As part of the Release 4 of the OSGi™ Service Platform specification, the OSGi Alliance is pleased to announce early access to the OSGi Service Platform Mobile Specification on its Web Site (www.osgi.org). The Mobile Specification will enable the platform management and service management features that next generation mobile device will require.

In conjunction with the Release 4 specification, the Mobile Specification has been submitted to the Java Community Process (JCP), for approval as Java Specification Request 232 (JSR 232). The specification has been submitted to the JCP as an Early Draft Review (EDR), which is the first step towards becoming an official JCP Standard.

The OSGi Service Platform Release 4 specification defines a standardized, service oriented, component model and computing environment for networked services. Using the OSGi Service Platform in a networked device also adds the capability to manage the life cycle of the software services in the device through the network. Software services can be installed, updated, or removed in a controlled manner without having to disrupt the operation of the device.

A unique aspect of the OSGi Service Platform is that its service oriented component model enables networked services to dynamically discover other services and work together to achieve the desired functionality. Other groups and consortia, such as the Eclipse Foundation and the ERTICO GST project, have worked with the OSGi Alliance to define open service specifications that address common industry needs in an open, non-proprietary way.

The specifications were created with input from a large group of industry-wide experts including JSR 232 and the OSGi Alliance expert groups. "It's great to see the interest in this technology from so many different players in different parts of the value chain" said Jon Bostrom, co-chair of the OSGi Alliance Mobile Expert Group, Director of Java Technology with Nokia and Co-Specification Lead for JSR 232.

This Mobile Specification release is targeted at creating the next generation Java services on mobile devices. This includes enabling a service-oriented and modular architecture, the ability to create platform extensions after manufacturing, as well as providing platform stability and performance that meets industry needs, specifically in the enterprise. In addition, mobile devices implementing the Mobile Specification will feature strong support for network-connected applications and a secure application execution environment, both of which will enable a powerful platform capable of remote management and monitoring of applications and the platform itself.

The Mobile Specification, a draft release which is available from the OSGi web site, offers a clear upwards transition path, both at the developer and application level, to allow developers to take advantage of these next generation Java features, while leveraging the developers’ experience and knowledge in the MIDP environment they’ve become accustomed to in mobile devices.

Many software developers have already expressed interest in creating middleware services which can be built upon these specifications. Middleware service will enable the ecosystem for this next generation Java, creating new business for everyone in the value chain.

“The middleware market for mobile devices, enabled with OSGi technology, is going to allow developers, operators, and device manufacturers to all benefit from this exciting new technology. Much in the same way that the middleware software ecosystem helped to grow the Internet server market, this technology will provide the same opportunities in the mobile space” said Jon Bostrom.

The specifications mentioned are available on the OSGi Alliance web site – www.osgi.org. The final release of the core R4 specification is planned for the OSGi Alliance 2005 Developer Forum and World Congress in Paris, France, October 11-14. For more information on the conference, please go to www.osgicongress.com.
About the OSGi Alliance
The OSGi Alliance and its members specify, create, advance, and promote wide industry adoption of an open delivery and management platform for application services in home, commercial buildings, automotive and industrial environments. The OSGi Alliance serves as the focal point for a collaborative ecosystem of service providers, developers, manufacturers, and consumers. The OSGi specifications define a standardized, component oriented, computing environment for networked services. OSGi technology is currently being delivered in products and services shipping from several Fortune Global 100 companies. The OSGi Alliance’s horizontal software integration platform is ideal for both vertical and cross-industry business models within home, vehicle, mobile and industrial environments. As an independent non-profit corporation, the OSGi Alliance also provides for the fair and uniform creation and distribution of relevant intellectual property – including specifications, reference implementations, and test suites – to all its members. http://www.osgi.org

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