10. Mac Layout

While 10 years is a long time, some Eclipse feature requests last longer than that. In fact, since before I was a committer, since before I went to my first EclipseCon, and since before YouTube had its first video, the Eclipse community has been requesting a proper Mac Application for Eclipse.

This year the Eclipse team finally delivered, shipping the MacOS version as a proper Mac application. This means that Eclipse can be unzipped and dragged directly in your Application folder. With this change, installing Eclipse becomes much easier on Mac, and features like “open with” now work as expected.

9. Platform Improvements

The Eclipse platform is the core of all Eclipse based applications and plugins. Improvements to the platform benefit us all. There are a number of improvements to the core platform this year, including an improved Dark Theme, crisper icons and proper transparency support in SWT.

8. UI Monitoring

From Mac’s spinning beach ball of death to Window’s unresponsive UI, user interface lags take developers out of the flow. We’ve all tried to fix the problem by clicking the mouse a little harder or hammering on the esc key; but as we all know, that doesn’t work. The only real fix is to understand what long-running task is blocking the UI thread.

With Eclipse Mars, debugging this just got a lot easier as Eclipse now ships with a UI Responsiveness Monitoring Tool. The tool can be configured to report instances of UI unresponsiveness.

7. C/C++ Launching

The developers behind the C/C++ tooling in Eclipse (CDT) have brought a number of new enhancements this year. To make it easier to launch your applications and choose your target device, a new launch bar was added. As well as the launch bar, the CDT also added support for direct Docker deployment. This means that you can deploy your C/C++ applications from Eclipse directly to a docker container.

6. e4 Tools

In 2012 Eclipse launched a new application model called e4. The application can be designed through a series of UI models, styled using CSS and dependencies are managed via DI.

This year, the Eclipse team has released the long awaited tooling for e4 as part of the simultaneous release. The Plug-in Development Environment (PDE) has a series of wizards and tools to help you create an Eclipse 4 application and editors to help you configure your models.

5. JDT Improvements

Eclipse Luna (2014) shipped with Java 8 support and this year the team expanded on that support. There are quick fixes for creating method references from lambda expressions; quick-fixes for inferring lambda parameter; several new templates have been added for things like try / finally and lock acquisition; and much improved static flow analysis.

4. Docker Tools

Throughout my day I work on several different projects. I work with Tomcat servers, CouchDB, C/C++ builds, node.js and many other technologies. Docker has been a life-saver when it comes to managing all these stacks, and I’m excited to see Docker tools integrated directly within Eclipse.

There is a new Docker perspective that you can use to connect to a Docker daemon. There are views to manage your images and containers and even a log inspector.

3. Git Flow

Eclipse has shipped with Git support since 2011. While the tool has improved significantly over the years, many developers would still drop to the command line for custom tasks. One such example is the use of Git Flow. Git Flow is a branching model that places meaning on different branches. Each feature is developed in its own branch, and merged into a standard ‘develop’ branch. To perform a release, the ‘develop’ branch is merged into master. There are tools to help simplify this process.

With Eclipse Mars, there is now support for Git Flow directly from Eclipse.

2. Automatic Error Reporting

Instead of simply logging errors to the console, Eclipse can now report errors directly to the Eclipse committers; putting the information in the hands of those who can use it.

When errors are detected, you will be prompted if you would like to send the details to eclipse.org. Committers will be able to create bug reports from the data, see similar incidents and help triage issues as they come in. Finally, if an issue has already been fixed, Eclipse will notify you and inform you of the version that contains the fix.

1. The Eclipse Installer (by Oomph)

This year Eclipse offers a completely new way to download and work with the IDE. Instead of downloading each package individually, the Eclipse installer by Oomph allows you to choose the installation you wish, and it will provision it for you.

You can choose \_bundle pool\_, to share Eclipse plugins between installations. This means that if you install another package, all the common bits will be shared. Finally, once Eclipse is started, you can walk through the Eclipse Welcome Questionnaire to set common Eclipse preferences to your liking.