

Sparkplug Steering Committee Call

October 7, 2021

Agenda

Agenda Topics	Moderator	Minutes
Approve Minutes of the September 9, 2021 call	Frédéric	5
Specification project , TCK and Compatibility Program: status update	Wes	10
Sparkplug-related patents	All	15
2021 Budget reallocation	Frédéric	10
2022 Program Plan and Budget	Frédéric	20

Attendees:

Jackie Eldridge (Inductive Automation)
Hassan Jaber (Eclipse Foundation)
David Grussenmeyer (Inductive Automation)
Frederic Desbiens (Eclipse Foundation)
Todd Anslinger (Chevron)
Benson Houghland (Opto22)
Arlen Nipper (Cirrus Link)
Don Pearson (Inductive Automation)
Ed Stern (Canary Labs)
Wes Johnson (Cirrus Link)
Chris Houghton (Cirrus Link)
Dominik Obermaier (HiveMQ)

Absent:

Vani Desai (Intel)
Kristine Zukose (Inductive Automation)
Ian Skerrett (HiveMQ)

Jeff Knepper (Canary Labs)

Minutes:

Objection to approving the last meeting minutes: None

Resolved, the Minutes of the September 9th, 2021 Steering Committee Minutes were unanimously approved.

Specification project, TCK and Compatibility Program: status update

Wes Johnson joined to update the group on the three main artifacts needed to get an official release out of the spec. Most of the major sections of the specification are in place, there are a few less significant things that need to be updated and clarified. Currently, they are trying to schedule a call hopefully next week to have a discussion about all the things that are intended to be put into the spec to make sure everyone is in agreement before finalizing the things that need to be clarified and cleaned up. After that they should be able to wrap up the spec and then it's just a matter of implementing the components in the TCK to provide test cases. The group has also made a lot of progress in the TCK; in the most recent edition of normative statements the test coverage was up around 53%. They are also working on a web UI to have a nice interface for users that are testing their implementations. If all goes well with testing and feedback from developers, Wes is hopeful that in Q1 we can talk about the release of the 3.0.0 version of the spec.

Sparkplug Related Patents

Dominik Obermaier joined the call to get a better understanding of the patent around Sparkplug that Cirrus Link announced, and what their plans are for this patent. Chris Houghton and Wes explained that with the sparkplug or Eclipse requirements any patents that would be infringed by the implementation of the spark plug specification would automatically become licensed to any of the sparkplug members. So there's no concern there by implementing the sparkplug specification that you would infringe on a patent because you would be licensed to use that patent. The patent that they filed covers some very specific areas of implementing sparkplug on an MQTT server which would not be covered by the specification. The group then went on to discuss some examples and use cases to get more understanding and went into more depth and detail on this.

2021 Budget Reallocation

Frederic shared the latest financial reports with the committee members for the first half of the year and the steering committee decided how they would like to allocate the budget for the second half of the year.

RESOLVED, the Sparkplug steering committee reallocates the \$22,500 in unspent funds related to the compatibility program for the 2021 calendar year to the staff category.

\$11,250 shall be allocated to the marketing manager position and \$11,250 to the program manager position.

2022 Program Plan and Budget

The group resumed their discussions from the last meeting regarding the 2022 Program Plan and Budget. Frederic shared the slide Hassan created called “Membership Growth Forecast” that included projections over 3 years. The steering committee discussed these projections and speculated future numbers and statistics. The Eclipse team has been discussing internally different scenarios and options for the barrier to entry we are seeing. One idea they are entertaining is a level of membership option.

Next meeting the group will actively finalize the program plan and budget for next year.

Meeting adjourned!