

July 11th, 2024 - Eclipse IDE WG Minutes

Agenda Topics	Moderator	Minutes
9:30 - Day 1 debrief - 30' - all		
10:00 - Updates from conferences / EF all staff & experiences from outside & Growth opportunities - target group, locations (RCP, Modeling, Java IDEs) - 1h - Max, Heiko, Thomas		
11:15 - Statements of the steering committee members (expectations, strategy updates,...) - 1h - all (contributing), Mark (facilitating)		
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13:45 - We need support for GTK4, JakartaEE, What else - 30' - all		
14:45 - Planning Council news - 15' - Mark		
15:15 - Next steps & OCX preparation - 45' - all		
AOB: 14:15 - Release engineering insights, what is not obvious - 30' - Ed		

Minute Taking Roster

If you cannot attend the meeting, please arrange for your alternate to take over.

- Jonah (11th June)
- Imran (25th June)
- Manuel / Frederic
- Jörg / Hartwig
- Titouan (30th April)
- Manoj / Andrew 😊 (14th May)
- John (28th May)

- Sebastian / Yannic
- Max / Johannes
- Martin
- ~~Mark (11th July)~~

Attendees

Steering Committee Members:

Number of Seats 11 / Quorum is 50% of Committee / Passing a resolution is > 50% of quorum present

- Manoj Palat / Andrew Tram (IBM)
- **Sebastian Ratz / Yannic Soethoff/ Thomas (SAP)**
- Manuel Bork / Frederic Ebelshäuser (Yatta)
- Jonah Graham (Planning Council Chair)
- **Mark Goodchild / William Riley (Renasas)**
- Abdul Rahiman Imran / Harald Mackamul (Bosch)
- Johannes Matheis / **Max Kramer** (Vector)
- Titouan Vervack / Mark Christiaens (Sigasi)
- Jörg Kubitz / Hartwig Brandl (SSI Schaefer)
- **Martin Lippert** (VMware - Supporter Representative - Elected)
- John Dallaway (Committer Representative - Elected)

Supporter Members:

- Remi Schnekenburger (EclipseSource)

Other Attendees:

- **Thomas Froment** (Eclipse Foundation)
- Paul Buck (Eclipse Foundation)
- Sharon Corbett (Eclipse Foundation)
- Thabang Mashologu (Eclipse Foundation)
- Ed Merks (Eclipse Foundation, Sim Rel Engineer)
- John Kellerman
- Miro Sponemann (Guest)
- **Rudediger Hillenbrand (ETAS)**

Minutes for July 11th, 2024

9:30 - Day 1 debrief - 30' - all

Thomas: Attending the meeting on vision. Interesting discussion - perception of this discussion at the end of the meeting we have different visions in the working group. What is our objective? We must communicate this outside of the working group more effectively.

Discussion of the difference between companies wanting to keep the IDE and platform alive. Also those that are actively interested in making the IDE great.

We all agree that we need JDT. SAP wants a sustainable platform we can all build in and we need a thriving ecosystem. The Java tooling is important because this is the vast majority of the community.

Action: Need to work on this action and promotion of the working group materials. Including our mission statement for the working group. Need to be more precise - we are talking about the RCP platform and when we talk about the IDE we mainly mean Java. (Thomas?)

Special interest group again mentioned for Java tools.

Rudediger if it were the most popular then it would be easier to get more budget and investment. Bosch's main IDE is still Eclipse.

We have companies that depend on the RCP platform, IDE platform and Java tooling. The platform is the common part.

"Become the best Open Source Java IDE in 5+ years?"

"The leading Open Source Platform to build applications and tools?"

The IDE working group does not have Java IDE representation around our table. Red Hat is not interested in the IDE but they are interested in JDT/LSP.

Martin thinks we should embrace the change to LSP not try to fight it. SAP has noted that the LSP implementation is not enough today. User experience is lacking with LSP today.

Language specific features that are really advanced are not supported by LSP. For example, advanced refactoring features cannot be supported by LSP.

Thomas wondered about the strategy - will the LSP improvement part be done in Java or instead within a VS Code extension. Should be IDE agnostic inside the LSP.

Special interest group for LSP could be a good solution to bring IDE and LSP developers together.

Action: Consider creation of a IDE/LSP special interest group.

Thomas summary from the outside and target group locations:

They do not feel an urgency to contribute to the Eclipse IDE WG & ecosystem even if they use it for their products, due to:

- 1) Its maturity and stability
- 2) The fact that they have little or no budget to maintain what they consider legacy technology.

They didn't realize at all, even after reading the WG Charter, that "Eclipse IDE" is the place to discuss the sustainability of their RCP-based product or their Modeling tools

It would be quite insightful to broaden the conversation if the working group also served as a platform not only to discuss the sustainability of legacy technologies but also to engage with other companies concerned with digital transformation of sw toolchains, and the transition strategies between Desktop-based and Cloud-based toolchains. Btw, it's mentioned that the budgets for teams responsible for these topics are likely to be substantially higher.

