Mylyn 3.1 Release Review

Mik Kersten and Steffen Pingel

Planned Review Date: February 25, 2009, 8am PT
Communication Channel: mylyn-dev@eclipse.org

Introduction

- The first goal of Mylyn is to make task and context management seamlessly integrated with the Eclipse Platform by providing rich and extensible frameworks for task repository connectors, structure bridges and team support. The second goal is to provide a reference implementation of the Task-Focused UI for the Eclipse SDK. This includes structure bridges for the artifacts supported by the SDK which include Java, PDE, Ant and generic files. It also includes the Bugzilla Connector as the reference task repository implementation, and CVS integration as the reference team support. Additional features can be considered based on the availability community contributions and resources.

- Highlights of this release are in yellow.

Features (1)

- WikiText
  - WikiText is a new Mylyn component that was contributed by David Green who is now a committer on the project.

  - WikiText provides an integrated source editor for authoring files containing wiki markup. The editor provides content assist, validation, folding, source formatting, an integrated preview, structured outline and a markup cheat-sheet.

  - The WikiText editor is aware of 5 markup languages and is capable of supporting others via the common WikiText parsing framework. The following markup languages are currently recognized: Confluence, MediaWiki, Textile, TracWiki, Twiki

  - WikiText can convert lightweight markup to other formats including Eclipse Help, HTML, DocBook and DITA. Conversion may be performed within Eclipse or from Ant.

Features (2)

- Task Editor
  - The task editor has a new extension point for contributing different presentations of comments and descriptions.
  - WikiText uses the extension point to enable rich wiki markup editing.
  - The information density in the task editor has been improved. Comments are now grouped and flow to fill the entire width of the task editor.
- Eclipse Help
  - A feature reference is finally available from the Eclipse help system.
- Bugzilla
  - Support for custom fields and flags has been added.

Non-code aspects

- **Localization/externalization**
  - The code base has been externalized for Mylyn 3.1.
  - Mylyn is now available for translation via Eclipse Babel.
- User documentation
  - Eclipse help content that is generated from the Wiki has been added for Mylyn 3.1.
  - The webinar on Mylyn 3.0 is the most viewed webinar on Eclipse Live.
  - The web site has been restructured for easier access to Downloads, Support and Getting Started documentation.
- Developer documentation
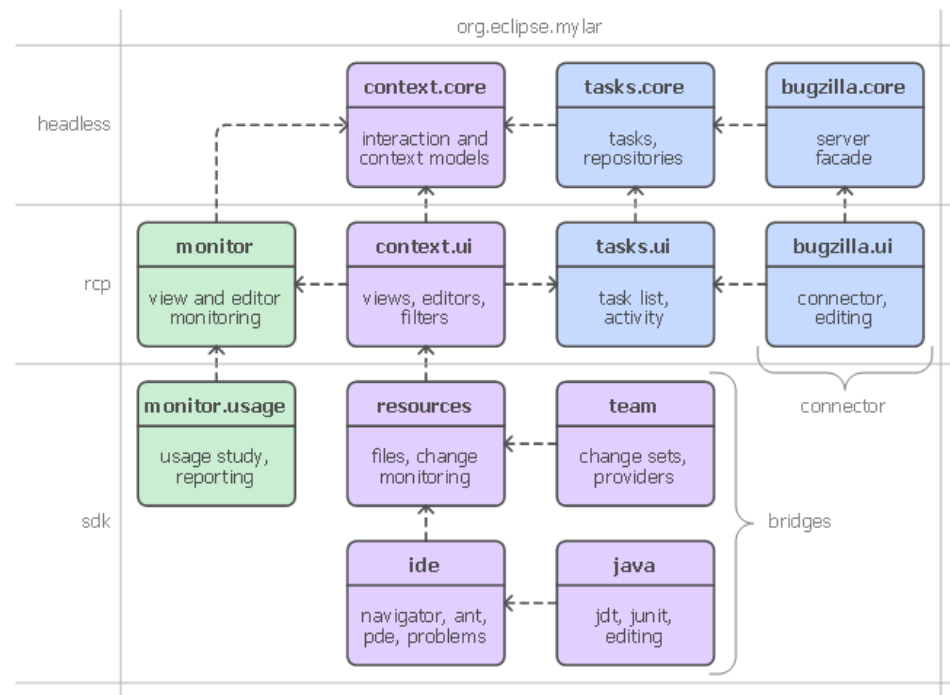 - Wiki-based Contributors Guide
  - Wiki-based Integrators Guide

