# RFC 60: Preferences Root Nodes Changes in R4

Confidential, Draft

6 Pages

## Abstract

This RFC describes a simple change to the Preferences Service in order to remove Preference root nodes.

# 0 Document Information

## 0.1 Table of Contents

## 0.2 Status

This document specifies a proposed enhancement for the Open Services Gateway Initiative, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Distribution of this document is unlimited within OSGi.

## 0.3 Acknowledgement

None.

## 0.4 Terminology and Document Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY" and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [1].

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## 0.5 Revision History

The last named individual in this history is currently responsible for this document.

| Revision | Date | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Initial | Jan 30 2003 | Miguel Lopez |
| Second | Feb 27 2003 | Miguel Lopez, Changes after CPEG conf-call meeting, 26 Feb 2003. |

# 1 Introduction

The OSGi Preferences Service specification version 1.0 provides access to the different roots of Preferences trees. A single system root node and any number of user root nodes are supported. However, with the current specification it is not possible to remove any user root node once created in the Preferences Service. This RFC describes the improvements on Preferences Service to remove such restriction.

# 2 Application Domain

This RFC addresses a feature request that is being tracked in the issue tracker as Issue #160 [3].

# 3 Problem Description

With Preferences Service version 1.0, bundles are not allowed to remove Preferences root nodes. It explicitly expresses on the `org.osgi.service.prefs.Preferences.removeNode` method that a `java.lang.RuntimeException` exception must throw in case this method is called on Preferences root nodes. This may cause the Preferences tree structure to grow indefinitely without giving any change to the bundle developer to delete some Preferences user root nodes afterward.

# 4 Requirements

The changes proposed in this RFC must be backwards compatible with previous releases of the OSGi Preferences Service version 1.0.

# 5 Technical Solution

The following changes must be applied in Preferences Service version 1.0:

- `Preferences.removeNode` method must NOT mention anymore that it is illegal to remove a root node. From now on, system and user root nodes can be removed.

- Preferences user root nodes, once deleted, are not part anymore from the list returned by the `PreferencesService.getUsers` method.

Note that the removal is applied on both system and user root nodes, even if it was not the first intention of the RFC to extend to the system root node. However, it makes sense to delete it as well. Furthermore, it is more consistent across root nodes.

# 6 Considered Alternatives

None.

# 7 Security Considerations

None.

# 8 Document Support

## 8.1 References

[1].    Bradner, S., Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels, RFC2119, March 1997.

[2].    Software Requirements & Specifications. Michael Jackson. ISBN 0-201-87712-0

[3].    Issue #160, http://membercvs.osgi.org/rt/rt.cgi?serial_num=160&display=History

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## 8.3 Acronyms and Abbreviations

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