



Eclipse Application Lifecycle Framework (ALF) project

Project Termination Review
November 12th, 2008

Communications channels:

Newsgroups: news.eclipse.org - eclipse.technology.alf

Mailing list: alf-dev@eclipse.org



ALF Project Background



- ALF's Creation Review on July 15th, 2005 launched a project in a unique way
 - A vision but no initial code contribution
- ALF slowly grew the codebase for an enterprise strength integration platform organically:
 - ALF Event Manager for event driven architecture
 - ALF Admin tool for configuration
 - ALF SSO – A SingleSignOn and SOA authentication framework based on WS-Security, WS-Trust, WS-Federation, and SAML that incorporated and complemented the Eclipse Higgins STS
 - BPEL-based process framework and guidelines
 - Runtime services for integration processes
 - Vocabularies for Application Lifecycle Management

ALF Project Background



- From the beginning, building the community was a challenge
 - At first, there was no codebase
 - But a quality codebase did develop over time
- A number of companies in the community did want to use the ALF framework
 - But not help build the core framework
 - ALF Vocabulary definition proved to be the high point of community involvement
 - Vibrant conference calls with much active participation and contribution
 - OpenMake, AccuRev, ...
 - But when it came time to implement those vocabularies in participating members' tool suites, the interest waned
- The project established synergistic ties with the Eclipse Higgins project
 - As a consumer and extender of the Higgins Security Token Server
- ALF was industrialized and adopted as the underlying SOA and authentication framework by Serena Business Mashups in Dec 2007

Assessment and Recommendation



- Despite the ALF project's success in creating a quality codebase and achieving commercial adoption, several measures indicate ALF may no longer be a viable project at Eclipse:
 - Lack of committer diversity
 - Active committers are all from Serena
 - Lack of developer, extender, and user communities outside of Serena participants
 - Insufficient ongoing investment to create the demos and packaged downloads that could generate the energy and excitement needed to revitalize the project
 - Code maintenance in CVS continues but mailing lists and newsgroups show only occasional interest
 - (Ironically, some interested parties have just recently been downloading and build ALF)
 - Given the current state community involvement, the prospects for exiting incubation in a reasonable timeframe are slim
- Given the current situation, and with little prospect of increased participation in sight, the ALF project leadership and committers recommend the project be archived
 - This is aligned with the Technology PMC's recommendations

Archiving considerations



- We recommend the archiving be planned but not executed until the following can occur:
 1. Clean up of selected modules in Eclipse for IP reasons
 - A recent module-by-module review revealed a very small number of IP defects, which should be cleaned up in any case
 - One module needs to be replaced or a CQ submitted
 - One component should be purged from CVS
 2. Contribute the ALF SSO portions of the code to the Eclipse Higgins project
 - ALF and Higgins have had a synergistic working relationship since both projects began
 - ALF SSO implements the WS-Federation Passive Requestor Profile which extends and complements the Higgins STS
 - The contributions to Higgins come with the part-time commitment of the two ALF committers who designed and implemented the ALF SSO code
 3. Provide timely notice to those few interested parties of the impending archiving of ALF, so they may download the code and recent updates.

Archive Process



- 1. Archive Review scheduled for November 12, 2008 (this review)
- 2. ALF SSO code cleanup and submission as CQ to Higgins
 - ALF committers work with Technology PMC and EMO to clean up small number of IP defects
 - ALF committers submit CQ to Eclipse Higgins for the ALF SSO code
- 3. Webmaster archives eclipse.org resources
 - Project URL will go to one page that points to the archive
 - Development resources (including at least the website, WIKI, mailing lists and CVS) are removed and archived
 - <http://www.eclipse.org/technology/archived.php>
- Note that De-Archiving is possible
 - Requires repeating Creation Review



