

Java EMF Model (JEM) Move Review

January 31, 2007

Introduction

The Tools PMC and VE Project and the WTP PMC and JST Project propose to move the JEM component of VE to a JEM component of JST. The move will be complete for Europa (for M6 at the latest).

Background

JEM is a model of the Java Language, implemented in terms of EMF. It supports language features up to the Java 1.4 level of specification. It offers some advanced features of introspection which, when JEM was first started circa 2000, were not available by any other means in Eclipse. It also makes it easy for Java models to interact with other EMF models (which would be modeling other things, other than Java). JEM also has some other utilities that ease EMF and Eclipse integration.

JEM is currently used in the VE Project and the WTP project. In the past, JEM has been offered by the VE project as a separate download (feature and zip file) by the VE project, so the WTP project could consume it.

Motivations for the Move

The JEM component has always been required and used by WTP.

VE and JEM are not currently included in any Europa plans, and are not in M4 Europa.

JEM will not work on Eclipse 3.3 and EMF 2.3, without some work.

JST has a critical dependency on JEM so has the motivation to maintain it.

JST has the right skills to maintain it. ¹

Plans after the move

JST will update the JEM code to work with EMF 2.3

JEM will be incorporated into JST builds and Unit tests

JST will fix any serious bugs found in JEM

We are not currently proposing new functions, nor updates for new levels of the Java Language. (Anyone doing new work, and looking for a “Java Model” would be encouraged to use the APIs provided by the JDT Component of the Eclipse Project).

There one bug to be fixed in JEM for Callisto Winter maintenance. So, timing of the move will be coordinated with the current JEM team to make a clean break, after that maintenance code is produced. It is recommended the Callisto version of zips, update sites, etc. be left in place, as

¹ Historically, before being open source, some of the people currently in JST worked along side some of the people that used to be on the VE team, and since VE went open source first, that's where the JEM component initially landed, with the agreement it would be available to JST.

they are (after the Winter Maintenance) and our JST responsibility will be only for Europa and beyond.

JST will follow VE's precedent and make JEM downloadable as a separate feature, if and only if there is any other Eclipse Project that says they need it for Europa. (otherwise, any non-Eclipse products, etc., can compose their own, from WTP) There are currently no other known consumers of JEM other than VE and WTP.

All package names will remain what they are now (to cause as little churn as possible for existing clients)

We will change the version of JEM to 2.0 to make more apparent to the OSGI runtime that this version does not work with the Callisto steam (and, that our Europa required version can not be the Callisto version).

The JEM component will simply become another component of the [JEE component-development team](#), so will have that same list of existing WTP committers (Chuck Bridgham, John Lanuti, Jason Sholl, Sinan Konya, Naci Dai, Rob Frost, Kate Price, David Williams).²

² Technically, JEM is used by the WST part of WTP as well as the JST part, but we have plans to migrate off those utility uses, since that pulls in an unnecessary dependency on Java. So, long term, this will be purely a JST component.