

# Java Tools Community (JTC)

**Proposal/Outline  
Rev 3.6**

# Market Observations

- Toolability is a growing issue in the Java/JSR arena
- Multiple Java tool frameworks, plug-ins and extensions cause tool user and extension vendor confusion
- JCP does not embody audience-specific mechanisms for collection/expression of opinions on potential/future JSRs (most acute in the design-time/tool domain)

# Mission: Charter

**Representation:** JTC will be an open, jointly-led community. It is where Java tool vendors, their enterprise customers, and developers can turn for information, opinion and input when creating and extending design-time Java standards via the JCP.

**Toolability:** JTC will be dedicated to maximizing “toolability” of current and proposed Java APIs, working through the JCP by partnering with JCP EGs and JSR leads

**Interoperability:** JTC will be dedicated to facilitating interoperability of Java development tools and extensions through advancement and proposal of design-time standards via the JCP

***Vision:*** *The charter’s objective can serve as a model for future vertical or horizontal interests, which recommend JSRs where standards are needed, and which comment on existing JSRs where such input would be beneficial. The immediate need within the design domain is the first horizontal test case of this model.*

# Mission: Activities/Output

## JSR Initiatives

- JTC participant organizations may identify/initiate suitable design-related JSRs for submission to JCP (e.g. for interoperability)

## Expert Group Liaison:

- Designating individuals who provide two-way cognizance between JTC member companies and JSR leads

## Endorsement/Approval

- At time of JSR Community Review, JTC may signal approval/disapproval via an open, non-binding poll via a transparent process

## User/Vendor Voice:

- Encourage & facilitate member and participant feedback and commentary on Tool- and design-related topics including
  - Open Vendor Forums: Discussion for current/future tool-related technology
  - Open User/customer Forums: discussion for current/future tool-related technology by outside users and advisory participants
  - Open Vendor Position Forums: opportunity for participants to state their (nonbinding) position on specific JSRs, regardless of JCP position.

# Success Looks Like

- **Toolability:**  
A process for proposing and/or engaging relevant JCP EG leads to reinforce the toolability needs of Java tool vendors
- **Interoperability:**  
A Process for joint determination and submission of JSRs which forward tool and/or extension interoperability.
- **Participation:**  
Achieving the broadest set of JTC vendors, plus an equal number of Java User “advisors”
- **Transparency:**  
Visible (i.e. documented) reference, discussion & recommendation output for public consumption.

# The JTC is Not...

- ... concerned with all JCP APIs; rather, it specifically focuses on tools and design-time productivity
- ...led by any one company; rather it is community of diverse participant organizations
- ...a standards body or alternative to the JCP; rather it is a complimentary community
- ...an authority or representative; rather, it is a collector of opinions and a facilitator of feedback
- ...promoting any single tool platform or framework; rather, it will encourage vendor diversity while focusing on interoperability between implementations

# Scope

## Scope

- Work to be limited to Java tools & Java design-time standards for J2EE, J2SE and J2ME
- Promote creation, use and advancement of JSRs for
  - interoperability in design-time
  - toolability in design-time
  - JSRs that can be exposed or better utilized by a tool

## JTC Organization

- will not hold IP (not a legal entity)
- will not require a legal agreement
- may have participation agreement (covering rules of conduct)

## Output/Artifacts

- Output limited to public recommendations, studies, etc.
- Shall not include code development, TCKs, certification, etc.

# Participation Types

## Advisor Members

- Role: Any organization that wants to contribute ideas, thoughts and comments on Java tools
- Criteria: Intended for enterprises who use/consume tools

## General Members

- Role: Intended for tool vendor organizations who wish to participate in general JTC activities
- Criteria: Members of the JCP (signed JSPA) and have agreed to the JTC participation agreement (if needed);

## Core Members

- Role: Help steer the JTC and contribute to its infrastructure
- Criteria: Must be willing to take an active role in guiding one or more Steering Committee functions. Must meet other General Membership criteria.

# Participant Expectations

Participants will be expected to contribute to the community in one or more of the following ways

- **Market needs/opinions (all participants)**

What: Informal input based on common need for the tools/design-time community. Standards and interoperability focused; not product related

Process: via articles, forums, web logs (blogs) message boards, etc. online

- **Propose Development-related JSRs (all participants)**

What: Suggest proposals for design-related JSRs.

Process: Recommend/outline need to group; All members may publicly register nonbinding opinion on proposal (via poll). Only JCP members may be Spec Leads

- **Participate as Expert Group Liaison (all participants)**

What: Represent the JTO to relevant design-related JSRs.

Process: All members are expected to liaise to at least one JSR EG and call for nonbinding opinion (via poll) on JSR

- **Guide the Community (Core Members only)**

What: help prioritize & facilitate discussions, liaison relationships, etc.

