



Accessibility Tools Framework (ACTF) 0.5 Release Review

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- The Accessibility Tools Framework (ACTF) is a Technology sub-project in the incubation phase
 - <http://www.eclipse.org/actf>
- ACTF aims at providing an extensible and comprehensive framework for accessibility tools.
- This is the first release on Eclipse.org and includes
 - Validation SDK
 - Visualization SDK
 - Alternative Interface SDK

- Validation components
 - Provide extensible accessibility validation features with initial support for HTML, OpenDocument Format (ODF), Flash, Java Swing, Eclipse SWT, and accessibility APIs such as Microsoft Active Accessibility (MSAA) and IAccessible2.
 - Developers can customize validation rules by using XML configuration files or through Java APIs.
- Visualization components
 - Provide reusable view components for creating accessibility evaluation tools.
 - Provide a visual representation of the usability of content or applications for People with Disabilities (PwD).
- Alternative interface components
 - Provide middleware components to make multimedia content controllable via alternative input methods, to add audio descriptions or captions, and to transform user interfaces by using external metadata.
- Infrastructure components
 - Provide comprehensive and unified access mechanisms for the user interfaces of applications and for the object models of various kinds of content.
 - Provide middleware to manage components and dataflow in the framework on top of the Eclipse platform.

- Documentation
 - APIs have Javadoc.
 - Extension points have a reference document.
 - Validation SDK includes documentation in downloads.
 - Other SDK documentation will be published on the Eclipse.org website and be included in the downloads in the next (0.6) release.
- Publication
 - There was one short talk and two long talks about ACTF at EclipseCon08.
 - Some developer's guide documents were published on the actf-dev mailing list. These documents will be available on the website.

- APIs conform to Eclipse Quality Standards
 - All APIs are currently provisional
 - ACTF plans to freeze the APIs after reflecting community feedback

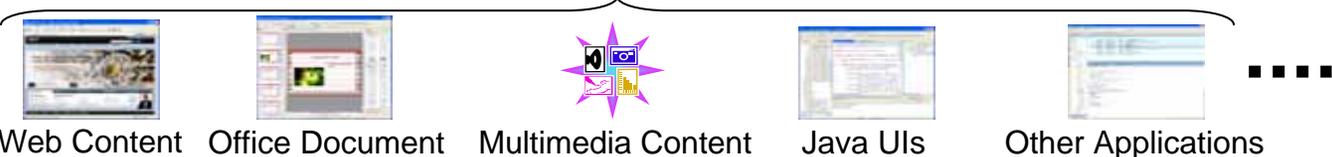
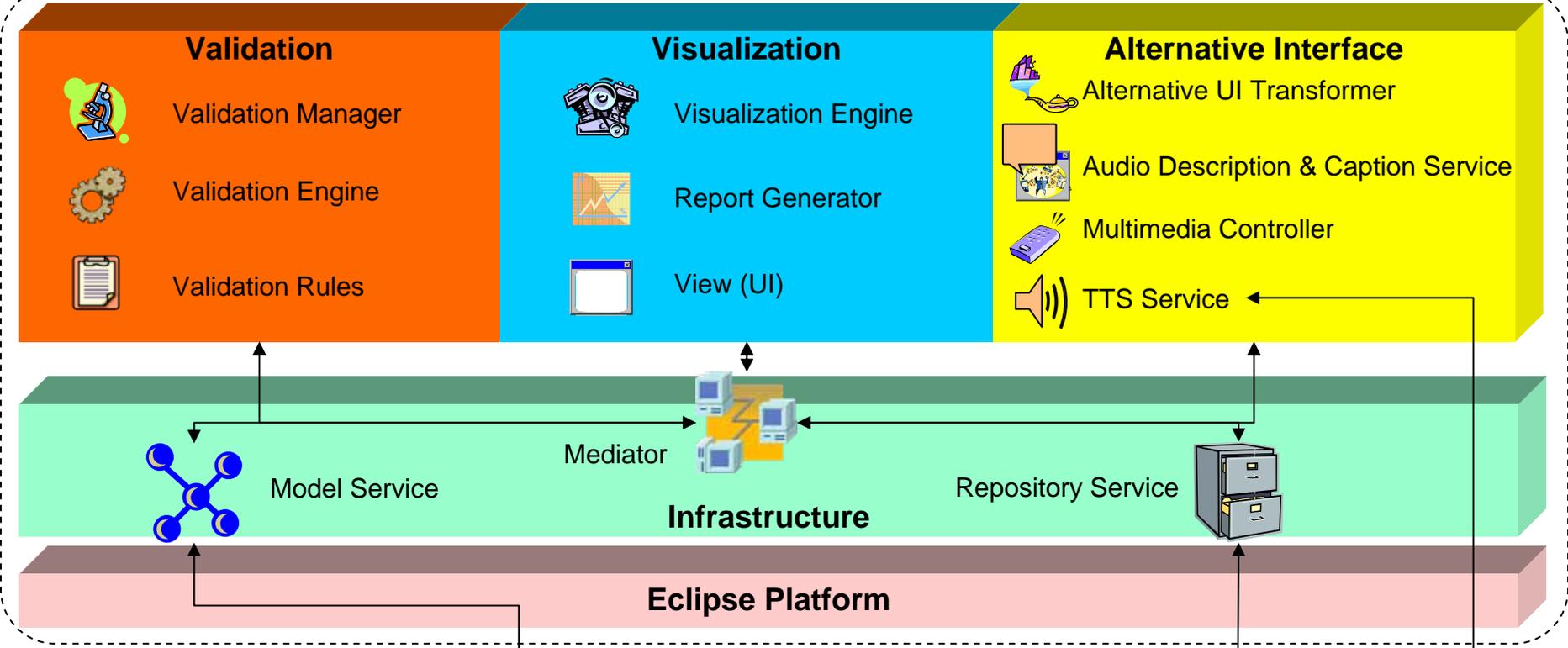
- Several examples have been tested

