



# Eclipse Architecture Council Update

Martin Oberhuber, Wind River

[wiki.eclipse.org/Architecture\\_Council](http://wiki.eclipse.org/Architecture_Council)



# What does the Architecture Council do?

- From the Bylaws of the Eclipse Foundation:

*responsible for the development, articulation, and maintenance of the Eclipse Platform Architecture (as defined in the then current Eclipse Development Process).*

- From the current Development Process (v2.4 of Aug 20, 2008):

*and ensuring the Principles of the Development Process through mentorship.*



## Who is on the AC?

- The AC is staffed by PMC's, appointed and strategic members in order to support and coordinate the PMC's work in a cross-project fashion, with input from the Strategic Members:
  - 1 Rep of each PMC
  - Appointed Members (2 year renewable terms)
  - Strategic Members (unless already represented)
- Today, there are 50 members on the EAC: 42 active and 8 dormant.
- At least 34 projects are currently being mentored.

# What does the work on the AC look like?

- Monthly 1-hour phone call
- Mailing List Discussions
  - closed for submission by AC members only, but publicly archived
  - For voting, announcements and round calls
- Bugzilla for focused discussions (opt-in)
  - Any committer or user can file a bug against the AC and thus request its opinion, propose an enhancement or escalate an issue
  - Primary channel for interaction with the AC
  - New projects actually also request mentors by means of bugzilla
- 1-on-1 communications between Mentors and their projects
  - Mostly guidance in the development process, Community Building
- Occasional Face-to-face meetings (at least at EclipseCon)

## How does the AC interact with the rest of Eclipse?

- Get **Community Requests** from mentored projects, PMCs, strategic members or via Bugzilla
- **Direct channel to the EMO** through Foundation Personnel being on the AC (Mike Milinkovich, Wayne Beaton, Bjorn Freeman-Benson)
- **Channel to the Board** of Directors through Strategic Member Reps and Committer Reps also serving on the AC (Doug Clarke, Doug Gaff, Richard Gronback, Jeff McAffer, Ed Merks)
- Together with the Requirements Council and the Planning Council, the AC forms the Strategic Advisory Council (StAC)



## Some Examples of recent AC accomplishments

- **Practical Process:** Helped better organizing the eclipse committers mailing list through discussion and arguments. Turning the list into a moderated one makes it a lot more useful. [250320]
- **Escalation:** Called for help when a project didn't respond to Community need for a maintenance release. Persuaded the project leads through arguments and authority. [251304]
- **Information Broker:** Helped bringing an unorganized E-Mail storm into an organized and useful discussion about Repository Best Practices along with links for participants to find information. [249745]

More community solicited discussions currently ongoing...

## Some AC work in the pipeline

- **Top Ten List:** A list of top ten patterns, do's and don'ts in software architecture and process specifically for Eclipse.
- **Links Collection:** Collection of URL's to sites with useful information on Software Architecture.
- **Biweekly Info-mails:** Important information that all committers should know but tend to forget or ignore, brought into a short snippet of 1-paragraph "Here's something you should know" E-Mail to be sent out bi-weekly.
- **Architectural Walkthrough:** Similar to the very successful UI Walkthroughs offered by the UI-Best-Practices Working Group, offer Projects to make a walk through their (proposed or actual) architecture together with AC members.

## How else does the AC benefit Eclipse?

- **Offload Foundation Personnel.** Being well educated in terms of the Eclipse Development Process, the AC (and its Mentors) can answer some new projects' questions without going to the EMO.
- **Ears and Eyes of the EMO** and the Board. By being “linked in” in every aspect of the Eclipse Ecosystem with a large number of smart and alert people, the AC can detect imminent issues, see trends and make good suggestions.
- **Reduce Duplication and Bloat.** By having a cross-project body of highly skilled people talking with each other, Projects can be made aware of imminent architectural issues through Mentorship





# Challenges

- **Too many projects for any one body to oversee**
  - So we are distributed through Mentorship, but talk to each other
  - And, we help shepherding the Process
- **Too much legacy to change any architecture anyways**
  - True, the Platform is hard to change (though e4 is a chance!)
  - But Eclipse grows rapidly, so we influence new technology
- **Projects are doing their own thing anyways**
  - Mentorship is the best way to get to the best results together
- **Lack of active AC participation (“what do I gain”)**
  - Members are learning the benefits of participating

## What do I gain from serving on the AC / Mentoring

- ***Being “Linked In”.*** As an AC member, you are not only at the source of the information food chain, you are also connected to people who can help you find answers quickly or really effect a change that you need.
- ***Learning from Others.*** By looking at what others are doing, you’ll learn for your own project and career.
- ***Gaining Influence.*** By mentoring projects that are interesting for you, you’ll do not only see first-hand how that project evolves, but also gain intimate knowledge and influence on that project’s technology.

**Better Eclipse == Better for YOU!**



# Summary

The AC maintains and evolves the Eclipse Platform Architecture through Mentorship, Consultation and Recommendations.

Questions?

[http://wiki.eclipse.org/Architecture\\_Council](http://wiki.eclipse.org/Architecture_Council)