

IETF Administrative Restructuring

Status Report

IETF 60, San Diego, CA

August 5, 2004

Context

- Tonight's discussion talks about change, and evolution that is needed to meet the IETF's current and expected needs – growing up and taking on our own responsibilities
- While we talk of change, we should also not lose sight of the folks who've supported us and given us the opportunity to grow to this point
- Bob Kahn (who you met at last night's plenary) and CNRI have been there for the IETF for longer than many of us have participated in it
 - That CNRI has been there for us has shielded us for a long time from the need to take this next step

From IETF 59: Proposal for Administrative Restructuring

- draft-daigle-adminrest-00.txt
 - architecture/requirements
 - “specification” to follow
- Proposes a new piece of the IETF effort:
 - Responsible for administrative interface with Secretariat, RFC-Ed, IANA
 - Handles the financials
 - Responsible to the community through its board
- Will require full time management skills
 - Expect it will hire someone

From IETF 59: Practical Overview

- Putting together the administrative pieces to tackle projects such as
 - better tools for WG support (issue tracking)
 - better tools to coordinate tracking work between I-D's, RFC-Editor, IANA
- where “administrative pieces”, above are:
 - coordination of necessary funds
 - oversight of contracted work
 - clear accountability/responsibility to IETF community
 - not done directly by the IAB and IESG

From IETF59: Intended next steps

- Refining the proposal documents, based on input
 - *IETF60: IETF mission statement has been approved for publication*
- Specific implementation proposal
 - *IETF60: Consultant (see below) is working on it*
- Working with ISOC to establish a project to start taking on some of that coordination and development work now
 - *IETF60: Hired Carl Malamud as consultant; he is drafting a document outlining a proposal and options. He's been around for chatting, all week.*
- Continued monthly status reports on ietf@ietf.org

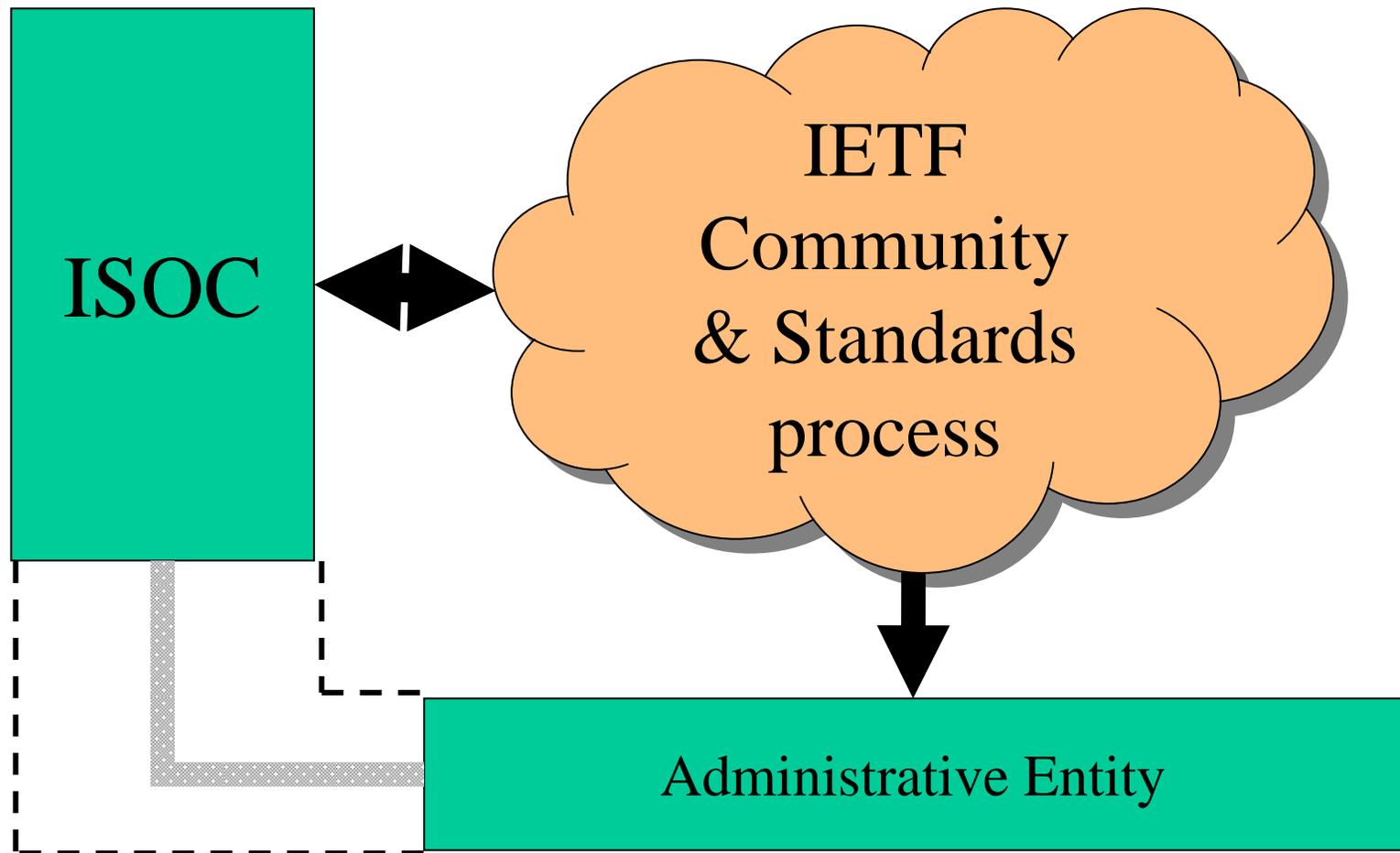
Status

- This is an update, not an announcement
- Document(s) are being drafted
 - Carl has been busy soliciting input all week
 - More editing to be done to be able to provide a comprehensive first draft to the community
 - Expect this document out in the next few weeks
- Then there will be the opportunity to comment.
- And now – meet Carl Malamud!

