SAN RAMON, Calif. – August 9, 2006 – The OSGi Alliance announced today it will host an open workshop Sept. 11, 2006, in the San Francisco Bay area for server-side industry leaders to identify enterprise requirements for the OSGi Service Platform, the framework for universal middleware.

The OSGi Service Platform has been widely adopted in a diverse set of embedded devices. More recently, there has been adoption in server-side and enterprise applications. For example, IBM System p5 server family and software products, such as WebSphere Everyplace Deployment and Lotus Sametime, rely on OSGi technology, as does Siemens’s new enterprise product line, HiPath. Also, open source communities like Apache and Eclipse have begun to embrace the OSGi Service Platform to deliver their middleware, services and applications across embedded, desktop and server systems.

“The service-oriented OSGi platform is at the core of a newly launched Siemens enterprise product line. The first two applications built on that environment, the HiPath 8000 Assistant V2.0 and the Media Service V1.0, were released to market early this year,” said Wolfgang Strunk, Head of Development Siemens Shared Services, Siemens AG.

To promote further server-side and enterprise adoption, the OSGi Alliance is soliciting feedback and requirements for the OSGi Service Platform. The workshop will help the alliance prepare for an OSGi Enterprise Expert Group (EEG) that will be chartered with adapting and extending the OSGi Service Platform to meet additional needs of enterprise customers.

“Early server-side adopters discovered enterprise value in the dynamic module system that OSGi technology provides for Java™,” said Stan Moyer, president of the OSGi Alliance. “By expanding our current strengths and pulling the adoption community together, the OSGi Service Platform can deliver even greater enterprise value and enable more business applications and services worldwide.”
Alliance expert groups, comprised of full alliance members, are chartered with a defined purpose, direction and intended deliverables based on industry needs. The initial proposal is for the EEG to define the technical requirements and specifications required to tailor the OSGi Service Platform for enterprise application and management scenarios. The proposal includes technical software requirements for desktops, laptops, and servers with documentation, specifications, reference implementations and compatibility test suites.

Candidate areas of EEG concern include enterprise-class lifecycle and configuration management, distributed deployments, robustness, multi-language support and legacy software integration. Technical areas addressed by the EEG would include the technical requirements, functional specifications, data and metadata formats, and communication protocols, as necessary, for the enterprise service platform as well as new technical requirements for the base service platform.

The EEG, through its members, may also cooperate with other recognized specification bodies in the creation of data and metadata formats and communication protocols. The EEG would work closely with the OSGi Core Platform Expert Group (CPEG) to ensure the specifications and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) are consistent with the overall OSGi Service Platform architecture and quality.

"For almost five years, ProSyst has used its OSGi implementation to realize its powerful and flexible remote management platform, mPower Remote Manager (mPRM). mPRM is already deployed in solutions from several Fortune 100 customers including big telcos. It enables them to remotely administer and maintain large networks of connected devices," said Dr. Dimitar Valtchev, CTO of ProSyst Software. "We support the creation of an OSGi enterprise expert group to further promote and develop beneficial solutions for the enterprise market."

The OSGi Enterprise Workshop provides interested parties with a public forum for discussion and input on the formation of the OSGi Enterprise Expert Group. Peter Kriens, OSGi Fellow and director of technology, will host and moderate the workshop.

Contact Rob Ranck, rranck@inventures.com, to participate in the workshop and receive meeting details.

About the OSGi Alliance
The OSGi Alliance is a worldwide consortium of technology innovators that advances a proven and mature process to assure interoperability of application and services based on its component integration platform. The alliance provides specifications, reference implementations, test suites and certification to foster a valuable cross-industry ecosystem. OSGi technology is delivered in many Fortune Global 100 company products and services. Member companies collaborate within an egalitarian, equitable and transparent environment and promote adoption of OSGi technology through business benefits, user experiences and forums. For more information on this non-profit technology corporation, visit http://www.osgi.org.
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