A Look Inside the Java Community Process

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The Java Community Process

- Defines Java SE, Java EE and Java ME
- Open, participatory process
- Driven by collaboration, review, consensus and shared intellectual investment in Java
- Definitely not just for vendors (it used to be)
- Hundreds of specifications, over a thousand members
- “If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” - Isaac Newton
Who can participate?

- Absolutely anyone (individual or company)
- Anyone can register with jcp.org, become an observer, review specifications and provide feedback
- Anyone can sign up to become a JCP Member, join Expert Groups or even create JSRs
- The specification lead decides who can be on an EG
- Be sure to make your case for what you really bring to the table
- Anyone can provide comments at any time
An Expert Group

- Led by one or more specification leads
- Diversity of opinion and broad consensus are sought
- No limit on how many people can be on an EG, but there is a point of diminishing returns
- Communication is usually through an email alias
- There can be conference calls and face-to-face meetings

“Great minds discuss ideas; Average minds discuss events; Small minds discuss people.” - Eleanor Roosevelt
A Specification

- A specification is formalized in a JSR
- A JSR can be created by one or more members
- A JSR will have a specification document
- Each specification will have a free, open reference implementation
- Each specification will have a compatibility test kit (TCK) for independent implementers
- Platform JSRs like Java EE and Java SE are “special”
Specification, RI and TCK Triad

Specification

- Is specification unambiguous?
- Can you build an implementation?

TCK

- Is TCK correct?
- Is RI conformant?

Reference Implementation
The Executive Committee

- Oversees all JSRs (including platform JSRs)
- There are two – one for SE/EE and one for ME
- Voting members serve 3-year terms
- 10 ratified seats, 5 elected seats, and permanent seat for Oracle/Sun
- Approve JSRs, public review drafts, final specifications, reference implementations and test kits
- Members vote on EC membership
The Ecosystem

EC Member

Lead
Lead

Expert Expert Expert Expert

Member Member Member Member Member Member

The Java Community
The Process
The Future

- Oracle takes helm from Sun
- More openness (some JSRs have already shown the way)?
- Licensing issues (mostly with Apache) finally resolved?
- Faster pace of development, more independent JSR releases?
- More participation from individuals?
- IBM continues to stay on-board?
- A little less politics (from surprising sources)?
Summary

- Plays critical part in shaping Java – our shared investment
- Open, participatory, collaborative process
- Anyone can participate by voting, observing, reviewing and providing feedback
- Any one can become an expert or lead a JSR
- Even more open going forward...
- “Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all -- the apathy of human beings.” – Helen Keller
References

- Java Community Process
  - jcp.org

- List of all JSRs

- JCP Process Document

- JCP FAQ