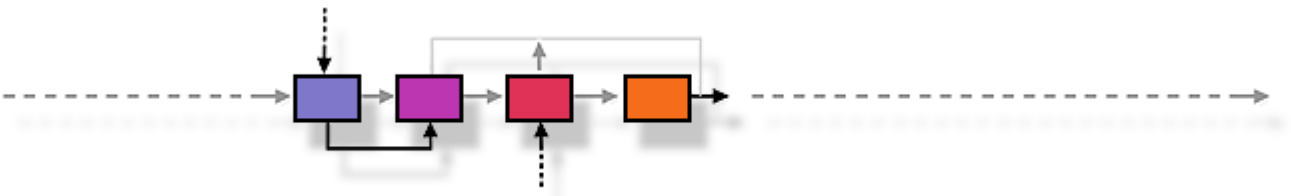# JCP Process Improvements (JCP.next)

Patrick Curran
patrick@jcp.org

Plan

- Withdraw JSR 306 and file a new JSR (*JCP.next*) to address relatively simple and non-controversial process changes.
- Set a time-limit for completion (5 months) and include only those items that can be completed within this time.
- Defer more complex items to a follow-on JSR.

Suggested changes

- Transparency.
- Participation.
- Agility.
- Branding and compatibility.
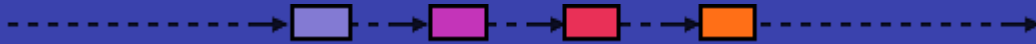- Collaboration.
- Standardized licenses.

Transparency

- Complete transparency of Expert Group operations:
  - Eliminate confidentiality requirements from the JSPA.
  - All business must be carried out on public mailing lists.
  - Issues must be tracked through a publicly viewable issue-tracking mechanism.
  - Expert Groups must respond publicly to all comments before JSRs can move to the next stage.
- More transparency for Executive Committee operations:
  - EC meeting minutes are already public.
  - Add biannual EC meetings that all JCP members are free to attend and where the agenda is set by the membership.

- No barriers to joining the organization.
  - Make the JSPA less intimidating by factoring it into three layers:
    - Simple *Terms Of Use* for non-members who wish to comment on specs in public forums.
    - A simple membership agreement for those who want voting privileges and the right to serve on Expert Groups.
    - A more complex agreement for Spec Leads spelling out IP and compatibility obligations.
- No barriers to participation in Expert Groups.
  - Spec Leads should not arbitrarily deny qualified applicants membership in the Expert Group.
    - Requests and responses must be made in public.
    - The ECs can apply pressure if necessary.

Agility

- Improve the speed with which JSRs can be moved through the process.
- Encourage and enable implementations before specs are finalized, to gain real-world experience.
  - *Implementations* does not necessarily mean commercial products – we must maintain compatibility.
- Time-outs for inactive JSRs.
- Better procedures to remove or replace non-responsive spec leads and to deal with bankrupt or defunct spec-lead organizations.

Branding and compatibility

- Strengthen the brand and promote compatibility (but do not relax compatibility requirements.)
- Emphasize the value of compatibility & the brand and the risks of using incompatible implementations.
- Publish lists of compatible implementations and report what optional features are implemented.
- Publish lists of incompatible implementations.
- Relax conformance-testing "secrecy rules" to enable market forces to promote compatibility.
  - Permit and encourage publication of TCK test results so users can see who's compatible and who's not.
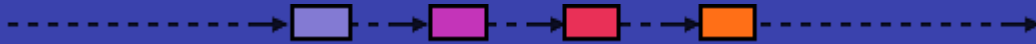
Collaboration

- Enable and encourage the establishment of more formal relationships with other standards bodies.
  - Confidentiality requirements are a barrier and must be eliminated.
- Enable incorporation and standardization of work developed outside the JCP.

Standardized licenses

- Define a mandatory standard Spec License.
  - This will streamline the JSR development and approval process.
- Recommend (but do not require) standard RI and TCK licenses.
  - Provide separate templates for *Independent* (open source) and commercial implementors.
  - This will simplify life for many Spec Leads.
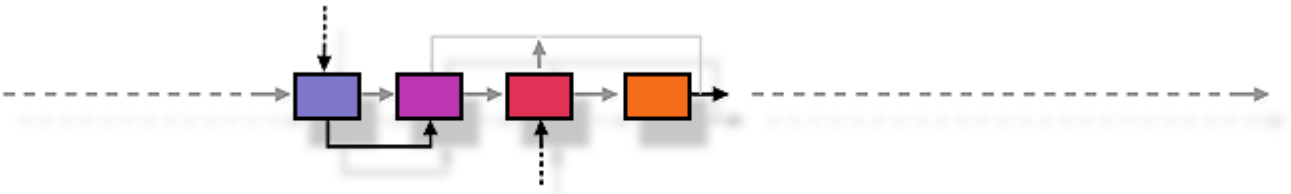- If the recommended licenses are widely adopted we could make them mandatory in the future.

Target completion dates

- *JCP.next*: October 2010.
- *Follow-on JSR*: April 2011.

Thank You!

http://jcp.org