



THE ECLIPSE FOUNDATION

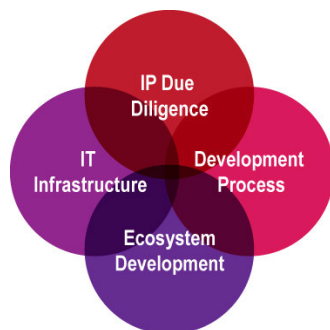
ENABLING THE ECLIPSE COMMUNITY

Eclipse is an open source community, whose projects are focused on building an open development platform comprised of extensible frameworks, tools and runtimes for building, deploying and managing software across the lifecycle. The Eclipse Foundation is a member supported organization that hosts the Eclipse projects and helps cultivate both an open source community and an ecosystem of complementary products and services.

The Eclipse Foundation is funded by annual dues from our members and governed by a Board of Directors. In general, the Foundation provides four services to the Eclipse community: 1) IT Infrastructure, 2) IP Due Diligence, 3) Development Process, and 4) Ecosystem Development. Full-time staff are associated with each of these areas and work with the greater Eclipse community to assist in meeting the needs of the stakeholders.

The Foundation was created in January 2004 as a not-for-profit corporation to act as the steward of the Eclipse community. The Eclipse Project was originally created by IBM in November 2001 and supported by a consortium of software vendors. The independent corporation was created to allow a vendor neutral and open, transparent community to be established around Eclipse. Today, the Eclipse community consists of individuals and organizations from a cross section of the software industry.

Services of the Eclipse Foundation



IT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Eclipse Foundation manages the IT infrastructure for the Eclipse open source community, including CVS/SVN code repositories, Bugzilla databases, development oriented mailing lists and newsgroups, download site and web site. The infrastructure is designed to provide reliable and scalable service for the committers developing the Eclipse technology and the consumers who use the technology..

AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ECLIPSE IS THE FOCUS ON ENABLING THE USE OF OPEN SOURCE TECHNOLOGY IN COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)MANAGEMENT

An important aspect of Eclipse is the focus on enabling the use of open source technology in commercial software products and services. We consciously promote and encourage software vendors to use Eclipse technology for building their commercial software products and services. This is made possible by the fact that all Eclipse projects are licensed under the Eclipse Public License (EPL), a commercial friendly OSI approved licensed.

The Eclipse Foundation also undertakes a number of steps to attempt to ensure the pedigree of the intellectual property contained within Eclipse projects. The first step in the due diligence process is trying to ensure that all contributions are made by the rightful copyright holder and under the Eclipse Public License (EPL). All committers are required to sign a committer

agreement that stipulates all of their contributions are their original work and are being contributed under the EPL. If a committer is 'sponsored' to work on an Eclipse project by a Member organization, then that organization is asked to sign a Member Committer Agreement to ensure the intellectual property rights of the organization are contributed under the EPL.

The second step is that the source code related to all contributions of which are developed outside of the Eclipse development process are processed through the Eclipse Foundation IP approval process. This process includes analyzing selected code contributions to try to ascertain the provenance of the code, and license compatibility with the EPL. Contributions that contain code licensed under licenses not compatible with the EPL are intended to be screened out through this approval process and thus not added to an Eclipse project. The end result is a level of confidence that Eclipse open source projects release technology that can be safely distributed in commercial products.

THE ECLIPSE COMMUNITY HAS A WELL
EARNED REPUTATION FOR PROVIDING
QUALITY SOFTWARE IN A RELIABLE AND
PREDICTABLE FASHION.

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Eclipse community has a well earned reputation for providing quality software in a reliable and predictable fashion. Much of the credit for this is due to the commitment for the committers and organizations contributing to the open source projects. The Eclipse Foundation also provides services and support for the projects to help them achieve these goals.

The Foundation staff help implement the Eclipse Development Process that assist new projects in becoming successful. As part of this process, the Foundation organizes member community reviews for projects to ensure consistent interaction between the projects and the broader membership..

The Eclipse community organizes an annual release train that includes a coordinated release of the

Eclipse projects. The release train makes it easy for downstream consumers to adopt new releases of the projects because 1) all the projects are available on the same schedule, so you don't have to wait for independent project schedules, and 2) a level of integration testing occurs before the final release to help identify any cross project issues.

ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

A unique aspect of the Eclipse community and the role of the Eclipse Foundation is that active marketing and promotion of Eclipse projects and the wider Eclipse ecosystem. To assist in the development of the Eclipse ecosystem, the Eclipse Foundation organizes a number of activities, including co-operative marketing events with Member companies, community conferences (EclipseCon and Eclipse Summit Europe), online resource catalogs (Marketplace and Eclipse Live), bi-annual Members meetings and other programs to promote the entire Eclipse community.

A UNIQUE MODEL FOR OPEN SOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Eclipse Foundation is focused on creating an environment for successful open source projects and to promote the adoption of Eclipse technology in commercial and open source solutions. Through services like IP Due Diligence, annual release trains, development community support and ecosystem development, the Eclipse model of open source development is a unique and proven model for open source development.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Eclipse Foundation and the Eclipse community please view our web site at www.eclipse.org. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Eclipse Foundation please send an e-mail to membership@eclipse.org