APIs

- No breaking API changes from 3.0
- APIs are consumed by 3rd parties who provide regular feedback
- All API changes are tracked in Bugzilla on bugs tagged as [api]
  - Notes on API additions since Mylyn 3.0: http://wiki.eclipse.org/Mylyn/Porting_Guide

- Frameworks:
  - Commons API
  - Context API
  - Tasks API
  - Monitor API
  - Team API

Architectural Issues

- For Mylyn 3.1 processing of resource change events has been optimized to avoid a negative impact on performance when rebuilding large workspace while a task is active.
- For Mylyn 3.1 scheduling rules and locking for concurrently running jobs have been reviewed and problems were addressed.
- For Mylyn 3.0 API tooling was adopted and API baselines have been made available for download.
- For Mylyn 2.3 a new kind of bundle activator for the Task-Focused UI was created and all known issues with startup concurrency, performance and laziness were addressed.

Tool Usability (unchanged since 3.0)

- Maturity
  - Constant stream of stable releases
  - Bundled as part of EPP distributions
  - Committers work from HEAD, contributors from weekly builds, community from milestone releases
- User feedback says it best
  - "..arguably the most productivity-enhancing idea since background compilation and all of the things that enables (namely refactoring and syntax highlighting). I just don't know how I ever was able to read and understand the Eclipse sources (or the sources of other large projects I've worked on) before Mylar, it's just that good." (David Orme)
  - "I would like to commend you on this very good tool. It has increased my productivity by 3 folds - no kidding..." (Deepak Devje)

End-of-Life

- Mylyn 3.1 supports Eclipse 3.5 from HEAD and Eclipse 3.4 and 3.3 via separate branches.
- Mylyn 3.0 is in maintenance and supports Eclipse 3.4 and 3.3 via separate branches.
- All Mylyn 2.0 streams have reached end-of-life.
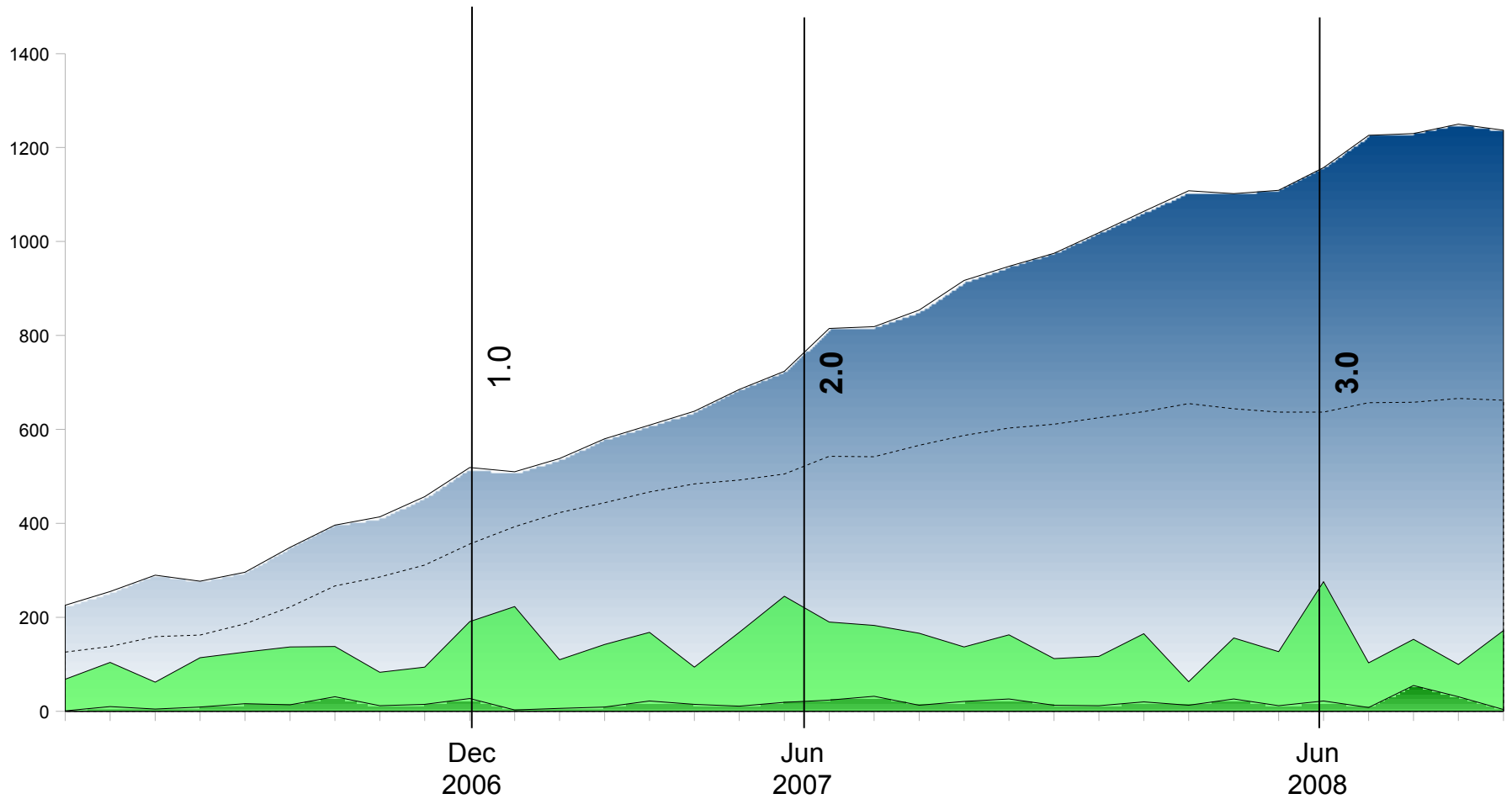
Bugzilla

