



Equinox Transforms - Graduation Review

Kimberly Horne
IBM

Outline



- Transforms Overview
- What is graduated and where
- Clients
- Community
- Open Source Operation
- IP Log
- Future
- Equinox Transforms committer info



Transforms overview

- The Equinox Transforms bundles were created to provide a generic mechanism at the framework level to achieve product transformations that would otherwise be impossible.

- There are Equinox Transform bundles that provide for the following types of transforms:
 - XSLT (for plugin.xml transformations)
 - Replacement (for icon-swaps)
 - SED (for sophisticated property file manipulation)



What is graduated and where

- The primary framework hook (the driver for transform services and transformation registration) as well as the XSLT transformation are proposed for graduation at this time
- The replacement and SED transformations will continue to evolve in the incubator along with new types of transformations that have yet to be considered
- Once graduated, the development will take place in the Equinox Bundles component of the Equinox project



- Equinox Transform bundles are being used in an upcoming release of Rational Performance Tester. They are being used to create a “Clean Look” user experience for novice users. To do this, they are supplying XSLT transforms that remove all UI extensions that they do not wish their users to see.
- Philippe Ombredanne (<http://www.nexb.com/>) has confirmed the usefulness of these bundles in solving problems facing nexB clients.
 - Quote: “Transforms provide us the unique capability to adjust unwanted UI contributions in order to create more minimalist and focused UIs while building custom Eclipse-based products. When constructing products consisting of assemblies of many available open source plugins and custom written plugins, the transform features allow for clean, elegant, and precise control of third-party contributions such as UI and other extensions.”

Community



- Due to the size of this contribution (measuring in at several hundred lines after you remove the copyright notices) there isn't a robust "community" that has participated in its development. It is a lightweight, simple feature that does not adequately fit the incubator mould in this regard.



Open source operation

- Equinox Transform development has been ongoing in the Equinox Incubator component of the Eclipse Project Incubator. Although relatively stable since its inception, communication has taken place via:
 - Bugzilla
 - The equinox-dev mailing lists
 - IRC
 - The wiki
 - http://wiki.eclipse.org/Equinox_Transforms

IP Log



- The developer understands and adheres to the Eclipse Development Process, committer responsibilities and due diligence rules, as well as the Eclipse IP Policy.

- IP Log:

<http://www.eclipse.org/equinox/documents/iplogs/TransformsIPlog.html>



- Ganymede timeframe
 - Deliver transform bundles to the Equinox build
 - No formal API is proposed for graduation at this time, however the transformer bundles do represent an extensible framework. Extensions are achieved through atypical means involving registration of OSGi services implementing the standard classes `java.lang.Object` and `java.net.URL`. For details please see the wiki.
- Post Ganymede
 - Provide more formal API to easily allow new transformer implementations
 - Allow the transform bundles to be used on a wider range of Equinox deployments
 - Provide tooling within the SDK to enable transformation authoring and deployment
 - Develop the community and find new committers

Equinox Transforms committer info



- All of the design and implementation for these bundles was done by Kimberly Horne (IBM). Code cleanup and other changes needed in preparation for graduation were contributed by John Arthorne (IBM) and Thomas Watson (IBM). Additional feedback from Alex Bernstein (IBM) and Jeffrey Nevicosi (IBM) was invaluable in the refinement of these bundles.
 - Only one new committer for the Equinox Bundles component is recommended at this time (Kimberly Horne)