Copilot4Eclipse 2.0.0 Early Access 1 Release Notes

20251119-01

1. Introduction

We're pleased to announce Copilot4Eclipse 2.0.0 Early-Access 1, our first preview release of the next major version. Early-Access releases give you early access to new features while allowing us to gather real-world feedback before the final release. This EA1 introduces:
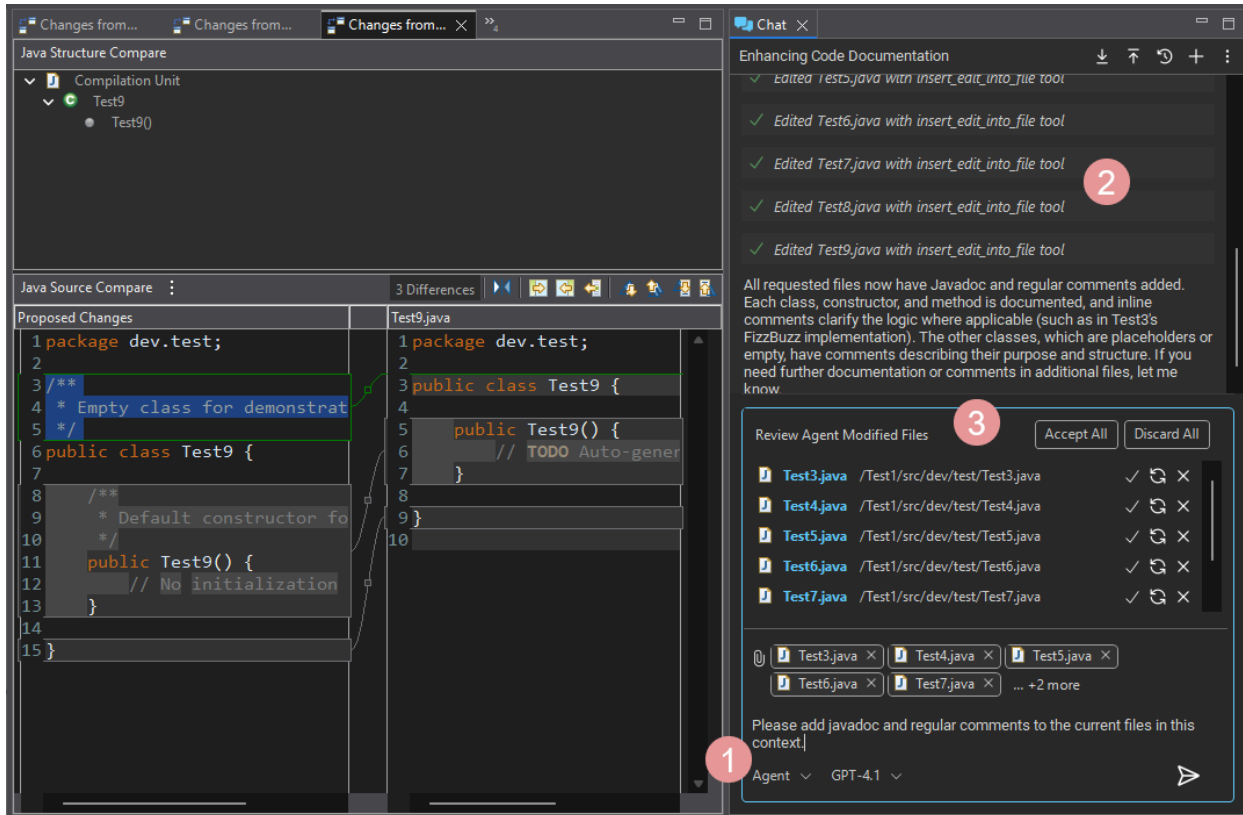
- New CopilotCoding Agent now available from the Chat Panel
- Configure custom MCP Tools for use by the Copilot Coding Agent
- New custom Chat instructions for use in workspace and project scopes
- Add files and now folders to the Chat context via DnD
- Enterprise administrative controls for agent services and MCP servers
- Rehosted all features on the OSS Eclipse-Copilot projects
- Support for Eclipse versions 2024-03 through 2025-12

We invite you to integrate it into your development workflow and share your experiences. Your feedback—whether bug reports, feature requests, or success stories—is essential in helping us refine and perfect 2.0.0 for general availability.

2. Copilot Coding Agent

Copilot4Eclipse 2.0.0 EA1 introduces the Copilot Coding Agent, accessible via the Chat Mode selector in the Chat Panel. Unlike traditional Ask mode, the Copilot Coding Agent can actively review and modify files in your Eclipse workspace based on your instructions. Simply switch to "Agent" mode and provide high-level tasks like "refactor this service layer" or "add error handling to these methods." The Agent will autonomously analyze your code and make changes, with all actions documented in the Chat Panel thread.

