Release Types

- Major releases indicate breakage in the API
- Minor releases for "externally visible" changes
- Service releases for bug fixes
Regular Releases

- Mature Eclipse projects produce at least one major release every year
- Some projects release more often
  - Left to the project's discretion: do what's best for the project and community
Release Review

• Comes the end of the release cycle
• Must be completed before a project makes an official release
  • Required for major and minor releases only
  • Not required for service releases
1: Release Plan

- Created at beginning of release cycle
  - Well in advance of the final release date
  - Made available to the community early
- Documents goals, deliverables, milestone dates, target environments, themes, etc.
- A living document
  - Plans change during the release cycle
- Start of a set of “bookends” framing the release cycle
2: Produce Milestone Builds

- Projects produce multiple milestone builds leading up to the final release
  - e.g. 3.8.2M1, 3.8.2M2, 3.8.2RC1, ...

- Intended for the developer community and testing
  - Not generally intended for adoption and general use
  - Adopters use milestones for their own testing/preparation
3: IP Log

- Tracks committers, licenses, consumed third-party libraries, and contributions
- Submitted 1-2 weeks ahead of release date
  - IP Team reviews and approves IP Log for each release
- Compared against project's downloads directory
  - Directory contents compared against IP Log content
4: Review Documentation

- Completes the set of “bookends” with the plan
- Inform the community of features, non-code aspects, APIs, architectural issues, security issues, usability, end-of-life, standards, communities, and IP issues
- Reflection/retrospective
  - “How’d we do?” documentation
  - What did the developers/contributors do well? What can they do better?
5: PMC/EMO Review

• Is release align with the project's scope?
• Is the project following the process?
• Is the project operating in a transparent/open manner?
• Is the project engaging with the community?
  • Activity in community forums
• Are file headers, copyright and license notices in place?
6: Community Review

- Documentation, including IP Log, made available to community for review
  - “Projects” website, Twitter, blogs, etc.
  - Email notification to member and committers
- Minimum of five business days
  - Generally ends on a Wednesday
7: Disseminate Results

- Community is informed of all progress throughout the release cycle
- Project Plan/Review Document
- Bugs/tracking through Bugzilla
- Design/architecture decisions via developer mailing list
- Announcements to community via Forum
Releases are Never a Surprise

- Community members should have ample opportunity to be aware that a release/review is pending
- Open communication in developer mailing list and other forums
- Milestones posted on project website
Links

- Eclipse Projects website
  - http://eclipse.org/projects/

- Eclipse Development Process

- Release Reviews

- Project Plans

- IP Log