ECMAScript Meeting May 22, 2001, Montreux, CH

Present

Patrick Beard – Netscape
Waldemar Horwat – Netscape
Herman Venter – Microsoft
Andrew Clinick – Microsoft
Chris Dollin – Hewlett Packard

Agenda

- Plan for ECMAScript 4
- Deprecation List
- Document Issues

Convener

Patrick Beard suggested that Chris Dollin be the convener. The group unanimously agreed.

Plan for ECMAScript 4

Aim to get sign off for June 2002 GA so final date the spec must be completed by is March 2002 for TC39 approval.

Option to use conference calls if the mailing list doesn't work well
WH to be in charge of doing editing documents

Publishing specs

Specs are published on http://www.ecmadoc.net which all the TG members have access to. The group will publish interim specs along with other TC39 TG's

We will update http://www.ecmadoc.net twice a month and TG will mirror those documents once a month along with other TG's

Private document will be on http://www.mozilla.org/js/language/Edition4.doc

Change control

Change bars will be from each face to face meeting not cumulative since the cumulative change bars make the document unreadable. For new features then the change bars won't be added. Change bars reset at meetings

Format

No gratuitous changes from Edition 3 in format for the document.

Plan for next meeting

Patrick Beard suggests having the structure of the new document ready for next meeting so we can agree on what we're working on. WH will write up the core object model documentation for the July meeting.

Deprecation List

Arguments objects to handle unnamed parameters in favour of the * argument
Non block scoping
What to do with With? An alternative to be defined

Document Issues

_ escape as a noise character

Is this a good way of scanning?

Object literals

Edition 4 now has a parenthesized expressions. This was added in the last proposal by WH. Potentially has an impact on named argument lists. WH agrees to take it out of the proposal

Named arguments

Clarification of wording.

Array sizing

WH proposes to allow for arrays to be greater than 32 bits if the platform supports it. WH to write up the grammar for the proposal.

Meaning of instanceOf operator

Is null instanceOf object and if it is what does that mean? Edition 3 says that it's not and the MS implementation is compatible with Edition 3.
More discussion required.

Meaning of As

are strings value types or reference types?
Herman thinks that they should be reference types. Issue to be discussed next time

Attributes on identifiers in For statements

More discussion required re: whether to keep them or not

Questions about hoisting

Needs to reflect the algorithm that will be specced by Chris and Waldemar

Prototype of classes

There was earlier agreement that the prototype and class system would be separated. The proposal includes a prototype on the object. WH explains that he put in there to provide a way to get to existing objects. The resolution is that classes only get the prototype member if they are defined as specific prototype class.

Meaning of assignment statements

MS implementation needs adhere to the CLI rules. Agreement to change the proposal to meet MS requirements.

Question about const

In the MS implementation if you declare a const inside a class it's treated like an instance. You need to put static in front of the const in order to make it global. Unfortunately the proposal doesn't work this way.
Agreement to change the proposal to ensure that const is an instance by default **not** statics

Questions about overriding

WH proposal was that there could only be one overridden function in a class and the signature can be different from the original.
More discussion required.

Questions about generic members

Only available if the class is defined as a specific prototype class.

Static function that has the same name as a class

HV would like that a function is a constructor if its name is the same name as the class or it has an attribute. You can't put static on it or give it a return type.
The ability to recycle a class it know about and is this the best way to represent it? CD feels the capability is the needed but perhaps the proposed mechanism isn't the best way to achieve the feature.
HV is concerned as to what other languages would see with this vase.
Do we require the type of the function to be the same as the class?
More discussion required.

Name lookup

HV has some questions on understanding. What does x.a mean? Need to clarify/improve the existing language to avoid this confusion in the future. Examples would help.

Circularity in package imports

CD was strongly in favour of not being able to have circularities. In the MS implementation packages aren't compilation units. You can have the same package in several compilation units. You can have a package, close it and start it again in the same compilation unit. Package == Namespace in the MS implementation.
Language changed to not explicitly disallow it

Float/Double with regard to comparison operators

More discussion required.

Language declarations

HV would like to either scrap this or generalize this.
WH sees 2 purposes:
1. Embedding other languages
2. Serve as pragmas similar to Perl

More discussion required.

Arrays sizing dynamically

HV felt that this had already been agreed that arrays can't shrink or grow dynamically.
MS can't implement this since the CLS of CLI imposes a set of rules that JScript needs to adhere to.
WH felt that arrays should be resizable be default.
HV and CD felt that arrays should be sized at declaration time.
PB felt that it was a matter of style rather than implementation.
It was agreed that arrays will be fixed by default and an attribute will be used to specify dynamic. Actual naming of the attribute TBD.

Action Items

Andrew Clinick to get passwords resent to the group members
Chris Dollin to check with Clayton re: the minutes for the March meeting
Andrew Clinick to check on archiving of TG1 reflector with ECMA
WH to write up the grammar for the proposal for array sizing to deal with great than 32 bit sizes
WH and CD to spec algorithm for how hoisting will work
CD to write up the "new" issue
WH to make changes to specs to reflect changes made in this meeting
Andrew Clinick to work with other TG's re: spec mirroring