Note that Agent mode has write access to your workspace, so we recommend using version control to track changes.

Chat Panel in Agent Mode with files modified by the Copilot Coding Agent

1. ChatMode selector - select between Agent Mode and the traditional Ask mode
2. MCP tool statuses shown inline with other data
3. Agent File Modifications - the user is responsible for reviewing and accepting or declining changes made by the Copilot Coding Agent

3. MCP Configuration and Usage

Model Context Protocol (MCP) servers extend Copilot's capabilities by providing access to external data sources, tools, and services. Copilot4Eclipse 2.0.0 EA1 supports both local and remote MCP servers.

3.1 Configuration

To configure MCP servers:

1. Navigate to **Window > Preferences > Model Context Protocol**
2. Add your MCP server configuration in JSON format

3.2 Example Configuration

The following example configures both a local MCP server (Microsoft's MarkItDown) and a remote MCP server (Context7):

```json
{
  "servers": {
    "microsoft/markitdown": {
      "type": "stdio",
      "command": "uvx",
      "args": ["markitdown-mcp==0.0.1a4"],
      "gallery":
"https://api.mcp.github.com/2025-09-15/v0/servers/976a2f68-e16c-4e2b-9709-7133487f8c14",
      "version": "1.0.0"
    },
    "upstash/context7": {
      "type": "http",
      "url": "https://mcp.context7.com/mcp",
      "headers": {
        "CONTEXT7_API_KEY": "${input:context7_api_key}"
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Example MCP Servers Configuration

4. Enterprise Administration

For enterprise environments, Copilot4Eclipse 2.0.0 EA1 includes Group Policy templates to centrally manage Agent mode and MCP (Model Context Protocol) support. This feature is currently available on Windows only.

4.1 Group Policy Configuration

Installation:

1. Copy `Copilot4Eclipse.admx` to `C:\Windows\PolicyDefinitions`

2. Copy `Copilot4Eclipse.adml` to the appropriate language subfolder (e.g., `C:\Windows\PolicyDefinitions\en-US`)
3. Open Group Policy Editor: Press `Win+R`, type `gpedit.msc`, and press Enter
