Minutes of the: Ecma TC39-TG1
held in: Phone conference
on: 30th August 2006

Attendees

• Jeff Dyer, Adobe Systems
• Brendan Eich, Mozilla Foundation
• Graydon Hoare, Mozilla Foundation
• Michael O’Brien, mbedthis
• Dave Herman, Northeastern University
• Lars Hansen, Opera Software
• Cormac Flanagan, UC Santa Cruz
• Doug Crockford, Yahoo!

Agenda

• Recent wiki changes
• Followups from past meetings
• Plans for next meetings

Discussion

• From last week: Dave asks rationale for cast in addition to to
  o downcast (cast)
  o user-defined conversion (to)
  o predefined conversions between unrelated types (to)
  o function(int):int @ function(double):double is not a cast
    ▪ it be done using “the bit” (runtime_types_and_conversions’s “Solution 8”)
    ▪ implicit, or if explicit, via to operator?
  o cast goes from supertype to subtype (nominal or structural)
    ▪ This is necessary under the hood
    ▪ It’s useful in the surface language in some cases, and less verbose than type
      switch
    ▪ Consensus is that we should expose cast separately from to
  o * @ int doesn’t need cast or to.
  o Dave to clean up spec

• documentation/triple_quotes need work

• Interfaces with generic methods and data
  o Graydon: MI means you have to go through vtbls for everything; data as well as methods
  o alternative is to be explicit and require get and set method pair instead of var
  o Jeff: lots of ways to implement, not clear which is best @ defer.
  o Lars: complexity budget full, excepting syntactic sugar
• Graydon: languages (Scala, Fortress) have constraints declared with interface on implementing classes
  • Consensus: defer, implementations may experiment
  • Dave: can we defer yet future-proof? Seems like reserved by default nature of new syntax suffices

• Implementations
  • Main thing to start to implement: type system in full.
  • Cormac and Dave to push [spec:type_system] forward. Reviewable but not complete next week.
  • Implementors: Lars, Jeff, Dave, some Mozilla?
  • Decimal? Graydon: libgcc has an implementation
  • Lars: need review of number spec – Graydon will do it.

• Another item from last week
  • Union type implicit conversion – first type only rule simplistic?