

This document is a live, working copy of the Eclipse Science Working Group Charter. It will change. This initial copy, imported January 30th, 2014 is based on a copy provided by Matthew Gerring and Philip Wenig. This PDF is from the April 8, 2014 meeting.

Next steps:

- 1) Merge in any other changes from divergent copies [DONE]
- 2) Andrew will provide a bunch of updates [DONE]
- 3) Circulate draft for any further revisions [Review call April 8, 2014]
- 4) Review meeting, step through & seek approval from stakeholders [ETA end of April, 2014]

Background

In the past 10 years, the Eclipse framework has been recognized for being successfully used and deployed in the IT departments of many enterprises and software companies. However, during the same period of time Eclipse technology has been used to build applications for science, ranging from biology to life sciences, chemistry, physics and other academic applications and large-scale laboratories such as CERN, DESY and Diamond Light Source. In 2012, a small group of scientists that were heavily involved in Eclipse technology as well as in the Eclipse community started an effort to bring together the science communities to learn about the different applications and components build in or with Eclipse. This led to the vision that the organizations can share the effort of building components and re-use components that others have built. After several BoF meetings at EclipseCon, we had a group meeting in Hamburg in June 2012 where interested parties decided to start the Eclipse Science Working Group.

Greg Watson: In the website about page rather than charter.

Purpose

The Science Working Group (SWG), hosted by the Eclipse Foundation, develops reusable open source software for scientific research. The SWG will provide technologies that enables interdisciplinary analysis of scientific data.

Interoperability can be a bottleneck in scientific research, the group will strive to collaboratively develop well defined interfaces, models, definitions, algorithms, and reusable software libraries, services, and applications.

TODO: add a bit more text in here talking about the problem of single use, often poorly implemented scientific software. & why the working group is important.

Jay Billings : Help produce software that can be adopted by industry also.

Scope

The SWG is language and platform agnostic and will consider software in the following domains:

1. Data description / definition
2. Processing of 1D, 2D and 3D data
3. Plotting/Display of 1D, 2D and 3D data
4. Workflow algorithms and their visualization
5. Machine learning

Greg Watson: Include PTP, infrastructure such as job control + parallel processing, parallel debuggers & other important tooling

Jay Billings: We probably need to make the scope include some more text about the physical sciences.

Philip Wenig: The RCP focus early on was on purpose to keep the scope focused. The broader scope represented here makes sense & is fine.

Matt Gerring: Are the changes aimed at recruiting more members or getting things done?

<http://www.allotrope.org> -> collaboration

Philip Wenig: e.g. XYZ code, being open to allow collaboration on other platforms/technologies is very useful.

Connections with other standards & industry groups

The SWG will also work in collaboration with other related groups and Standards organizations in order to avoid fragmentation and duplication of effort.

Governance and Precedence

All SWG members must be parties to the Eclipse Membership Agreement, including the requirement set forth in Section 2.2 to follow the Bylaws and then-current policies of the Eclipse Foundation.

Online voting will be used as a mechanism for the steering committee to make decisions. A vote may be organized by any member. Voting rights are described below. A vote is a way of gauging preference of active members of the group.

Jay Billings: e.g. Participating under the current version of the charter, once accepted/approved, should be binding.

Matt Gerring: Not sure the difference is clear. The rules must be followed, or people choose to not participate.

Matt Gerring: Another example, say hypothetically we decide citing group members in publications is required. How would this be binding?

Jay Billings: (paraphrasing) We'd be crazy to implement nutty rules. :-) Agreed regarding rules we can't possibly enforce.

Greg Watson: The only enforcement we have is expulsion from the group. Fostering trust is so important & a key value in the community.

In the event of any conflict between the terms set forth in this SWG Charter and the Eclipse Foundation Bylaws, Membership Agreement, Eclipse Development Process, Eclipse Working Group Process, or any policies of the Eclipse Foundation, the terms of the Eclipse Foundation Bylaws, Membership Agreement, process, or policy shall take precedence.

Applicable documents

- Eclipse Bylaws
- Working Group Process
- Eclipse Membership Document
- Eclipse Development Process
- Eclipse IP policy

TODO, we'll hyperlink these in the actual charter once posted.

Participation guidelines and membership

Guest Members

Guest members are persons of note that are invited by the Steering Committee to participate for a 1 year term with the following obligations. Guest membership is intended as a prelude to full

participation, or for organizations that would find annual dues onerous.

Guest members are required to:

- Be an Eclipse Foundation member in good standing.
- Regularly participate in the Working Group meetings.

Guest members are non-voting members.

Participating Members

Participant Members are organizations that view the SWG technology as an important part of their organization's activities. These organizations want to participate in the development of the ecosystem.

Participating members are required to:

- Be an Eclipse Foundation member at Strategic, Enterprise or Solution level in good standing.
- Regularly participate in the Working Group meetings.
- TODO: Vote, but non-Steering committee

Steering Committee Members

Steering Committee Members are organizations that view SWG technology as strategic to their organization and are investing resources to sustain and shape the activities of this group.

Steering committee member are required to:

- Be a Strategic, Enterprise or Solutions member of the Eclipse Foundation in good standing.
- Provide at least 2 full-time equivalent resources, on an annualized basis, that contribute to the activities of the group. The activities can include:
 - committers working on Eclipse open source projects that support the group's roadmap
 - creation of roadmaps and technical documents (including, for example, architectures, blueprints and best practices) supporting the group's work
 - evangelism and community development for the working group and
 - other activities agreed to by the Steering committee
- Participate in the working group meetings and provide timely feedback on the working group documents.
- Provide announcement support for the official releases of the working group
- TODO: Vote including Steering Committee.

Greg Watson: 1 FTE from IBM's perspective. Might exclude people.

Matt Gerring: 2 FTE won't work for Diamond
Andrew: Charter can be updated.