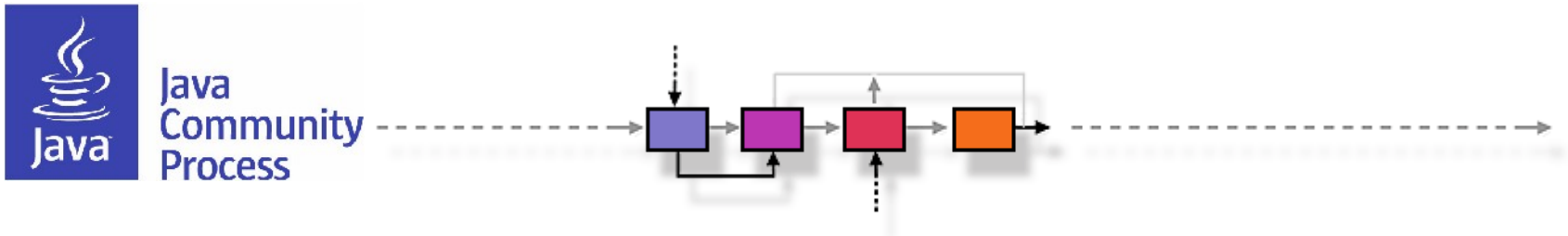

Expert Group Transparency

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How they see us

The survey

- We asked 350 spec leads what they are doing/have done to meet their transparency obligations.
  - Almost 50 responded.
- On review, it was clear that several EGs hadn't made any public progress since January 2007 – and often for years before this.
  - The best form of transparency is to publish an update to your spec!
  - Those who had not made progress were excluded from the report.

What is an “active JSR”?

- In January 2008 the PMO prepared a year-end summary
  - We defined an A*ctive JSR* as one that had a 'state change' within the previous 12 months.
- Building on this, we reviewed all state-changes since then.
  - *Active JSRs* have changed state since January 2007.
- We can also distinguish between JSRs that are "active" (in progress, or completed since January 2007) and "in maintenance" (releasing a maintenance update since then).

Responses

- Of 57 active JSRs, 33 (58%) responded.
- Of 18 maintenance JSRs, 6 (33%) responded.
- Approximately 50% response rate.
- Those who did not respond are probably not going *above and beyond* to meet transparency requirements.
  - But some Maintenance JSRs may have thought that this survey did not apply to them.
- Many EGs are trying hard, but we have plenty of opportunity to improve.
- Responses were evenly split across platforms:
  - ME: 11, SE: 12, EE: 13.

Diversion: encouraging agility

- Shine the spotlight on those who move move quickly.
- Ask them how they did it and encourage others to follow.
  - JSR 291: 14 months to Final Release - reward agility?
  - JSR 113: 86 months to Final Ballot - reward perseverance?
- Create a new "Inactive" state for JSRs that show no activity within X months?
- Classify JSRs by these states:
  - Under development (activity within X months)
  - In maintenance (complete, but activity within X months
  - Completed (complete, no activity within X months)
  - Inactive (incomplete, no activity within X months)

Responses (1)

- EG business conducted on a public alias or discussion forum
  - 12 (30%)
- JSR schedule published and regularly updated
  - 6 (15%)
- Regular (eg, monthly) public drafts published
  - 7 (18%)
- Make all JSR feedback accessible to the expert group
  - 17 (44%)
- Spec lead blog with frequent updates on JSR activity
  - 11 (28%)
- EG member names are published
  - 4 (10%)

Responses (2)

- Spec, RI, or TCK developed on a collaboration website
  - 24 (62%)
- Public issue-tracking
  - 10 (26%)
- Discussion forums or Wikis
  - 14 (36%)
- Open-source development processes for RI or TCK
  - 19 (49%)
- Community update or observer alias on jcp.org:
  - 7 (18%)
- Other? (primarily speaking at conferences and events)
  - 17 (44%)

How are we doing?

Java Community Process

What should we encourage/require?

- The public should know who is on the EG.
- Publicly readable observer alias reporting on EG business.
- JSR schedule should be published and regularly updated
- Publicly readable discussion forum or Wiki.
- Publicly writeable alias for feedback and comments (feedback provided to the Expert Group).
- Public issue-tracking (spec issues, RI/TCK bugs).
- Spec leads should speak at conferences and events.
- Open-source development processes for the RI and TCK are encouraged but not required.
- The Community Update page at jcp.org should point to all other public communication mechanisms.

How to encourage good behaviour?

- Shine the spotlight on those who do well, and encourage others (by listing them as "non-conformant") to follow.
- Could we require behavioral changes?
  - Only with a JSPA/Process Doc change?
- Other ideas?
  - Rewards/prizes/recognition...
  - What else?
- Next steps?