

Executive Committee Position Statement
for
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Over the last ten years, Liferay has been involved with the JCP both as a member on specifications and as a vendor working to provide a Java EE application with multiple web container support, testing the limits of the compatibility of Java EE certified vendors. While the JCP has done a qualified job at following technology in the past years, it may be time to make a change and not just to the roadmap.

Java EE and Java SE are each faced with different problems. Java EE, which originally worked to innovate the use of Java for the web and thereby standardize the various web application platforms available to developers, has since become a lagging follower of technology demands. Being slow, standardizing innovations that happen elsewhere has not been a benefit to the Java community. Java EE 6's Web Profiles were an innovation but as yet they have not been widely adopted (where is the Tomcat version of the EE 6 Web Profile?). Cloud and multi-tenancy are important but we need to ensure Java EE is also the source for innovation.

Will Java SE innovate and become a solution to today's problems or yesterday's? Will SE 7 become too big a platform and suffer from the same issues as Java EE 5 -- where the platform become too large and developers moved to lighter weight scripting stacks? Rather than focusing on EE's and SE's current issues, it is better if we focus on the processes that are currently in place for the future of Java SE/EE.

The following issues are of great importance to the community and would be a main area I would wish to pursue: open community innovation, modularity, open source innovations and interoperability, and the web interface.

1. Open Community Innovation

At Liferay, we learned that delivering an open source project meant more if it was also an open community. Open community means that many people are involved in the directions and contributions to the community. The JCP must evolve to allow a greater number of individuals are participating in the community. Simply publishing minutes to previous meetings and election results is not enough.

2. Modularity

The growth of the Java EE Web Profile is very important, as is the ability for Java SE to support the concept of modularity. While the platform needs to remain unified, the costs for individuals to support and be certified should be so trivial as to be nonexistent.

3. Open Source Innovations and Interoperability

JCP specifications are far too slow to adopt what people are doing today and often are working on demands from years ago. Innovations are happening elsewhere. A

new process should be implemented to enable a collaborative process for external organizations to deliver innovations built today that leverage existing Java specifications that can then be tracked for future inclusion into the specification. This would need to be more than an incubation period. It would need to be one which allows innovation to happen elsewhere, with benefits today and inclusion tomorrow.

4. The Web Interface

Java EE has provided a great deal of support for backend specifications and now cloud administration but little on the development of web sites or the integration of web content. Both the support of scripting languages and the use of content repositories are secondary within the Java EE specification and not clear at all within Java SE development. Java EE needs a web UI specification to unify web and Java development.