

# The Internet Engineering Task Force

# IETF

Olaf Kolkman

NLnet Labs

(not speaking for the IETF/IAB)



European ICT standardisation policy at a crossroads: A new direction for global success  
European Commission

# Your typical daily dose of global standards

Browsing the Web			
802.11	IEEE	TCP/IP	IETF
URI	IETF	BGP	IETF
NAT	Proprietary	HTTP	IETF
CSS	W3C	PNG	W3C
HTML	W3C/ISO	MPEG	ISO/IEC
XML	W3C	ADSL	ITU

This table serves as an illustration it is far from complete.



European ICT standardisation policy at a crossroads: A new direction for global success  
European Commission

# IETF Mission

**The goal of the IETF is to make the Internet work better.**

**The mission of the IETF is to produce high quality, relevant technical and engineering documents that influence the way people design, use, and manage the Internet in such a way as to make the Internet work better.**



# The core values

*“We reject kings, presidents and voting. We believe in rough consensus and running code” (Dave Clark)*

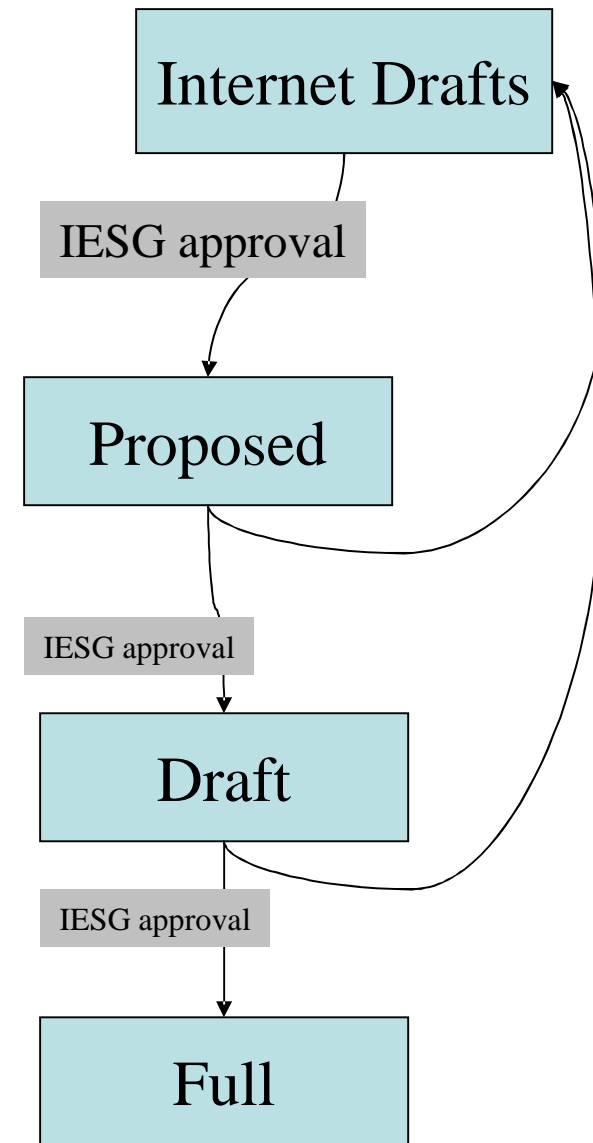
- Technical competence is the only requirement for contributing
- Contributions are on personal title, not on behalf of companies, organizations, or governments
- Decisions made by rough consensus, on open mailing lists
  - There is no such thing as membership
- Global Interoperability is target
  - Multiple independent interoperable implementations are a requirement during the standard development track (also a test on IPR encumbrance)



# RFCs

Simplified process picture

- IETF standards are published as RFCs
  - Standards track
  - Best Current Practices (operational)
  - Informational and Experimental
- RFC series also includes
  - IRTF (Internet Research Task Force)
  - IAB (Internet Architecture Board)
  - Independent contributions
- Standards Track documents are maintained by the IETF
  - IESG approval: based on consensus process



# Properties

- Consensus driven
- Anybody can contribute to the process
  - A Truly Global organization
- Technical Quality
  - Those who write the protocols contribute directly
  - Those who deploy the products contribute too
  - Cross Area Review
- Fast and close to market
- Low costs for consumer
  - A number of IETF technologies are freely available



# My personal perspective

- Market benefits from open specifications
  - Multiple vendors can implement: consumers have a choice
- In the case of the Internet the global market has converged to standards specified by IEEE, IETF, W3C, OASIS and many more

*The specification of the wheel is freely available,*



*why reinvent it?*

European ICT standardisation policy at a crossroads: A new direction for global success  
European Commission

# Further Reading

- Overview of the IETF: <http://www.ietf.org/overview.html>
- RFC3935: IETF Mission Statement <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3935.txt>
- RFC4677: TAO of the IETF <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4677.txt>
- BCP9: The IETF Standards Process <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2026.txt>
- BCP78: IETF Rights in Contributions <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3978.txt> and <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4748.txt>
- BCP79: Interlectual Property Rights in IETF Technology <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3979.txt> and <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4879.txt>

