

JSR 358 Update

September 25 2014

Discussion during the last EC meeting





open source



Our high-level goals

- Our high-level goals for JSR 358, as we reported them most recently at the <u>public EC meeting in December 2013</u>, include the following:
 - Maintain compatibility guarantees.
 - All JSRs will be covered by a standard Spec license that includes strong compatibility requirements.
 - All implementations must pass the TCK.
 - Embrace open-source licensing and development processes.
 - Reference Implementations must be developed through open-source projects and released under open-source licenses.



Tensions (1)

- There is a fundamental tension between these goals, which cannot be (completely) reconciled.
 - Open-source licenses, by definition, cannot restriction what licensees may do with the licensed code.
 - Licensees are therefore free to create incompatible derivatives of open-sourced RIs.
- These tensions exist today.
 - Most RIs not led by Oracle are licensed under Apache.
 - Oracle licenses the Java SE and Java EE platforms under GPL.



Tensions (2)

- Despite these tensions our current licensing model is reasonably successful at maintaining compatibility.
 - We should not eliminate the compatibility requirements from existing licenses.
- However, we should not create a new "open-source" license such as the UPL and attach compatibility requirements to it.
 - That would render it "not open-source".



The IP Working Group agreed

- Compatibility is important, and the Spec License and the TCK process are the mechanisms we should use to encourage/enforce compatibility.
- RIs should be distributed under open-source licenses.
- Open-source licenses cannot impose compatibility requirements. Consequently, people will be free to create incompatible derivatives of open-sourced RIs.
- If we create a new RI license (UPL, for example) we should not try to incorporate compatibility requirements into it.
- We want an incentive for people who create implementations based on open-sourced RIs to voluntarily comply with the compatibility requirements in the Spec License.



An alternative suggestion

- If the open-source license we adopt for RIs contains any ambiguity about the extent of the patent rights it grants, then implementers would have an incentive to pass the TCK in order to explicitly gain all the rights they need, which would be granted to them via the Spec License.
- MIT or BSD?
- Oracle Legal is discussing this idea.



September 12 IP Working Group meeting

- Don Deutsch presents a proposal from Oracle Legal to add MIT and BSD as permitted RI licenses in addition to the UPL and GPL.
- Legal wants Spec Leads to ensure that all contributors to MIT or BSD-licensed RI projects will have signed a JCP membership agreement.
- See <u>meeting minutes</u>.



September 19 IP Working Group meeting

- Further discussion of the MIT/BSD proposal.
- See <u>meeting minutes</u>.



Update to the UPL

- See the **Document Archive**.
- Please review.

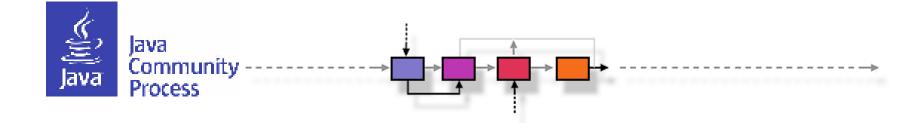


Next steps

• Another *with lawyers* meeting?







Thank You!

http://jcp.org