

Eclipse Packaging Project

Release Review Version 1.4.0

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Abstract: This document contains the Release Review Documentation for the Eclipse Packaging Project (EPP). The 1.4.0 EPP release is scheduled for 2011-06-22 together with the Simultaneous Release of Indigo.

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1 Overview

1.1 Scope and goals of the project

- **Create entry level downloads based on defined user profiles.**
 - Packages that have been removed from the Indigo EPP build on the package maintainers request
 - * Eclipse for PHP Developers
 - * Eclipse SOA Platform for Java and SOA Developers
 - * Pulsar for Mobile Developers
 - New packages with Indigo
 - * Eclipse for Testers: Maintained by the Jubula project.
 - * Eclipse IDE for Parallel Application Developers: Maintained by the PTP project.
 - * Eclipse for Scout Developers: Maintained by the Scout project.
 - EGit is part of several packages (RCP/RAP, Modeling, LinuxTools)
 - The EPP sub-project RTP (Runtime Platform Project) will provide additional Runtime packages.
 - The Eclipse Modeling Tools package does not contain any components from projects in incubation phase any more.

The Indigo EPP packages are provided for the following architecture, platform, and windowing system combinations:

1. Windows 32-Bit, x86
2. Windows 64-Bit, x86_64
3. Linux 32-Bit, x86, GTK
4. Linux 64-Bit, x86_64, GTK
5. Mac OS-X, 32-Bit, Cocoa
6. Mac OS-X, 64-Bit, Cocoa

- **Provide and integrate the EPP Usage Data Collector.** No major change since Helios.
- **Integrate the EPP Marketplace Client.** The Eclipse Marketplace Client from the EPP MPC project is included in all packages.
- **Provide a central build infrastructure for the eclipse.org package builds.** The EPP package builds are running on Hudson and allow early feedback on the content of the simultaneous releases (Europa, Ganymede, Galileo, Helios, Indigo).

Since June 2007, the project delivered packages for all release trains, including Europa, Ganymede, Galileo, Helios and all of their service releases and had millions of downloads.

2 Features

EPP for Indigo in version 1.4.0 includes

- Buckminster build that generates the p2 repository with the package definitions
- build scripts that are used in the nightly package builds
- the UDC (Usage Data Collector) that collects data on an Eclipse client, e.g. an EPP package and sends the data back to the Eclipse Foundation servers.

All EPP components are using the 1.4 version number except the UDC components that did not change in functionality and will stay at 1.3.1. In addition to that there is a discussion about retiring the UDC (see bug 347069: Is it time to retire the UDC?).

3 Non-Code Aspects

3.1 User Documentation

User documentation has been created and updated for this release in the form of web pages or wiki pages (<http://wiki.eclipse.org/index.php/Category:EPP>):

- How-to specify an EPP configuration file
- How-to create the package definition files, package defining feature, branding plug-in
- How-to build your own package
- Package Testing
- Build Infrastructure

3.2 Localization or Externalization

EPP is available for the English language; strings are externalized.

Components in Babel are provided but the team does not translate the strings.

4 APIs

4.1 EPP Packaging

No major change since the last release.

4.2 EPP UDC

No major change since the last release.

5 Architectural Issues

There is a discussion ongoing about different expectations on how and when to update the EPP Packages. See bug 345503: Reconsider patch/update policy for EPP Packages for further details. Depending on the results of this discussion there may be changes in the Indigo service releases in some or all packages.

6 Tool Usability

6.1 EPP Packaging

With millions of downloads in the last years, packages generated by EPP have been proven stable.

The EPP packages are available from the main eclipse.org download page and all community packages from a Drupal driven site.

6.2 EPP Usage Data Collector

More than 100.000 new users of the Packages are sending their UDC data to the Eclipse Foundation every month. More than 200.000 distinct users are uploading their data every month. The results are available from the Eclipse Foundation web pages (<http://www.eclipse.org/org/usedata/>).

7 End-of-Life

- Discussion about retiring the EPP UDC (see bug 347069: Is it time to retire the UDC?)
- The installer that was developed at the very beginning of the project (but never released) will be retired (see bug 346617: CVS cleanup: installer/sfx components).
- The EPP packaging application cannot be supported any more. The project uses now existing technology from Equinox p2.

8 Bugzilla

As of 2011-05-31 there are 612 bugs in technology/epp, 141 listed with status new, assigned, open. Currently there are no blockers, 7 critical bugs.

9 Standards

- The EPP UDC uses Java 1.5, compatible with Eclipse 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7
- The EPP packages use Java 1.5 and are based on Eclipse 3.7.

10 UI Usability

Only the EPP UDC contains UI elements in form of preferences pages.

- Following Eclipse UI usability guidelines
- Usability changes based on users' feedback

11 Schedule

The plan of the Eclipse Packaging Project is always in sync with the release train plans, i.e. the Indigo release train.

The scheduled dates for the Helios release have been met and the packages were released together with the Helios Release in June 2010. Updates have been created and made available for all Helios Service Releases.

For the Indigo release, EPP started to deliver initial packages for Indigo M2, and provided nightly package builds. Since then, EPP delivers all packages for each of the Indigo milestones and release candidates.

12 Communities

- Active committers (6) and contributors from 4 partners (EclipseSource Inc., Eclipse Foundation, Cloudsmith Inc., Instantiations, Xored); see below for committer changes.
- Developer mailing list with about 1500 e-mails (about 500 since Helios), newsgroup with more than 200 messages
- The Eclipse Packaging Project has been mentioned in many blog postings, other mailing lists (e.g. cross-project-issues-dev)
- Participation in the Eclipse Planning Council and in the Eclipse Architecture Council

Recently the project decided to integrate the maintainers of the packages in a lightweight way similar to the Orbit project. One of the prerequisites is an existin committership on another Eclipse project and being a well known member of the respective package community. The election of the existing package maintainers concluded successfully and the project is happy to welcome the following new committers: Cedric Brun (Modeling), Xiaoying Gu (Reporting), Andreas Hoegger (Scout), Andrew Overholt (Linux-Tools), Steffen Pingel (Java), Doug Schaefer (CPP), Beth Tibbitts (Parallel), Markus Tiede (Testing), and David Williams (Java EE and JavaScript).

13 IP Issues

See IP Log at http://www.eclipse.org/projects/ip_log.php?projectid=technology.packaging

List of committers:

- Wayne Beaton - committer since 12/2007
- Henrik Lindberg - committer since 06/2008
- Jordi Bhme Lpez - committer since 06/2008
- Alexander Kazantsev, initial committer
- Markus Knauer, initial committer
- Jeff McAffer - committer since 06/2008
- Mark Russell, initial committer

14 Project Plan

Version 1.4.1 is scheduled for October 2011 (Indigo SR1), version 1.4.2 is scheduled together with Indigo SR2. Both will contain mainly bugfixes and no new functionality.

A detailed plan is not yet available.