



Supplemental Widgets for SWT (Nebula)

Creation Review

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Nebula Goals

- Provide custom/emulated widgets for features not provided by the native operating systems SWT supports.
 - Focus on custom widgets not provided by SWT
 - Support high fidelity RCP development



Nebula Goals (cont)

- Incubator for SWT custom widgets
 - Encourage contributions from the community
 - Manage contributions through a 3 tiered system
 - 1st tier - initial contributions, not officially supported, seeking commitment from contributor and interest from the community
 - 2nd tier – Widget is supported (though not necessarily API frozen), active contributor, significant community interest
 - 3rd tier – ready for inclusion in SWT
 - More formal guidelines to be established
 - Widgets packaged and downloadable separately



Principles

- SWT-friendly (fits like a glove)
 - Follow SWT patterns and paradigms
 - Mimic SWT API
 - Adhere as closely as possible to SWT requirements
 - CLDC
 - Accessibility



Community Response

- From eclipse.technology newsgroup:
 - “Having a house for components in eclipse will largely increase its potential as a candidate for UI/RCP development.” (guy.nirpaz@gmail.com 11/10/05)
 - “I also feel that there is a need for a project like this..” (brian.hudson@ngisystems.com 9/19/05)
 - “I'd like to contribute ...” (roland@videobet.com 12/2/05)
 - “I also would like to express high interest in Nebula” (dsp@bdal.de 2/15/06)
 - “For me it is some kind of "Pimp up your SWT Widget" (michael.krkoska@gmail.com 9/29/05)
- From SWTPlus.com (<http://swtplus.com/wordpress/?p=5#comments>)
 - “Great widgets! A BIG Thanks from all us Eclipse coders out (t)here.”
 - “Cool widgets!!! I hope it become soon open source!”



Initial Contribution

From Chris Gross (personal) and IBM:

- Grid/Spreadsheet
 - Pluggable rendering, hierarchical, row headers, column spanning, more
- Shelf (like GEF Palette, Outlook Bar)
- Pluggable Combo (Tree Combo, Color Combo, etc)
- Attachable auto-complete component
- Expandable Group



Committers

- Chris Gross (IBM)
- Steve Northover (IBM, existing SWT committer)
- Veronika Irvine (IBM, existing SWT committer)

- Will actively encourage community participation
- On-going discussions regarding contribution of existing open source SWT widgets



Timelines

- Fluid timelines
 - Widgets packaged and downloadable separately
 - Nebula project itself is not versioned, only individual widgets
- Official inclusion into SWT proper is the goal of all widgets in Nebula



Thank you

- Questions...