Expert Group Transparency

September 25, 2008

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The survey

• We asked 350 spec leads what they are doing/have done to meet their transparency obligations.
  – Almost 50 responded.

• On review, it was clear that several EGs hadn't made any public progress since January 2007 – and often for years before this.
  – The best form of transparency is to publish an update to your spec!
  – Those who had not made progress were excluded from the report.
What is an “active JSR”?

- In January 2008 the PMO prepared a year-end summary
  - We defined an Active JSR as one that had a 'state change' within the previous 12 months.
- Building on this, we reviewed all state-changes since then.
  - Active JSRs have changed state since January 2007.
- We can also distinguish between JSRs that are "active" (in progress, or completed since January 2007) and "in maintenance" (releasing a maintenance update since then).
Responses

• Of 57 active JSRs, 33 (58%) responded.
• Of 18 maintenance JSRs, 6 (33%) responded.
• Approximately 50% response rate.
• Those who did not respond are probably not going *above and beyond* to meet transparency requirements.
  – But some Maintenance JSRs may have thought that this survey did not apply to them.
• Many EGs are trying hard, but we have plenty of opportunity to improve.
• Responses were evenly split across platforms:
Diversion: encouraging agility

- Shine the spotlight on those who move quickly.
- Ask them how they did it and encourage others to follow.
  - JSR 291: 14 months to Final Release - reward agility?
  - JSR 113: 86 months to Final Ballot - reward perseverance?
- Create a new "Inactive" state for JSRs that show no activity within X months?
- Classify JSRs by these states:
  - Under development (activity within X months)
  - In maintenance (complete, but activity within X months)
  - Completed (complete, no activity within X months)
  - Inactive (incomplete, no activity within X months)
Responses (1)

• EG business conducted on a public alias or discussion forum
  – 12 (30%)
• JSR schedule published and regularly updated
  – 6 (15%)
• Regular (eg, monthly) public drafts published
  – 7 (18%)
• Make all JSR feedback accessible to the expert group
  – 17 (44%)
• Spec lead blog with frequent updates on JSR activity
  – 11 (28%)
• EG member names are published
  – 4 (10%)
• Spec, RI, or TCK developed on a collaboration website
  – 24 (62%)
• Public issue-tracking
  – 10 (26%)
• Discussion forums or Wikis
  – 14 (36%)
• Open-source development processes for RI or TCK
  – 19 (49%)
• Community update or observer alias on jcp.org:
  – 7 (18%)
• Other? (primarily speaking at conferences and events)
  – 17 (44%)
How are we doing?
What should we encourage/require?

- The public should know who is on the EG.
- Publicly readable observer alias reporting on EG business.
- JSR schedule should be published and regularly updated.
- Publicly readable discussion forum or Wiki.
- Publicly writeable alias for feedback and comments (feedback provided to the Expert Group).
- Public issue-tracking (spec issues, RI/TCK bugs).
- Spec leads should speak at conferences and events.
- Open-source development processes for the RI and TCK are encouraged but not required.
- The Community Update page at jcp.org should point to all other public communication mechanisms.
How to encourage good behaviour?

• Shine the spotlight on those who do well, and encourage others (by listing them as "non-conformant") to follow.

• Could we require behavioral changes?
  – Only with a JSPA/Process Doc change?

• Other ideas?
  – Rewards/prizes/recognition...
  – What else?

• Next steps?