Policy on Recognizing Contributions on Project Web Sites

Background

The Eclipse Foundation wishes to encourage project teams to acknowledge and thank their sponsors and patrons and developers, but without the eclipse.org web properties or Eclipse exemplary tools becoming overly cluttered with advertising or promotional messages. Additionally, we want to ensure that companies do not "game" the system by providing minimal contributions in order to be recognized (e.g. with logo placement) on the project pages or wizards.

Recognizing that the community norms around such messages are continually changing and that it is probably impossible to codify a process precisely, the recommendation is that we establish a policy framework for the PMCs and the EMO to use to evaluation each situation, and leave the final decisions to the PMCs and the EMO.

Definitions

Contributor: there are many way to contribute to Eclipse projects ranging from committing code to writing good bug reports to helping with documentation to doing community outreach to funding developers to work on the project. Even organizations and individuals that are "merely" adopting the frameworks can be extremely useful contributors if they provide good, detailed, and timely feedback about requirements and defects.

Individual Contributor: a contributor who is a person.

Company Contributor: an Eclipse member company that employs a one or more people who are contributors.

Significant Contribution: a significant contribution is defined by its significance to the outcome of the project, not by the size of the contribution. Typically larger contributions are more significant, but that does not preclude an extremely valuable two line fix to a critical, but difficult to find, bug from being "significant". Nor does it preclude a giant code dump of rarely used code from being "not significant". As a general rule of thumb, somewhere between 25% and 50% of the contributions to a project are significant.

Current Contribution: a current contribution is one that is included in the current major release cycle, e.g., if the project is working on release 2.4, then a current contribution is a contribution whose code or effect is still significant in the 2.4 code base. The currency of a contribution fades with time, even if that contribution is still part of the code base or distribution. For example, bug fixes to release 1.0 are probably no longer "current" when

the current major release is 3.0.

Current Significant Contributor: a Contributor who has made one or more Significant Contributions that are also Current Contributions.

Policy

The Eclipse Foundation policy on recognizing contributions on project pages and in projects is as follows:

1. Each project that recognizes individuals or companies on its project web pages must have a written policy accessible (via an easy-to-find link adjacent to the recognition) from its project web page defining what that project considers as "contributor", "significant contribution" and "current contribution" for their project within the scope of the definitions provided above.
2. All conversations about which significant contributions will be recognized by the project must occur in an Eclipse public forum. The project's developer mailing list is preferred, but publicly posted meeting minutes may be acceptable provided that those minutes clearly document any conversations about the suitability of any contribution, including both pros and cons and the +1/0/-1 position of all meeting participants.
3. Each project is encouraged to list its current significant contributors (both individuals and companies) on its website.
4. Current significant contributors can be listed by name and photo or corporate logo as applicable or, at the project's discretion, name only. All contributors must be given the opportunity to be listed the same way and all contributors must be given the opportunity to opt out of any such listing if they'd like their contribution to be less public.
5. Each project that is recognizing or promoting its current significant contributors must state that it is doing so as part of each Release Review and must include screenshots of the web page(s) and dialog box(es) with those listings.
6. Each project's leadership chain (committers, project leaders, PMC, and EMO) are responsible for vetting, and potentially filtering, the current significant contributor list in order to conform to the overall goal and community norms of this policy.
7. Persons or companies who believe they are being unfairly precluded from being identified as a current significant contributor can use the defined grievance procedure in the Eclipse Development Process to resolve the issue.

8. Individuals or companies so recognized may promote that fact, publish that they have been recognized, and link to the recognition. Such an individual or company may not however, imply any endorsement of their product(s) or service(s) by the Eclipse Foundation or others based on such recognition.

9. The applicable project's leadership and the Executive Director reserve the right to remove any recognition at any time at their discretion.