Suggestion for another goal: "Transform/Modernize IDE Toolchains & RCP-based applications into..."

Ed: This topic could be within the Eclipse Cloud Tools group.

For each of our target groups we should have a sentence that describes our clear objective.

Also some information on the work we are currently doing to achieve that.

Martin will draft these,

Some discussion about the groups that then might exclude companies. For example companies creating modeling tools.

Conference update: (Johannes slides - Heiko presents)

- Javaland 2024
 - Only 10 attendees
- Karlsruher Entwicklertag 2024
 - 10+ attendees - not so many Java developers.
- SDV Community Day
 - No interest
 - EF - SDV interested in creating a strategy
- Java Forum Stuttgart
 - Still to come

Convincing people outside of the community is hard.

Too many mixed topics - RCP, IDE, Java, Modeling, etc.

Not familiar with open source.

Eclipse IDE update: (Johannes slides - Heiko presents)

Reactivated the community.

Eclipse Foundation is more involved and optimistic. Positive comments towards the Eclipse IDE WG activities

Not so many newcomers/ companies and contributors.

Many active contributors but mainly the older companies we know about.

New RCP products.

<https://www.jrebel.com/blog/best-java-ide>

Put up sample products on the IDE webpage that are built on Eclipse IDE or RCP.

We should look at the members of the dev call and also the community call.

Thomas presented the IDE "state of the nation" at the board meeting. Board meeting will support this. So the EF will support a marketing push when we are ready to show something.

Timing might be when we have:

- New SAP theming
- Flat icons
- Better search

- HiDPI

Having the initial look and feel changes might be enough.

Agree we need a strategy on this coordination and marketing push.

Company updates:

Vector:

- Vector - funds not 100% secured for 2025
- Core group remains together and in spirit of trust
- Visible improvements coming now in 2024-09 and 2024-12.
- Initiative 31 picking up speed - implementation path not discussed yet.
 - Discuss Initiative 31 at OCX/EclipseCon.
- Companies for new business and that earn money in the ecosystem are missing
- Hard to find new companies.

To reach our objectives we need more resources and investments.
For example, the development plan for Initiative 31 will be needed.

- Application trends:
 - Run everywhere.
 - Daily deployments.
- Eclipse RCP and IDE relevant for next 5 years at least.
- Investment level next year.
- Heading towards keeping it running.
 - Investment not enough for radical changes.
 - Adjust the WG strategy to try and obtain new members.
- Adjust strategy of the WG:
 - JDT -> SIG
 - Maintenance of RCP->SIG
 - Modeling not represented - call to action
 - Highlight Initiative 31 results - search for investments
- Secured invests for adjusting to application trends a game-changer
 - E.g. Migration to Skia or comparable.

Communication of Initiative 31 not well understood. We are just prototyping now - when we officially start it will be advertised in the platform project and be in the open. We will start this discussion at OCX conference.

See slide deck for other companies.

Initiative 31

Vector sees this as a game changer.

E.g. Skia and make it more suitable for a long time.

Renesas sees it as important - we need MacOS.

The GTK for Renesas solves most of the issues we are concerned about.

If Skia brought other benefits then of course I would be interested. E.g. Speed, response. Interesting concept that it could perhaps run on the web?

Renesas is concerned about the quality sides of things. Skia based change is likely to introduce large amounts of new problems. How do we intend to maintain the quality?

SAP is interested, especially if performance, customization and flexibility requirements are met.

In the GTK Initiative 31 work we should consider GTK4 as part of this. This makes sense.

GTK4 support partially exists - some widgets are not supported fully. If it was just a "Hello World" project we might already have this.

Original goal to prove that GTK can run on all platforms.

GTK4 porting was not suggested as part of the Initiative 31 project initially.

If GTK4 is not supported then Eclipse products will not run on some Linux distributions.

So this is critical for some companies.

Thomas suggests reaching out to some customers that have Linux based products.

Should reach out to IBM about their interest in GTK4.

Jakarta EE:

Martin thinks if we go down this road then we might find another 20,30,40 projects that also need the help. Martin thinks this problem is out of the scope of the IDE WG.

Heiko mentions that this was seen as a factor of people not using the Eclipse IDE for Java. Another WG is not using the Eclipse IDE and promoting an alternative solution.

Opinion is that Jakarta EE should be responsible for fixing the Eclipse IDE support.

Planning Council update:

Jonah is planning on stopping the planning council lead. This will trigger the process of election. Ideally would be good for an IDE WG member company to take charge of the planning council. Good for roadmap planning and so on.

Next steps and OCX preparation:

Our community day session - no organized slot.
However, I suggest having a BOF session in the evening.
Can we get beer and wine?
Action: Mark to discuss this with Thomas and Anne.

Martin: Swag - avoid again not sustainable swag.

Edge integration:

Thomas - Edge support.
Thomas requests a page where the things that need to be fixed can be tracked.
Coordinate a little better because at the moment there is duplicated effort.
Heiko suggests swapping the default browser on the platform and then see what happens and what problems are happening.
Action: Thomas to create a centralized issue to collect the Edge support issues.