Allow developers to build various types of accessibility tools on top of ACTF.

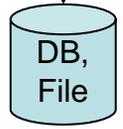
Tools and Runtimes on top of ACTF



Accessibility Tools Framework (ACTF)



Existing Applications and Content



Existing TTS Engines

- Easy integration into Eclipse by providing several extension points, reusable and customizable view components, etc.
- Several kinds of exemplary tools are available
 - Accessibility API probe tool implementation: AccProbe
 - Accessibility visualization tool implementation: aDesigner
 - Alternative interface implementation for multimedia content: aiBrowser
 - etc.
- Ongoing enhancements and new use cases
 - New visualization tool that automatically analyses a webpage with respect to its visual complexity and shows the complexity as a heatmap.
 - New validation tool to validate pages for both accessibility and mobile friendliness.
 - Please visit the RIAM project page for more details (Reciprocal Interoperability of Accessible and Mobile Webs, <<http://hcw.cs.manchester.ac.uk/research/riam/>>)

- Since this is the first release, there are no features that are designated for end-of-life in this release.

- Statistics from October 2007 through September 29th 2008
 - 130 bugs created (including initial contributions)
 - 96 were resolved

- Current Status
 - 34 bugs (including 11 enhancements)
 - 1 major bug (for exemplary tool not for platform)

- ACTF requires Java 1.5 or later and Eclipse 3.3.x or later
- W3C HTML 4.01 recommendation (and older recommendations 3.2, 4.0)
 - HTML model component
- OASIS Open Document Format v1.1 (approved)
 - ODF model component

UI Usability

- ACTF follows Eclipse User Interface Guidelines

- ACTF 0.6 planned for December, 2008 (tentative)
 - Next release goals
 - Refinement of APIs
 - Complete Documentation

- ACTF 1.0 targeted for June, 2009
 - Key goals
 - Exit incubation
 - Freeze APIs as Platform API

- Active Bugzilla
 - mainly by committers (since no release available yet)
 - some from exemplary tool users

- Active discussions on the mailing list and in monthly calls.

- Newsgroup is not much used yet, but is regularly monitored by committers.



Plans for community growth

- Focus on community outreach
 - Hold an ACTF introduction session at accessibility conferences
 - Planned at ACM ASSETS, October 13-15, in Halifax, Canada.
 - Publicize ACTF release on mailing lists, such as
 - W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), Mozilla Developers ML, WebAIM, Google Accessibility Group, etc.
 - Contact related companies and invite them to join the community
 - Provide more documentation and examples
- Start discussions with other Eclipse projects
 - Contribute HTML model components to Web Tools Platform (WTP)
 - Contribute Validation components to Java Development Tools (JDT), WTP
 - Discuss Eclipse Accessibility Guide with User Interface Best Practice Working Group
- Start community implementation of check logic for coming accessibility guidelines
 - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, new Section 508, etc.

- The code has been committed by individuals who are either committers of the project themselves or by their organizations.
- Approved IP Log at
 - http://www.eclipse.org/actf/iplog/actf_ip_log_050.html
- IP Log up2date at
 - http://www.eclipse.org/actf/actf_ip_log.html
- Project released under EPL

Thank you!