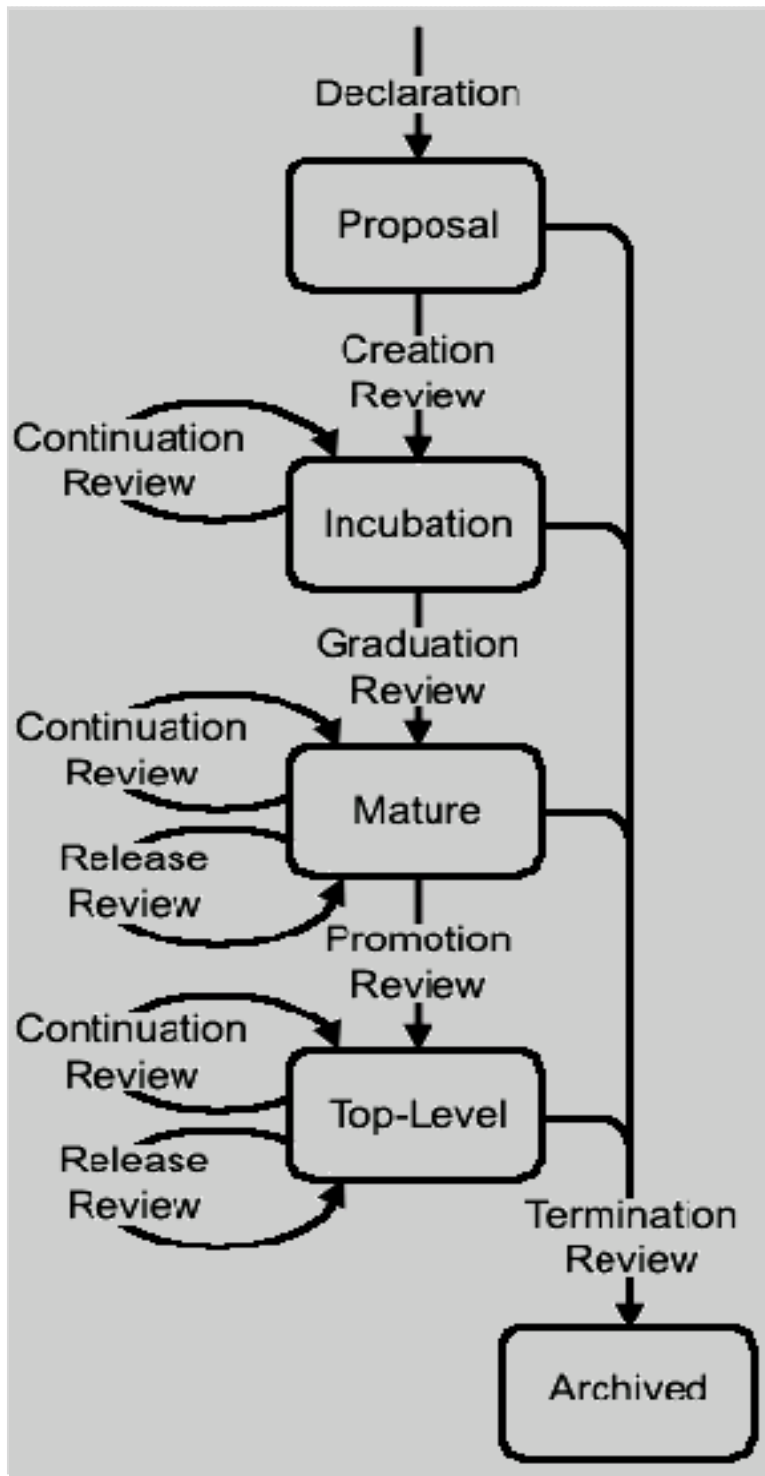# Eclipse Development Process

Release Review Process

Project Lifecycle

Release Types

- Major releases indicate breakage in the API
- Minor releases for "externally visible" changes
- Service releases for bug fixes

$$3.8.2$$

Major Minor Service

Regular Releases

- Mature Eclipse projects produce at least one major release every year

- Some projects release more often
  - Left to the project's discretion: do what's best for the project and community

Release Review

- Comes the end of the release cycle

- Must be completed before a project makes an official release

  - Required for major and minor releases only

  - Not required for service releases

1: Release Plan

- Created at beginning of release cycle
  - Well in advance of the final release date
  - Made available to the community early
- Documents goals, deliverables, milestone dates, target environments, themes, etc.
- A living document
  - Plans change during the release cycle
- Start of a set of "bookends" framing the release cycle

2: Produce Milestone Builds

- Projects produce multiple milestone builds leading up to the final release

  - e.g. 3.8.2M1, 3.8.2M2, 3.8.2RC1, ...

- Intended for the developer community and testing

  - Not generally intended for adoption and general use

  - Adopters use milestones for their own testing/preparation

3: IP Log

- Tracks committers, licenses, consumed third-party libraries, and contributions
- Submitted 1-2 weeks ahead of release date
  - IP Team reviews and approves IP Log for each release
- Compared against project's downloads directory
  - Directory contents compared against IP Log content

4: Review Documentation

- Completes the set of "bookends" with the plan
- Inform the community of features, non-code aspects, APIs, architectural issues, security issues, usability, end-of-life, standards, communities, and IP issues
- Reflection/retrospective

  - "How'd we do?" documentation
  - What did the developers/contributors do well? What can they do better?

5: PMC/EMO Review

- Is release align with the project's scope?

- Is the project following the process?

- Is the project operating in a transparent/open manner?

- Is the project engaging with the community?

    - Activity in community forums

- Are file headers, copyright and license notices in place?

6: Community Review

- Documentation, including IP Log, made available to community for review

  - "Projects" website, Twitter, blogs, etc.

  - Email notification to member and committers

- Minimum of five business days

  - Generally ends on a Wednesday

7: Disseminate Results

- Community is informed of all progress throughout the release cycle

- Project Plan/Review Document

- Bugs/tracking through Bugzilla

- Design/architecture decisions via developer mailing list

- Announcements to community via Forum

Releases are Never a Surprise

- Community members should have ample opportunity to be aware that a release/review is pending

- Open communication in developer mailing list and other forums

- Milestones posted on project website

Links

- Eclipse Projects website

  - http://eclipse.org/projects/

- Eclipse Development Process

  - http://www.eclipse.org/projects/dev_process/development_process.php

- Release Reviews

  - http://wiki.eclipse.org/Development_Resources/HOWTO/Release_Reviews

- Project Plans

  - http://wiki.eclipse.org/Development_Resources/Project_Plan

- IP Log

  - http://wiki.eclipse.org/Development_Resources/IP_Log