

The Internet Engineering Task Force



IETF

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(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.



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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)

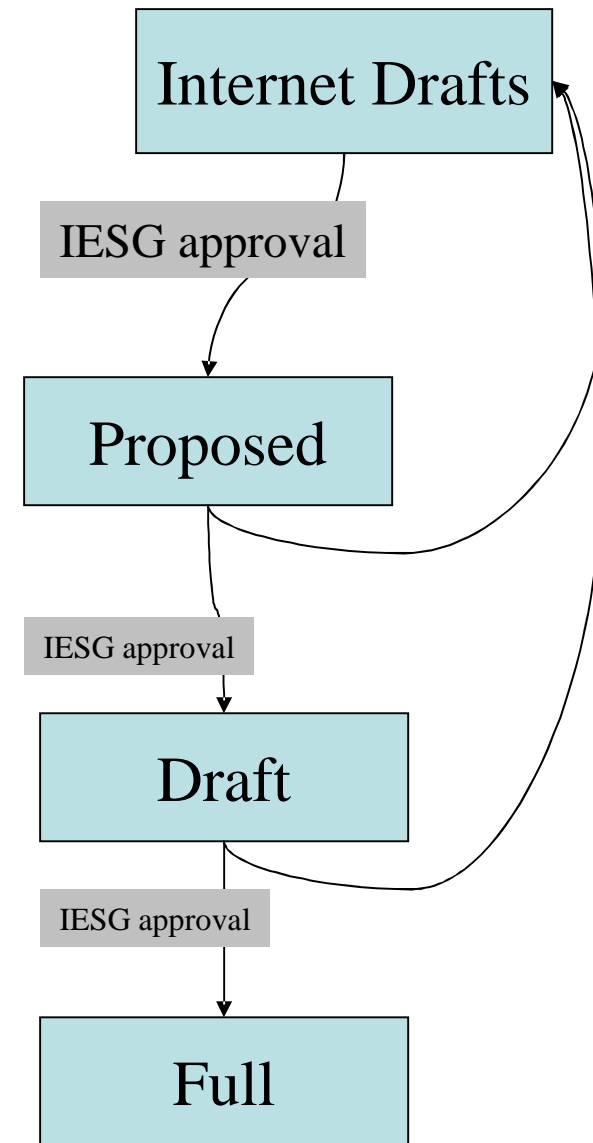
- Technical competence is the only requirement for contributing
- Contributions are on personal title, not on behalf of companies, organizations, or governments
- Decisions made by rough consensus, on open mailing lists
 - There is no such thing as membership
- Global Interoperability is target
 - Multiple 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?

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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>

