

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

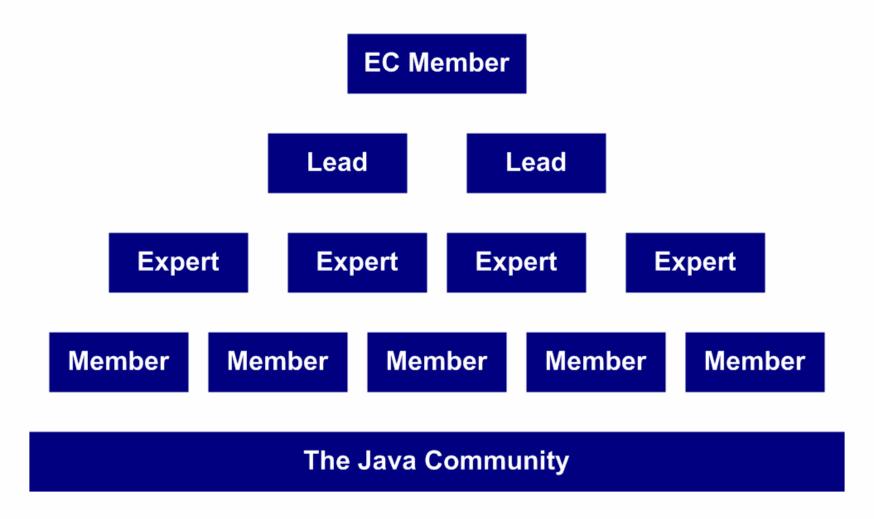
Is specification Unambiguous? Can you build an implementation? Reference Is TCK correct? Implementation Is RI conformant?

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

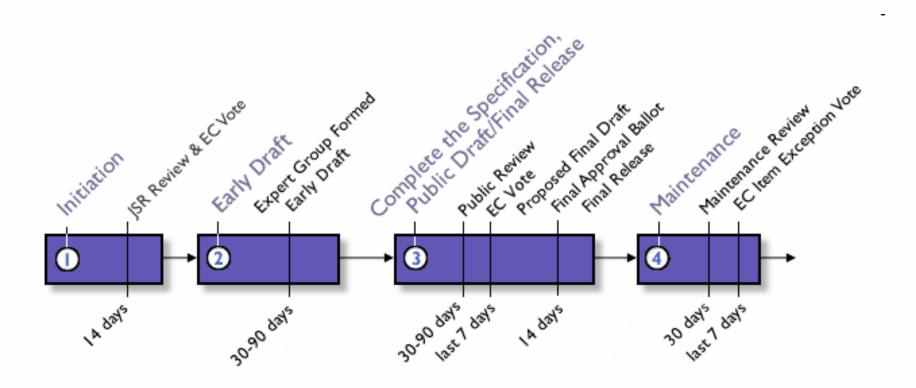


The Ecosystem





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
 - http://jcp.org/en/jsr/all
- JCP Process Document
 - http://jcp.org/en/procedures/jcp2
- JCP FAQ
 - http://jcp.org/en/introduction/faq