

For Immediate Release



OSGi Creates Nursery to Incubate New Software Service Interfaces

Program to Accelerate Development of New Services Utilizing the OSGi Framework

San Ramon, Calif. – (October 4, 2000) – The Open Services Gateway Initiative (OSGi) today announced that it has launched a software service interface nursery to accelerate the development of new services utilizing the OSGi framework. Through an online forum, OSGi member companies can donate example service bundles, build consensus around interfaces to these services and exchange ideas on work to be included in the next version of the OSGi specification. OSGi (<http://www.osgi.org>) is an independent, non-profit corporation composed of 75 leading technology companies working to define and promote open standards for the delivery of multiple services over wide-area networks to local networks and devices.

This past March, OSGi released the 1.0 OSGi Open Services Gateway specification, which includes a flexible services framework and three essential services for OSGi-compliant gateways, including a log service, a device access service and an HTTP service. To enable members to quickly build consensus of additional generally useful services, OSGi has created the nursery as a forum where members can view donated example code and service interfaces in development by other OSGi members, minimizing fragmentation and redundancy in effort.

The nursery augments OSGi's existing rigorous RFP/RFC process, which is designed to ensure fair and equal access to the specification setting process to all OSGi members. By enabling rapid prototyping and simplified collaboration among members, the OSGi nursery should speed the development of services and products based around the recently released OSGi Open Services Gateway specification.

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“Interoperability is the key to the success of OSGi in the marketplace,” said Peter Kriens, administrator of OSGi’s software service interface nursery and software architect with Ericsson. “Speed is paramount in standardizing the numerous Java interfaces for OSGi service bundles in development by member companies. In the nursery, OSGi members can quickly converge by sharing their proprietary solutions and modifying the interfaces until they reach consensus. As a result, the formal OSGi specification process will be shorter and simpler.”

“The nursery is an excellent way for OSGi members to brainstorm and collaborate on new ideas,” said BJ Hargrave, OSGi Java Experts Group chair and senior software engineer, IBM. “Not only will potential specifications get broad exposure in a very short period of time, but the nursery will allow them to enter the official OSGi technical process more quickly and with a level of technical maturity. Ultimately, the nursery will lead to better overall final specifications for OSGi services.”

“The nursery marks the next phase of OSGi’s development,” said John Barr, president of OSGi, and director, Architecture and Technology Strategy for Personal Area Networks, Motorola. “We need to keep pace with the Internet cycle times of our member companies. As companies are developing products and services around the OSGi framework, the nursery provides a means for members to get their ideas into an environment to be evaluated and standardized quickly. This will facilitate the rapid development of OSGi specifications and enable us to better respond to changing market requirements. OSGi is delivering on its promise to enable the network delivery of managed services.”

The OSGi specification, which complements virtually all residential networking standards, defines an open framework that enables multiple software services to be loaded and run on a services gateway such as a set top box, cable modem, DSL modem, PC or dedicated residential gateway. Once resident in a services gateway, these services, such as energy measurement and control, safety and security services, health care monitoring services, device control and maintenance, electronic commerce services and more, can interact both with devices and networks in the home or small office and with clients and servers.

The software service interface nursery is open to all OSGi member companies. The nursery is not a replacement of the OSGi RFP/RFC process. It is intended to create consensus by using concrete examples of service bundle interfaces. The nursery is accessible via the members' area of the OSGi Web site (<http://www.osgi.org/members>).

About OSGi

The OSGi is a non-profit corporation formed to provide a forum for the creation of open specifications for the delivery of multiple services over wide-area networks to local networks and devices, and to accelerate the demand for products and services based on these specifications worldwide through the sponsorship of market and user education programs. The San Ramon, California, USA-based consortium comprises 75 member organizations from around the globe. Membership is open to any interested party, including Internet Service Providers, Network Operators, Original Equipment Manufacturers, Independent Software Vendors, end users, academic institutions, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. The consortium's Web site address is <http://www.osgi.org>.

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