- Bugs resolved
  - Mylyn 3.1 (March 4, 2009): 351
  - Mylyn 3.0 (June 25, 2008): 489
  - Mylyn 2.3 (Feb. 27, 2008): 158
  - Mylyn 2.2 (Dec. 19, 2007): 201
  - Mylyn 2.1 (Sep. 28, 2007): 120
- Contributions
  - Mylyn receives 25 patches / month on average
  - Over 130 contributions were merged for 3.1

Community

Standards

- Mylyn requires J2SE 1.5, provides warning if installed on 1.4
  - Key driver for using1.5 was the benefits of generics-aware APIs
- Mylyn WikiText supports the following markup languages: Confluence, MediaWiki, Textile, TracWiki and Twiki.

UI Usability (no changes since 2.1)

- Accessibility
  - No review for this release, but following accessibility guidelines
  - http://www.eclipse.org/articles/Article-Accessibility/index.html
- Follow the User Interface Guidelines
  - Focus on consistent visual design, UI elements, icons
  - http://wiki.eclipse.org/index.php/User_Interface_Guidelines
- Validated UI usability with field study
  - For details see:
    http://kerstens.org/mik/publications/2006-11-mylar-fse.pdf
  - Myln Monitor is being used to gather usage feedback:
    http://mylyn.eclipse.org/monitor/upload/UsageAnalysisServlet

Schedule

Release	Date	Platform Release	Notes
Mylyn 3.0	June 25, 2008	Eclipse 3.3.2 and 3.4.0	Ganymede
Mylyn 3.0.1	July 21, 2008	Eclipse 3.3.2 and 3.4.0	
Mylyn 3.0.2	September 18, 2008	Eclipse 3.3.2 and 3.4.1	Ganymede SR1
Mylyn 3.0.3	October 15, 2008	Eclipse 3.3.2 and 3.4.1	
Mylyn 3.0.4	January 28, 2009	Eclipse 3.3.2 and 3.4.1	
Mylyn 3.0.5	February 18, 2009	Eclipse 3.3.2 and 3.4.2	Ganymede SR2
Mylyn 3.1	March 4, 2009	Eclipse 3.3.2, 3.4.2 and 3.5M5	
Mylyn 3.2	June 25, 2009	Eclipse 3.3.2, 3.4.2 and 3.5.0	Galileo

- Project plan
  - http://www.eclipse.org/projects/project-plan.php?projectid=tools.mylyn

Communities (1)

- Users
  - Lively community on newsgroup and bug reports
  - Articles and blogs by community members
- Developers
  - Contributor documentation on Eclipsepedia
  - Lively community on mylyn-dev and bug reports
- Integrators
  - Integrator documentation on Eclipsepedia
  - Separate mylyn-integrators mailing list removes need for integrators to watch the higher-traffic mylyn-dev
  - Specific discussions on "[connector]" and "[bridge]" bug reports, as well as "manage integration with Foobar" bug reports

Communities (2)

- Committers
    - 3 new committers since June 2008
- Summer of Code
    - Mylyn participated in Summer of Code 2008
    - Steffen Pingel mentored Jingwen Ou who integrated rich wiki markup editing with the Task Editor.

IP Log

- The IP Log is kept updated by committers as contributions are applied.
    - http://www.eclipse.org/mylyn/doc/mylyn-iplog.csv
- Adoption of the automatic IP log is planned for 3.2

IP Issues

- None.

Release review version

- These slides are based on the following version of the Release review document
    - Version 032 – January 15, 2006