- Process: TBD

# Role of Advisor Members

## Who and Why?

- Who: Any organization who uses/consumes Java Tooling/IDEs
- Why: To provide the JTC with a balanced perspective of the requirements & desires of the Java Tool enterprise user community

## Benefit

- Opportunity to influence a key technology source for your business
- Recognition that your organization/industry is actively engaging the Java tool/design community

## Advisor Activities

- Periodically represent the Java Tool/design needs of their company and/or their industry into the JTC
- Opinions and input may not be anonymous, and are non-binding

## Vehicles/Frequency

- Opinions and input will be contributed (preferably) in on-line JTC forums, message boards, weblogs & discussion groups
- Recommended frequency of input is not less than 4x/year, or as often as desired for individual issues & JSRs

### *Note:*

*Advisors are not permitted to offer opinions on JSR expert groups unless they are JCP members*

# JTC Benefits

## Overall

- **This is long-term insurance against fragmentation/weakness in the Java Industry**
- **Maintains Diversity:** The JTC strengthens Java by helping align the IDE community.
- **Compatibility:** Compatibility is critical in the Java tool industry (*agree on standards, compete on implementations, give users freedom of choice*)
- **Customer Focus:** The organization benefits customers/users, since they participate alongside vendors as Advisors.

## For Vendors

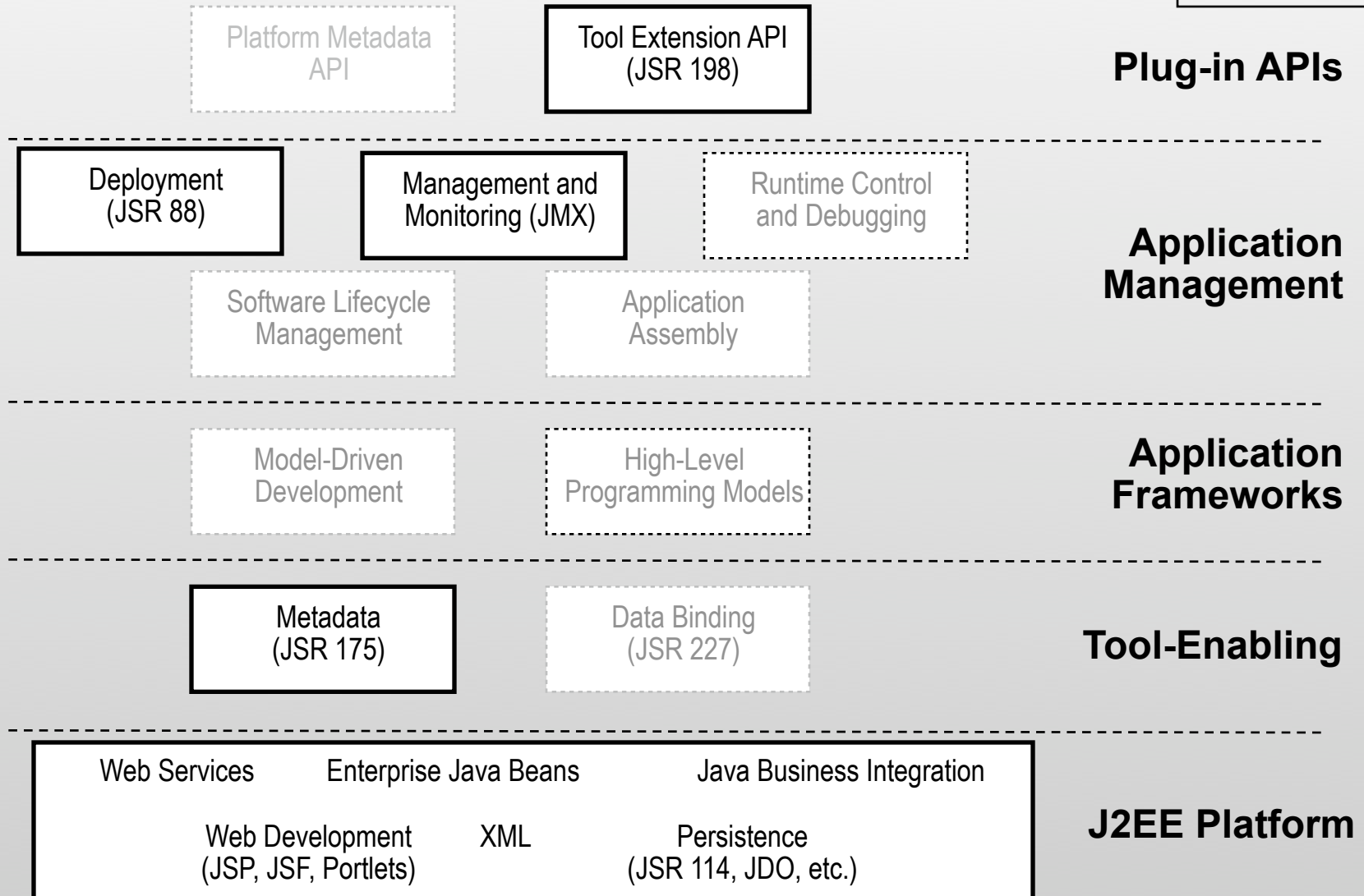
- **Tools vendors can...**
  - Utilize joint support of JTC vendors to achieve their goals in the Java community
  - Provide better products by improved tools support for the platform
- **Extension writers can...**
  - Minimize the effort to build and test extensions against multiple tool platforms
  - Access a broader size and variety of target customers

