

# IETF Administrative Restructuring Update

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# Restructuring What?

- Some percentage of you have already heard this in IETF plenaries
  - you now have 9.5 minutes of guilt-free e-mail reading time!
- The rest of this is for people who've heard enough to wonder what's up
  - it's an evolution, not a revolution
  - it's just about taking care of business
- Why here?
  - because we're all in this Internet thing together...

# The IETF's non-existence

- For decades, the IETF has been the organization of choice for developing and maintaining Internet technical standards
- But, the IETF does not exist as a formal organization
  - it does not have members
  - it does not have a “head office”
  - it can't sign agreements
- And this is not changing...

# What to do when you don't exist

- You work with friends and share the load
  - ISI, CNRI, Internet Society...
- But, as the IETF workload grows and processes formalize, we need more integration of efforts
  - See RFC3716, the IAB Advisory Committee report, for an analysis of the issues with the overall IETF administrative picture

# RFC3716 Identified Requirements

Formalize the control of IETF administrative support in a new organizational activity

- accountable to the IETF leadership and community; goal is clear lines of responsibility and accountability
- manage financial resources (revenue and expenses) directly
- negotiate and administer any appropriate contracts.

# Solution Proposal

- draft-ietf-iasa-bcp
- Creates a new activity to anchor the administrative functions of IETF work (IASA)
  - with an oversight committee to oversee administrative & financial activities (IAOC)
  - does not replace RFC Editor, Secretariat, Parameter Registration functions -- contracts with them
- Formally separate from the IETF standards process, which remains unchanged
  - new activity supports consensus-based process change
  - the oversight committee of this activity is not a new “top of the IETF tree”

# Status & Next steps

- Have appointed a “Transition Team” to help define administrative relationships and find IETF Administrative Director (IAD)
- Requirements
  - Get full BCP approval before binding actions are taken
  - Move as quickly as possible towards well-structured, accountable, transparent administrative support activity for the IETF
- Goals
  - Make transition process as transparent as possible to the functioning of the IETF technical work
  - Ensure administratively efficient and effective IETF support

# Rough timeline

- Finalize BCP
  - community discussion and last call
- Approve BCP (early Feb)
  - community discussion & IESG approval
  - ISOC BoT approval
- Seat initial IAOC (Mar) to start final contract negotiations and approval (Apr)
- Contracts or other agreements in place for all IASA portions (mid-year 2005)

Space to watch...

<http://www.alvestrand.no/ietf/adminrest>

# Acronym Soup

IASA -- IETF Administrative Support  
Activity

IAD -- IETF Administrative Director

IAOC -- IETF Administrative Oversight  
Committee