Minutes of the: Ecma TC39-TG1
held in: Phone conference
on: 8th November 2006

Attendees

- Graydon Hoare, Mozilla Foundation
- Steven Johnson, Adobe Systems
- Doug Crockford, Yahoo!
- Cormac Flanagan, UC Santa Cruz
- Dave Herman, Northeastern University
- Brendan Eich, Mozilla Foundation
- Chris Pine, Opera Software
- Lars Thomas Hansen, Opera Software
- Francis Cheng, Adobe Systems
- Pratap Lakshman, Microsoft
- Michael O'Brian, mbedthis
- Jeff Dyer, Adobe Systems

Agenda

- ByteArray proposal
- Unicode proposal
- ML reference status
- Order of class initialisation
- Meeting plans

Discussion

- ByteArray proposal (see `bytearray`)
  - We want a small targeted class for handling blobs such as bitmaps and bytecode
  - Typed arrays are too big given no built-in character class
  - Array properties are not generally useful
- Unicode proposal (see `update unicode`) – to be finalised at next week's f2f
- ML reference status
  - Not a lot happening
  - Cormac asks if we are allowed to use non-standard language extensions (e.g. or patterns). It is agreed that if it makes the code clear, then it is okay but lets call out uses of such features
  - Dave has a code generator for pretty printing
  - Graydon has implemented a lexer and ast pretty printer
  - Jeff will update the parser this afternoon
  - Cormac and Dave have made some progress on the typechecker
- Order of class initialisation
  - Pratap asks about lazy initialising classes
  - While developing AS3 we found that the best policy for order of initialisation is the one that gives the programmer explicit control.
  - The rule is: a class is initialised when its definition is encountered at runtime
- This avoids surprising uninitialised variable problems
- Pratap points out that this could lead to load-time performance issues since all of the classes in a compilation unit must be compiled (jit’d) at load-time
- This is true, but it is a cost we are willing to pay, and the user can make smaller compilation units to work around the problem

- Meeting plans
  - We have a face-to-face at Yahoo! next week
  - Doug to send out the details