## For Enterprise Customers (Tool Users)

- **Customers can...**
  - Continue to use the tool(s) that best suits their needs & ways of working
  - Leverage a larger community of extensions for their preferred design-time environment
  - Know that key extensions they rely on will be supported even if they migrate to other tools platforms

# Scope: Potential Projects

Grey = Future



# Scope: Potential Projects

- Standardize tool extension APIs
- Define interaction between plug-ins
- Foster interoperability between tools from different vendors
- Allow tools-ready access to platform objects and associated metadata

## Plug-in APIs

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- Standardize interaction between tools and platform during design, development, deployment, runtime
  - Standardize interfaces for application build and software assembly

## Application Management

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- Tools mostly focus on improving usability of low-level technologies
  - Success of platform depends on improved higher-level app frameworks
  - Tool vendors have a vested interest for common application frameworks
  - JTC will try to built consensus among tool vendors

## Application Frameworks

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- Technologies for tool enabling have started to emerge
  - Early in the adoption cycle
  - Little real-world feedback
  - JTC can act as a feedback channel

## Tool-Enabling

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- Provides core infrastructure services
  - JTC will jointly influence to increase ease-of-use of the platform
  - Core infrastructure services must be “tools-ready”

## J2EE Platform

# Potential JTC Discussions

## Toolability

- **JSR 77 (Management)** – Collaborate on next iteration of management JSR to allow tools a more consistent and robust interface to J2EE server management
- **JSR 88 (App Deployment)** – Collaborate on next iteration of deployment JSR to build consistent design-time experience across servers to existing deployment interfaces
- **JSR 152 (JSP)** – Better JSP design-time support. Projects could include additional metadata, design-time renderers, additional attributes, etc.
- **JSR-181 (WS Metadata)** - Collaborate on design-time aspects of Web Services metadata, including easier deployment models, etc.
- **JSR 207 & 208 (Business Process)** – Influence JSRs to ensure they have adequate/consistent design-time sppt. for building distributed business processes.
- **JSR 227 (Data Binding)** - Cooperate to provide feedback to the EG on the design-time side of this JSR, such as templating languages, XML formats, etc.
- **Additional Opportunities to improve design-time support, exposure and use of JSRs development tools :**
  - JSR 5) XML Parsing Specification (JAXP)
  - JSR 19) Enterprise JavaBeans 2.0
  - JSR 30) J2ME Connected, Limited Device Configuration
  - JSR 31) XML Data Binding Specification
  - JSR 40) The Java Metadata Interface (JMI) Specification
  - JSR 52) A Standard Tag Library for JavaServer Pages
  - JSR 175) Metadata Facility for Java

# Potential JTC Discussions

## Interoperability

- **JSR40 (JMI)** - Cooperate on an extension to JSR-40 which maps the MOF metamodel (above) to a common set of classes and APIs which allow for programmatic access to metadata stored in the model
- **JSR-198** - Portable plug-ins; Members would agree to increase effort on current and future iterations
- **JSR-199** - Java compiler API - Future iterations could be important to certain types of technology sharing between IDEs.
- **Common MOF Metamodel** – Develop/agree on a common metamodel to describe Java objects & Java enterprise applications and the metadata used from within tools
- **UML-J2EE** – Cooperate on usage & extension of JSR 26 for describing EJBs, WS & other J2EE artifacts in UML diagrams
- **Generic MDR** - Create a standard interface which allows for tool access (read/write, etc.,) to a pluggable Metadata Repository
- **Mobile Support** – Collaborate to define consistent design-time interfaces to mobile devices.

# Infrastructure/Location

- The community will be located at [www.javatools.org](http://www.javatools.org)
- Member in-kind donations used to support website infrastructure

# Marketing/Adoption

- Recruitment of major Java tool organizations and Tool user/consumer organizations
  - ISVs as well as enterprises
  - Strive for 50% of membership from Tool User organizations!
- Online listing of participants, “Endorsed” JSRs
- Potential future pointers/catalogs of “Endorsed” products and plugins

# Organization: Core Members

- Core Members have responsibility for the success of the JTC, and will make major decisions affecting the community, including
  - Modification of JTC processes (as applicable)
  - Establishing/prioritizing infrastructure needs
  - Agenda and prioritization of activities
  - Ensuring equitable representation of members on JSR EG's
  - Conflict resolution
- All Decisions & processes shall be transparent

# Organization: Polling

JTC polling borrows from the Apache community's voting rules:

- Polls are held on matters of import as a way to get pulse of the community.
- Polling is either
  - +1 – I agree, and will support this decision
  - 0 – I am indifferent as to the outcome
  - -1 – I disagree with this decision
- Polling typically extends to the relevant community...
  - The set of JTC Members
  - The entire JTC community
- Polling are done in public
- Timing: Subject to JCP rules of confidentiality, votes will occur during JSP Public Review