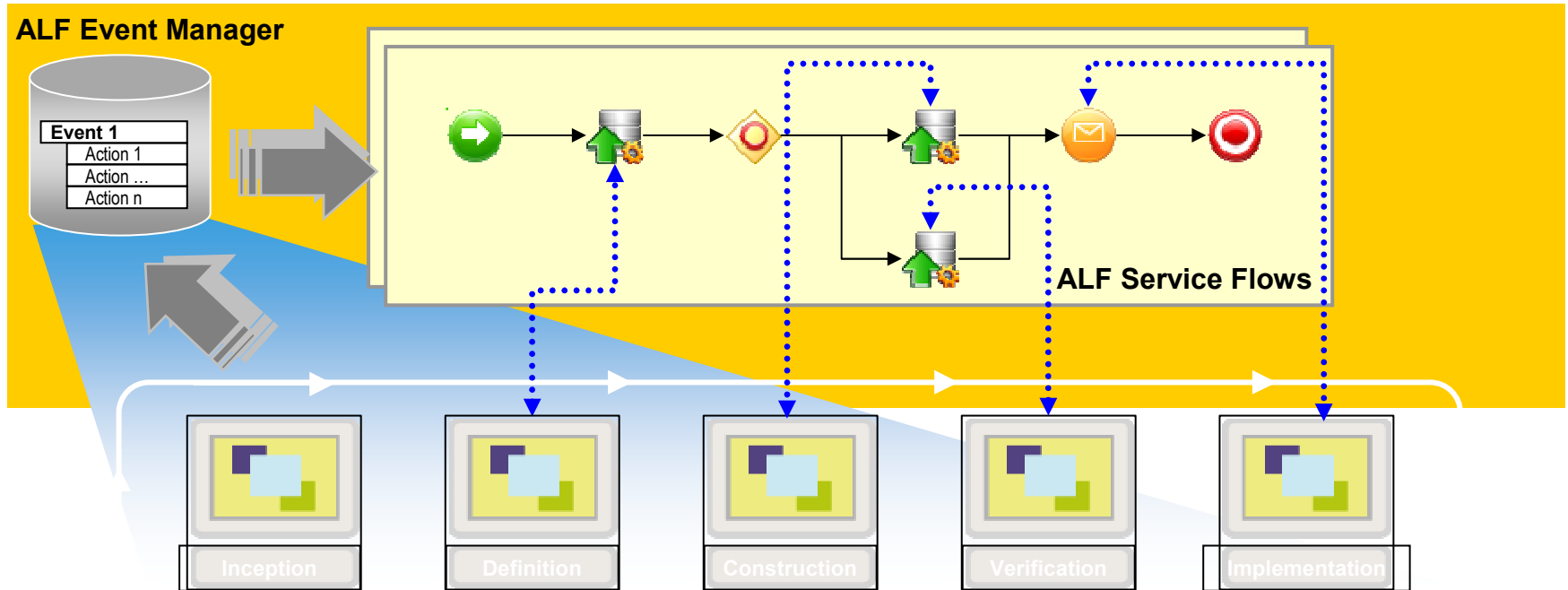
Questions?

Thank you!

A few supplemental slides are included for reference

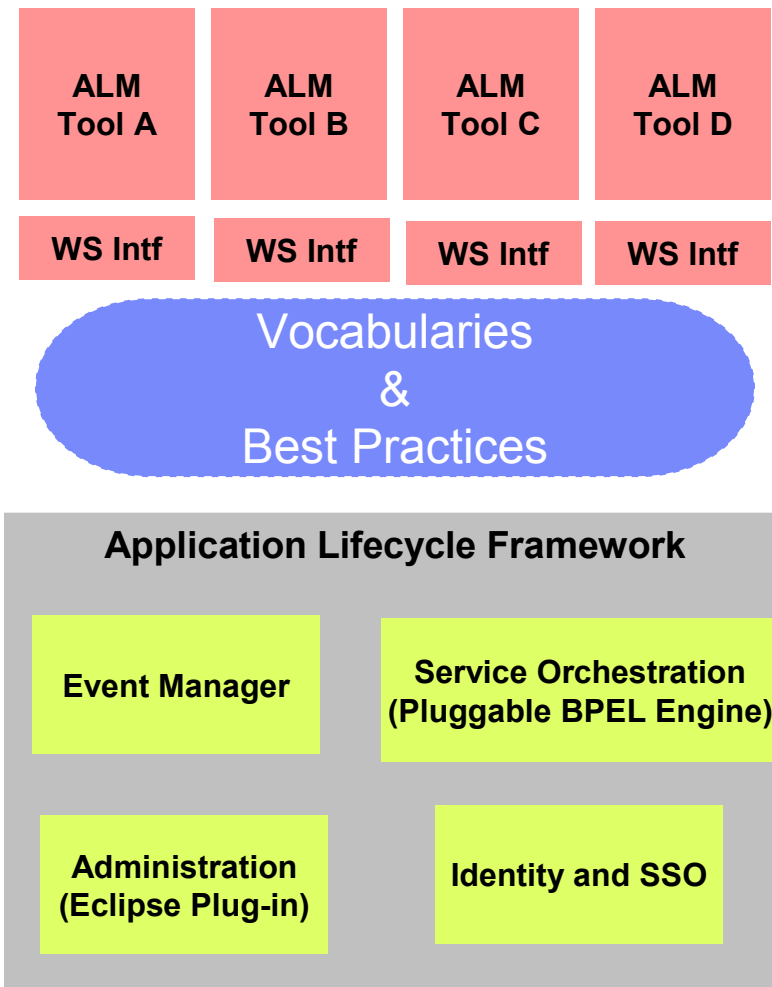


ALF: Is About Process Integration



Introducing the Application Lifecycle Framework (ALF)

- A common platform for tool integration
- SOA-based runtime
- Eclipsed-based tool
- Support for heterogeneous platforms
- Vendor neutral
- Standards based
- Extensible



ALF High-level Architecture



Metadata about
a tool's SOA
interfaces

ALF-enabled
Tools

ALF Design Time

Vocabularies,
Best Practices

Administration
(Eclipse Plug-in)
Events
Services
ServiceFlow

Pluggable
BPEL
Designer

ALF Runtime

Identity and SSO
tool wrapper
(ALF Gateway)

Event Manager

STS
(Higgins, ...)

Service Orchestration
(Pluggable
BPEL Engine)

Authentication
Authority
(e.g., LDAP)

Common
Services