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In support of my self nomination to an elected position on the JCP as an individual associate:

The involvement of the developer community in helping to shape the future of Java is one of its greatest strengths. With the new release cadence supporting preview features demonstrates Java's desire to evolve. Rather than wait for a new language to appear that meets your needs, the Java community actively pursues changes in Java that keeps it relevant. I'd like to be a part of this exciting process.

First though a warning. I have not been active in the JCP having just joined two years ago. If you feel that the executive should be made up of individuals and companies that have been actively contributing then read no further. Most, if not all, of the candidates will be a better choice than me.

Still reading, then here is why I wish to be elected. There are three areas of future development that I am most interested in. The first is obvious and that is Java's place in education. Currently there are some amazing additions to Java going thru the JCP process. The issue that I see is that most, though not all, are providing advanced features. What I'd hope to encourage and/or evaluate are features that simplify Java coding. The upcoming 'record' class is an example of just such a simplification. Python has gained significant traction in universities, colleges and public schools because it is perceived as simpler to code especially by those, such as data scientists, who have little interest in formal or production quality coding. I'd like to encourage more work in making Java friendlier and more appealing to data scientists, educators and students.

The second issue, it too having Python as its nemesis, is the place of Java in the Machine Learning environment. At Code One I attended a few presentations on this topic. There is definitely work going on, but I am concerned about the pace of development in this area. At one Code One session the problem that was identified was the lack of a Linear Algebra library/framework. I think, possibly misguided, that the JCP should be encouraging development in this area. Java should be a first-class ML language but it clearly is not there yet.

The third and last point is documentation. The documentation created by Oracle always set the gold standard for language docs. The Java Tutorial was without equal. Sadly, it has been left out of the future plans for Java. There was a time I could say to anyone who wanted to learn a little Java to simply follow the Java Tutorial. Even though the tutorial, last updated for Java 8, remains relevant, it is difficult to explain why a tutorial on Java 8 should be looked at when the current version is 13. While I don't believe documentation is associated with the JCP process I am hoping that I can influence whomever I must to recognize that updated docs and tutorials are as important as the 6-month cadence of Java releases.

Everyone running for the JCP executive will do an excellent job if elected. I am probably the least qualified. What I bring is a perspective of an educator. Not a university educator but a technical college educator where my mandate from the Quebec Ministry of Education is to train students for the workplace. If you share my opinions, then I hope that you will vote for me. If you don't then you are still making a good choice.