Minutes of the: Ecma TC39, ES3.1WG
held in: Phone conference
on: 21 August 2008

1 Roll call and logistics

1.1 Participants
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2 Agenda
Attribute defaults for Object.defineProperty
Pending work prior to Redmond meeting

3 Minutes
Attribute defaults for Object.defineProperty

from a security perspective, new constants in Object.defineProperty attributes should default to 'false' - better support for high integrity programming - support for "deny by default"; put the cost on “allowing” things - notational costs influence usability.

Percentage of JavaScript programmers doing high-integrity programming is small - consistency is more important than security considerations - need to preserve semantics with respect to existing JavaScript - trying to condition meta operations as ‘not for the casual programmer’ - these are typically going to be wrapped with sugar, or emitted by translators - keep in mind that defineProperty is also used to refine properties - how about saying the missing attributes mean ‘leave it alone’?

So, we have two options:

(1) When creating a property using defineProperty all unspecified attributes default to false

(2) When creating a property using defineProperty all unspecified attributes default to the same values they have when a property is created by assignment or within an object literal.

Plan - ask on the discuss list for opinions - lets get closure on Tuesday’s call (26 Aug).

Optional third argument to Object.create
Indicates whether it is extensible or not - so, what should be the default? - no happy default - if we do catchalls in “harmony” that will require one or more such attributes - better to introduce them in a stratified manner - when we do catchalls the third argument must be able to specify a larger set of object attributes - ok, lets postpone it from ES3.1.

Renaming “Flexible”
How about “configurable”? - seems more close to the meta level than “Flexible” - also, seems more in line with naming convention used for the other attributes. Can we have something shorter? - how about “pinned”? - “prohibition” naming instead of the “permission” naming - there is value in brevity though - long names are a problem when reading (given programmer are read far more often than written) - those wanting to write high integrity programs will need to mention “configurable : false” in property descriptors; could become tedious if we go with option (2) above - how about using ‘w’, ‘e’ and ‘c’ as abbreviations for writable, enumerable
and configurable ? - all agree to drop this idea. Plan - since this is related to attribute defaults, lets ask this too on the discuss list - ok, lets send a single email asking both the questions then.

Pending work prior to Redmond meeting

Lets discuss over email.

Meeting adjourned.