4. Navigate to either Computer Configuration or User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Copilot4Eclipse

To Disable Agent Mode:

1. Double-click ChatAgentMode
2. Select Disabled
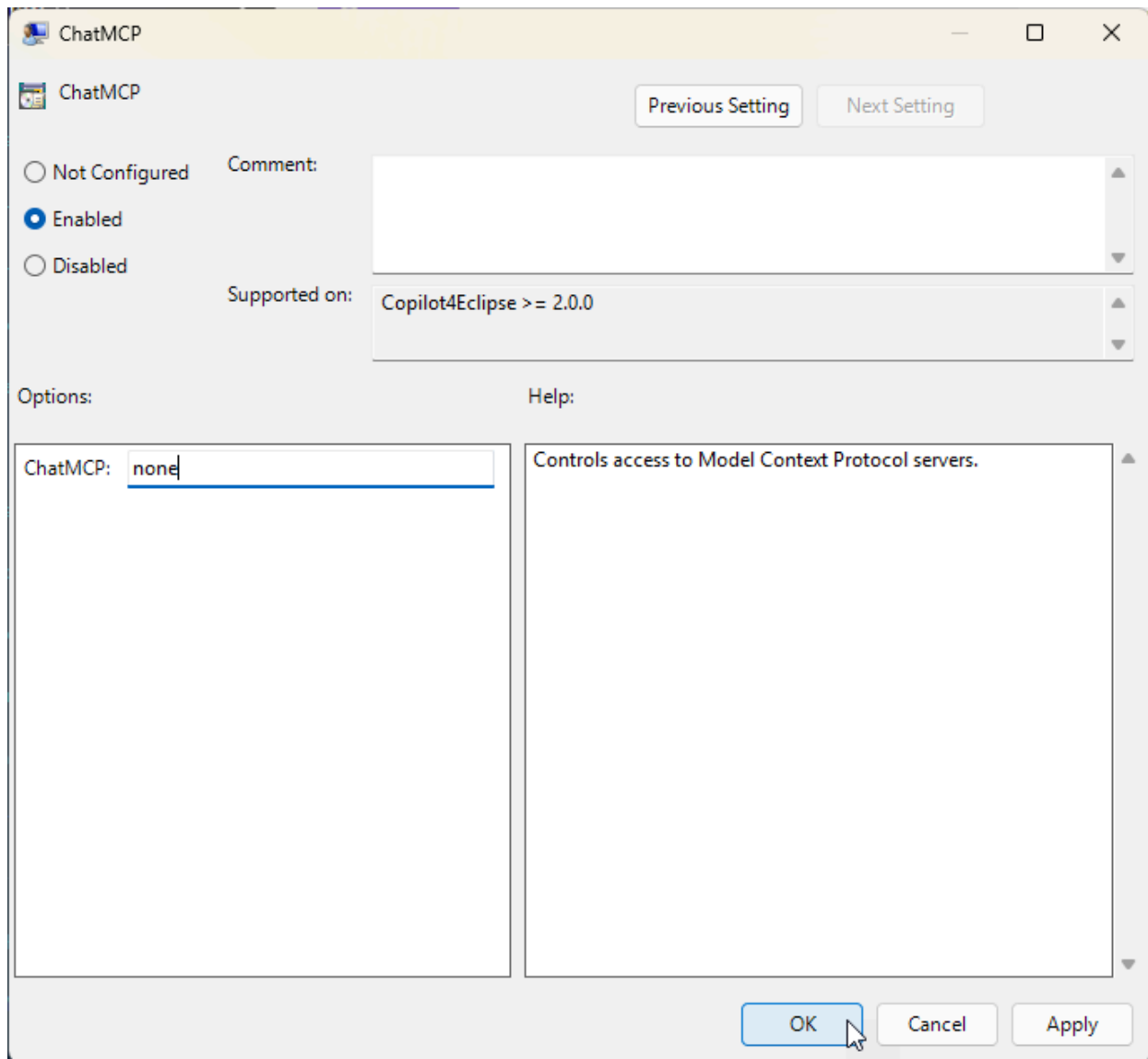3. Click Apply and OK

To Enable Agent Mode:

1. Double-click ChatAgentMode
2. Select Enabled
3. Check the ChatAgentMode checkbox
4. Click Apply and OK

To Disable MCP Support:

1. Double-click ChatMCP
2. Select Enabled
3. In the ChatMCP text field, enter none
4. Click Apply and OK

To Enable MCP Support:

1. Double-click ChatMCP
2. Select Enabled
3. In the ChatMCP text field, enter all
4. Click Apply and OK

Editing policies via gpedit

4.2 Alternative: Direct Registry Configuration

If you prefer not to use Group Policy templates, you can configure these settings directly in the Windows registry.
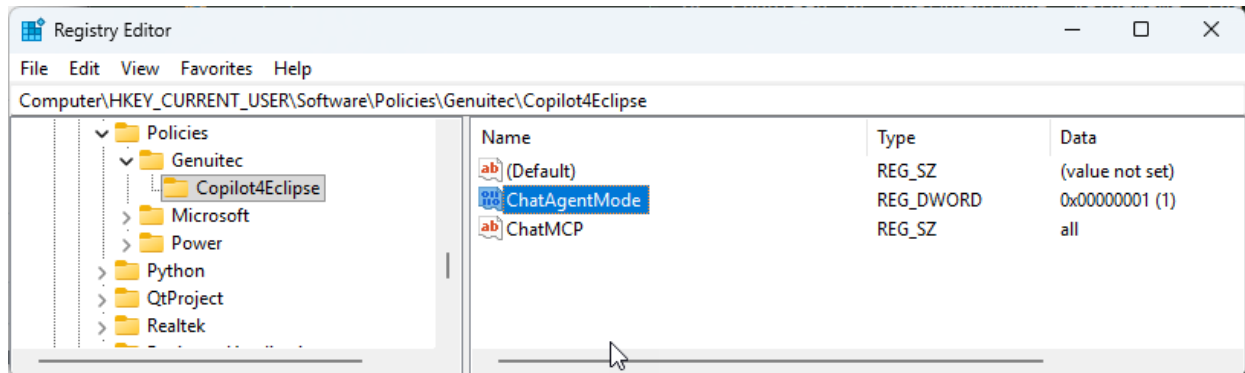
Caution: Editing the Windows registry incorrectly can cause system issues. We recommend using the Group Policy templates (Section 4.1) unless you have experience with registry editing.

Registry Path: `Software\Policies\Genuitec\Copilot4Eclipse`

Registry Hive: Either `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE` (applies to all users) or `HKEY_CURRENT_USER` (applies to current user only)

Values to create:

- **ChatAgentMode**: Boolean value (`REG_DWORD`) - Set to `1` to enable, `0` to disable
- **ChatMCP**: String value (`REG_SZ`) - Set to `"all"` to enable, `"none"` to disable

Controlling enablement directly in the Windows registry

Important: You must restart Eclipse for Group Policy or registry changes to take effect.

5. Staying in Touch

We value your feedback on this Early-Access release! Whether you're reporting bugs, requesting features, sharing success stories, or asking questions, we want to hear from you. Your input directly shapes the final 2.0.0 release.

Please contact us at support@genuitec.com for all feedback and support. Email is our primary channel for EA communication, and we read and respond to every message.

Thank you for helping us build the best Copilot4Eclipse experience!