

Standardizing Information and Communication Systems

TC39 Chairman's Report to the Co-ordinating Committee

10th May 2000

There have been ten TC39 meetings, one since the last GA:

First;	Mountain View, CA, USA on 21 st - 22 nd November 1996
Second;	Cupertino, CA, USA, on 14 th - 15 th January 1997
Third:	Cupertino, CA, USA, on 18 th - 19 th March 1997
Forth:	Mountain View, CA, USA, on 15 th - 16 th July 1997
Fifth:	Nice, France, 16 th Sept 1997
Sixth:	Mountain View CA Feb 1998
Seventh:	Menlo Park, CA 15 th - 16 th June 1998
Eighth:	Mountain View, CA 29 th March 1999
Ninth:	Bristol, England, 23 rd - 24 th Sept 1999
Tenth:	Redmond, WA, 23 rd March 2000

The schedule has been:

1 st draft	January 1997
Stable draft	early March 1997
Final draft	April 1997
GA vote	June 1997
Acceptance of name of standard by CC	Sept 1997
Fast-Track submission to ISO/IEC JTC 1	Oct 1997
FT DIS Ballot complete	April 1998
Ballot Resolution	June 1998
Publication as ISO Standard	Summer 1998
2 nd draft (to become Third Edition)	October 1999
GA vote	Dec 1999
Draft 2 nd Version (perhaps a separate standard)	June 2001 (target date only)

The Scope and Programme of Work of TC39 was accepted by June 1997 GA:

Scope

To standardise the syntax and semantics of a general purpose, cross platform, vendor-neutral scripting language.

Programme of Work

Develop a scripting language standard, based on initial submissions by Netscape, Microsoft and Borland
Contribute the ECMAScript Standard to ISO/IEC JTC1

Upon completion of 1, to investigate the further direction of the ECMAScript Standard, and to evaluate and consider proposals for complementary or additional technology

To maintain liaison with appropriate other ECMA TCs and TGs

Officers

Chairman: Andrew Clinick (Microsoft)
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Clayton Lewis (Netscape)
Project editor: Sam Ruby (IBM)

Latest Status:

At the March 2000 TC39 meeting it was agreed to progress with moving ECMA-262 Third Edition to ISO JTC 1 for fast track approval

The WAP subgroup had not convened for a meeting as of the March TC 39 meeting and it was agreed to get a more formal agreement with the WAP subgroup as to meeting schedules and to get a target date for the completion of any work

The ECMAScript Working Group November 15th – 16th 1999, January 20th 2000, February 17th 2000, March 23rd 200 and May 4th 2000. The committee is working hard on ECMAScript 2.0, an ambitious much-improved ECMAScript language definition that it hopes to standardize in the year 2001 (though this may be overly ambitious). The principal goal of ECMAScript 2.0 is to provide support for 'programming in the large' - that is, to support construction of programs written by several different people and assembled, perhaps for the first time, on the user's desktop. Work is going relatively slowly, primarily due to the scale of the change work. On the completion of ECMA-262 Third Edition the ECMAScript 2.0 subgroup was been discontinued so that the entire Technical Committee could concentrate on the new ECMAScript 2.0 features. The whole of TC 39 would like to thank Dr. Dave Raggett for chairing the sub committee so effectively. Work on Internationalization facilities for ECMAScript continued at a slow pace and is not planned to be finished at the same time as ECMAScript 2.0. Richard Gillam, IBM, Cupertino, CA announced his intention to step down as Chairman of the Internationalization sub committee, at present no replacement chairman has been proposed.

Andrew Clinick
Chairman TC39