LJC Election Position Paper

Summary: The LJC stands for active developer participation in standards, openness, and transparency, promotion of F/OSS implementations and has no direct commercial interests in any proposed standard.

History & Detailed Position
The London Java Community is a large (~7000) and rapidly growing group of developers who actively meet, discuss and work on the Java ecosystem.

During the time we've been a JCP Executive Committee member, we've actively participated in reforming the JCP process itself and eroding the disconnect between developers and decision makers, through practical programmes and advocacy.

Our original goals were based on a few simple ideas:

1. **Openness and Transparency** are essential for any functioning standards body, and the JCP must be reformed where necessary to achieve this.
2. **Better Standards** are produced when ordinary end-users are fully engaged in the process of producing standards from start to finish.
3. As a user group, we have **no direct commercial interests** in the space.
4. **Open-Source Software** reduces barriers to entry for companies and reduces the cost for non-commercial projects. We, therefore, seek to ensure that zero-cost open-source implementations of all standards are possible, and have the maximum possible patent and IP protection.

If re-elected we commit to:

1. Finishing the JCP reform efforts started in JSR 348 (JCP.next) and JSR 355 (EC Merge) by fixing IP Flow and Licensing issues in JSR 387 (Streamline the JCP).
2. Taking our Adopt-a-JSR programme to the next level by seeding new Adopt-a-JSR teams in JUGs and organizations around the world.

3. Continuing to run AdoptOpenJDK.net to provide free as in use and free as in beer OpenJDK builds for developers.
4. Continue to run and promote workshops, talks and global collaboration by developers on JSRs.
5. Continue to always stand up for the interests of developers and community - including promoting open-source implementations and projects.

Our Committee

The LJC operates a JCP committee. This group is made up of volunteers who have agreed to abide by confidentiality rules, meet their commitments (including time commitments) and to work towards the goals agreed by consensus. The current committee members are Martijn Verburg, Ben Evans, Abraham Marín Pérez, Christo Fogelberg, Daniel Bryant, David Illsley, Ilan Pillemer, Ingo Hoffmann, James Gough, Miguel Bhm, Omar Bashir, Mani Sarkar, Sean Landsman, Daniel Bryant, Somay Nakhal and Susan Goodbody. This enables the LJC to avoid problems related to key person risk - with 16 members on the team.

Openness and Transparency

We believe strongly in openness and transparency:

1. We publish the motivation behind previous voting decisions on the [LJC blog](#) in order to ensure complete transparency and open access.
2. We also publish the minutes of our committee meetings on the blog.
3. We are active promoters of transparency for JSRs. For example, we regularly monitor all JSRs to ensure that they are meeting their obligations in accordance with JCP 2.8 (JSR 348). This means open mailing lists, issue trackers etc.

Advocacy and Adopt-a-JSR

The LJC pioneered the [Adopt-a-JSR](#) program, encouraging developers to actively participate in specifications. Involvement includes everything from trialing beta APIs through to helping define the standard and implementing the Reference Implementation (RI). We are actively involved in the standardization of Jigsaw, the new modularization system for Java and several Java EE 8 specifications. These hack days provide feedback on the usability of new features to the expert group and help prepare developers for upcoming changes to the Java language.

Adopt-a-JSR also highlights to developers the relevance of the JCP and shows how they can impact the language and ecosystem they work with. To achieve this goal, the LJC has run talks, workshops, and advocacy via social media such as Twitter and Java conferences such as JavaOne, Devoxx etc.

Technical Gravitas

As a large organization of technologists, we have expertise throughout the Java Platform, from deep dive tech to blue-chip enterprise development. This gives us great insight into the technical merits of each JSR. Since we seek to represent a broad cross-section of the community, our voting decisions are based not on the opinions of one person, but the consensus of a committee of peers.

In Summary

Four years ago, the London Java Community pledged to improve the openness and transparency of the Java Community Process if elected to the JCP Executive Committee. We promised to help bridge the gap between the decision makers and on-the-ground developers. Our voting record and active participation in the JCP show that we have made real progress towards these goals. In addition, we achieved more than even we imagined by launching and championing Adopt-a-JSR, a program that has both improved feedback to expert groups from developers, and increased involvement from the people who use Java every day in their professional capacities.

If re-elected, we will continue actively improving the openness and transparency of the JCP, and expand our successful programs to voice the needs of developers and communities worldwide.