase transitions
- Open Source principles

Contents

EDP: Like A Reality TV Show

- Goal of Eclipse Development Process (the EDP):
  - to codify what we, the community, think is important
- Corollary:
  - What are we are willing to enforce for the good of the community?

- Successes:
  - Mentors for improved project quality
  - Release Reviews for ensuring IP cleanliness
  - Open and transparent committer elections

- Goal:
  - Reality, not fiction

Good Reality Shows Have Conflict and Failure

- Reviews

- Diversity

- Sub-Projects

The Reality of Reviews

- Last year we extended the Reviews from one week to two weeks to enable greater community involvement:
    - one week of slides reviewed by the community,
    - the conference call,
    - then one week of voting by the community

- **Cost:** more complexity and delay for the project teams

- **Reality:** In 17 reviews held in the last nine months (including the big Europa review of 20 projects) there was only one vote from the (non-committer) community

- **Proposal:** return to previous mechanism of conference call only and no voting. Community members can still provide feedback via email lists or on the call.

The Reality of Diversity

- The EDP says that "Projects **must** have the diversity goals to ensure diversity of thought and avoiding relying on any one company or organization."

- The EDP says "Project are **required** to explain their diversity efforts and accomplishments during Reviews."

- **Reality:** None of the last three Reviews (post-Europa) have had goals or explanation of efforts and yet the community approved all three.

- **Conclusion:** The community does not really care about diversity (if we aren't enforcing it, then we don't really care).

- **Proposal:** remove the "must" and "required" language from the EDP, replace it with "are encouraged to" and "should". We all think diversity is a good idea, but not enough to stop Reviews.

The Reality of Sub-Projects

- "The Eclipse Projects are organized hierarchically. The top of the hierarchy are the set of **Top Level Projects**. Each Top Level Project contains zero or more **Projects** (for linguistic clarity, Projects as often referred to as Sub-Projects). Projects may contain one or more **Components**. Components are dependent, managed by the enclosing Project, and *do not have independent release schedules*."

- **Reality:** Some projects have a deeper hierarchy, i.e., components that are really sub-sub-projects. Modeling is a prime example, as are many of the larger Technology projects: OHF, COSMOS, Aperi, …

- **Reality:** Some projects are using components to get around the new project cumbersome creation reviews.

- **Question:** Do you (the members) care about the level of nesting? If you care about notifications, at what granularity and how would we make that work with the realities of technology evolution and agile development?

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The Reality of Your Opinion

- What's your opinion?

- Reviews?
  - Return to one week of public review and a conference call?

- Diversity Explanations?
  - Replace "required" with "encouraged"?

- Sub-Projects?
  - Allow sub-sub-projects? If not, how not?