

TC39 Research doc

Goal: Create a resource gateway that allows users to navigate the TC39 process and get involved.

Restrictions

- There is a lot to do already, how do we make it so that this is as seamless as possible and updates when other resources are updated?

Method

- Interview a cross section of committee members, and the wider JS community to better understand the needs and types of groups and their needs.

Interview Skeleton (developer facing)

- Are you a javascript developer, do you use JS on a daily basis?
- What do you know about how JavaScript is developed? Are you aware of the specification? Are you involved or watching it somehow? Would you be interested?
- Do you know what the proposal process is? How has the release schedule impacted you? How are you dealing with the rolling release schedule? How do you follow updates to JS?
- Are Proposals easy to follow?
- Have you tried to engage or observe the in the proposal process? If yes, what was your experience? If no, what blockers have stopped you from getting engaged?
- How do you get news about the current spec? Is there anything you wish regarding getting this kind of information
- Do you have a go-to resource when you want to learn more about the current proposal status, or if you do not have one -- what would such a resource look like?

Interview Skeleton (Committee facing)

- How long have you been a member?
- How would you rate your comfort level when engaging with the spec'ing process?
- What resources do you find useful and what kind of utility do they hold for you?
- What is your decision making process?
- Do you use any tools to help with the work you do for the TC39?
- What tools or resources do you feel like we need, or are missing?

- How do you feel about our current engagement with the community?
- Do you have any further comments that you would like to add?

Interview Skeleton (Observer facing)

- How did you get interested in the TC39?
- How long have you been Observing?
- How would you rate your comfort level when engaging with the spec'ing process?
- What resources have you used, which have been useful or not useful?
- How do you find engaging with tc39 members?
- What tools or resources do you feel like we need, or are missing?
- How do you feel about our current engagement with the community?
- Do you have any further comments that you would like to add?

Interview Skeleton (Academic facing)

- ?

Interview (Company/ECMA facing)

- ?

People to ask

- committee
- twitter and github followers
- developers who work on js regularly but maybe have a more silent or transactional relationship to the development of the language (question: how do we identify these?)
- people from different skill levels, working with different frameworks, in different organizational contexts, locales, etc

User research recommendations -- that we pay participants

Early Results

So far I have managed to have 5 interviews with community members. This isn't enough to make any decisions but here are some quotes that stood out:

Quotes

- "Where is the TL;DR" — summaries of the entire meeting instead of just notes

- Similar: "I've read some of the meeting transcripts, but they can be a little dry."
- Regarding updates and new features: "Heard about it from twitter" - Information comes from member accounts
- "Since the move to github, the process has been much easier to follow"
- Learned about existence from a secondary source (Such as MDN)
- Reaction to the process doc: "maybe it's hard to read by design"
- Are Proposals easy to follow? Ones with code examples are simplest to motivate and follow.
- Is the main way you want to engage in the process to submit new specifications? Not really. I do spend a lot of time considering the active proposals though.

Some questions that came back

- If someone outside of the US has an idea they'd like to champion, how would that work? Would progression through the stages be limited to meetings that they could attend?
- Can I attend as an observer?
- How can I become a member?
- How can I get started?
- How do I stay informed? Is there a way to subscribe to updates that I'm interested in?

Demographics

These are some potential people that we might want to talk to. Questions to ask: how do these people fit in, institutionally?

Type	Needs	behavior
Committee Member <i>"This is part of my job"</i> Where to find them: The committee	- Beginner docs (first steps) - Proposal Management (how to be a champion) - How to be an editor - Best practices in language design - How to engage in the committee - Why we make our decisions the way we do - How does implementation work - What is the status of implementation - Current Proposals - Past Proposals - Summaries	- Attends meetings on a potentially regular basis - May be championing a proposal - May be involved in a proposal - Gets information from mailing lists, the github pages, meetings, irc - Proposed something - May or may not be a JS developer - Engagement: high to low

Rage Mob <i>"You did something that I don't like"</i> Where to find them: twitter	- Why we make our decisions the way we do - Current Proposals - Common reasons for rejection of an idea or suggestion - Summaries	- Upset about a recent decision - Gets information from twitter or secondary sources - Is most likely a js developer - Engagement: low, or high and with a specific purpose
Organizations <i>"We might be interested in getting involved in a larger way"</i>	- How organizations can get involved (host, member, etc) - What membership involves - Why it might be relevant for a given organization to get involved	- Tc39 membership doc

Sam's **Getting Started Guide** strawman

This was proposed by Sam Goto and it gives a good perspective from a committee member what is required to get started. This can be a touch point that can be used to shape how some resources are organized:

Audience, user stories

- P1: I have an idea, I want to make a proposal, champion or find a champion: not necessarily committee members
- P1: I want to help, move a proposal forward
- P2: I want to be aware of what's going on
- P2: I want to be an editor/chair
- P2: I want to be a host

Join the discussion

- reflector
- es-discuss
- IRC (tc39-delegates and tc39)
- twitter?
- anything else?

Understand the process

- meetings
- the staging process
- the consensus principle
- Allen's language patterns, tips on how to be effective,

Understand the design patterns

- role of transpilers, polyfills,
- web compat, backwards compatibility
- syntax constraints
- complexity budget
- past proposals/past discussions/prior-art
- mark's "does it stand on its own weight"

Understand the roadmap

- strategy (direction, vision) and
- tactics (bug list / feature list / wish list)

Proposal

- Page can be found at <http://hag.codes/js-spec>
- Github repo: <https://github.com/codehag/js-spec>
- Large, welcoming page with simple language, explaining the basics. Everything is linked. This is the newbie entrance
- Toolbar with grouped docs, github pages, etc. This is a launch point for someone who already sort of knows what they are looking for

Creating working groups

- Given that so many people were interested in participating from a feedback perspective, we might want to consider making working groups. These working groups could be surveyed according to their interests and give us the ability to frame decisions in a way that we could get the best feedback to a specific question.

Next steps

- More interviews, directed to specific populations
- Evaluating existing documentation for how different levels of engagement respond
- Feedback on website format
- Discussion of wording and presentation
- Better evaluation of similar sites and a more nuanced description of the goal
- Meeting with data scientist to discuss how to get good results from surveys / numbers (Thursday)
- Get the tc39 twitter account to tweet meaningful information (proposal digests, summaries)
- What is this document missing? Approaches? Ideas?

Similar Sites and Projects

- [Whatwg](#)
 - Comprehensive, a “center” for understanding what Whatwg does. Something to work towards
- Platform roadmaps for [chrome](#), [firefox](#), and [IE](#)
 - Has information about current status cross browser, links to spec, bugs, is a good example of a TL;DR. Has a bit more information than our current proposals repo
- [W3c get involved](#)
 - Similar strategy: works as a front that is welcoming, links out to “work” pages
- [Webcompat](#)
 - Narrow engagement gap, easy to use, easy to file bugs
- [Rust](#)
 - Example of a language standardization site that has a high level of engagement