Administrative Entity

- Name is a clunker – tried to find one with very few connotations. Not final name!
- Managing the support functions of the IETF standards process
- Responsive to and responsible to the IETF community

Positioning the Administrative Entity



Characteristics of the proposed administrative entity

- The administrative entity will be responsive to, and responsible to, the IETF community
- The administrative entity will likely be staffed by a single person, whose chief task is contract administration and performance coordination.
- Its establishment will not change the IETF standards process as we know it
- Will not affect the IETF standards process when functioning.

What we hope to achieve

- A clear and transparent mechanism for managing the IETF support functions (all of them)
- Where commercial contracts are the right mechanism, the administrative entity will follow an open process for placing those contracts
 - Most likely this involves issuing formal "requests for proposals" and invite multiple organizations to offer services.
 - Criteria to be based on evaluating ability to deliver to our requirements (not just lowest bid)

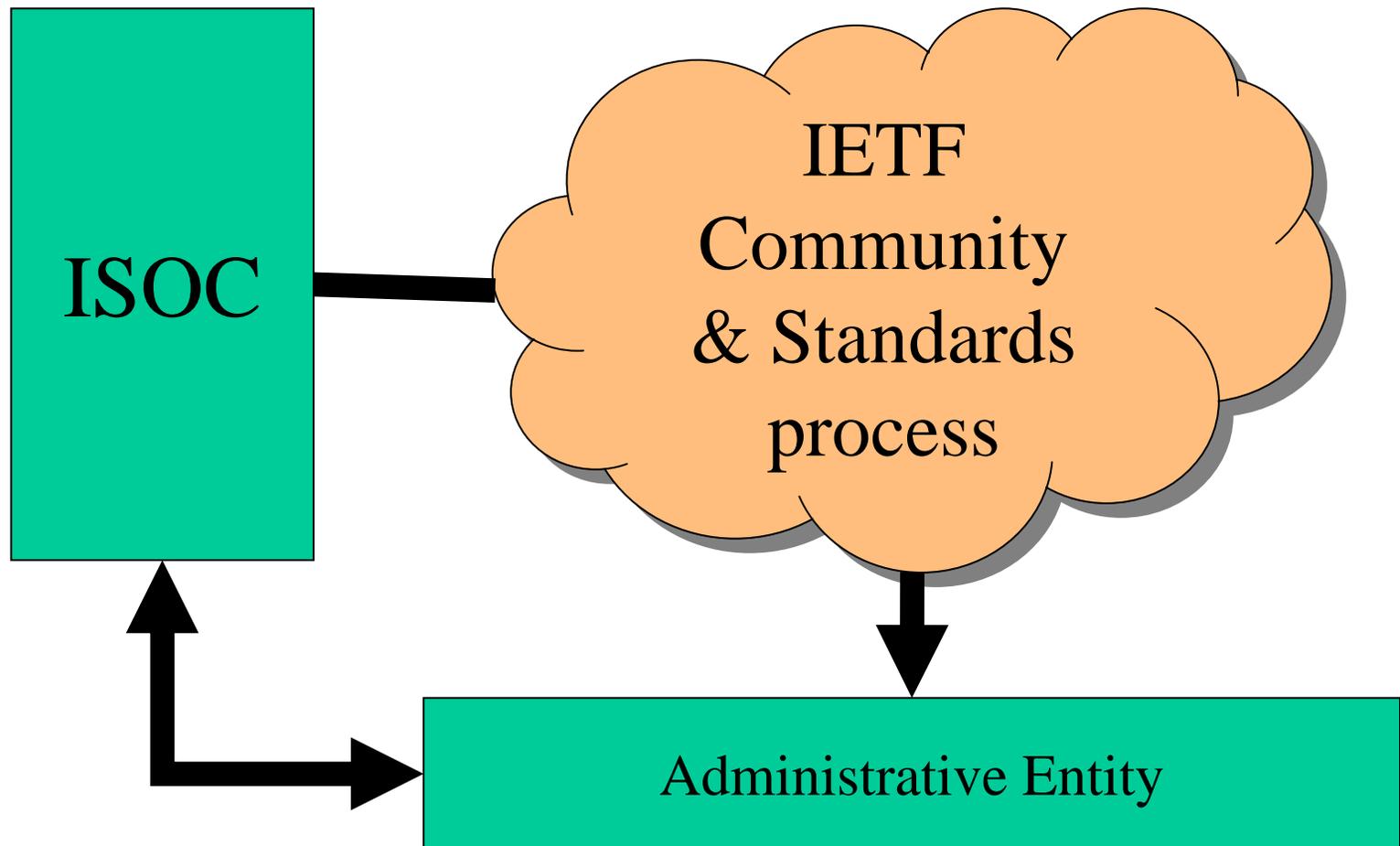
Principles of transition

- Complete transition to this model will need to be performed over time and with deliberation, in order to avoid excessive risk and unnecessary disruption.
- But first we have to know if this is what the community thinks is the Right Thing

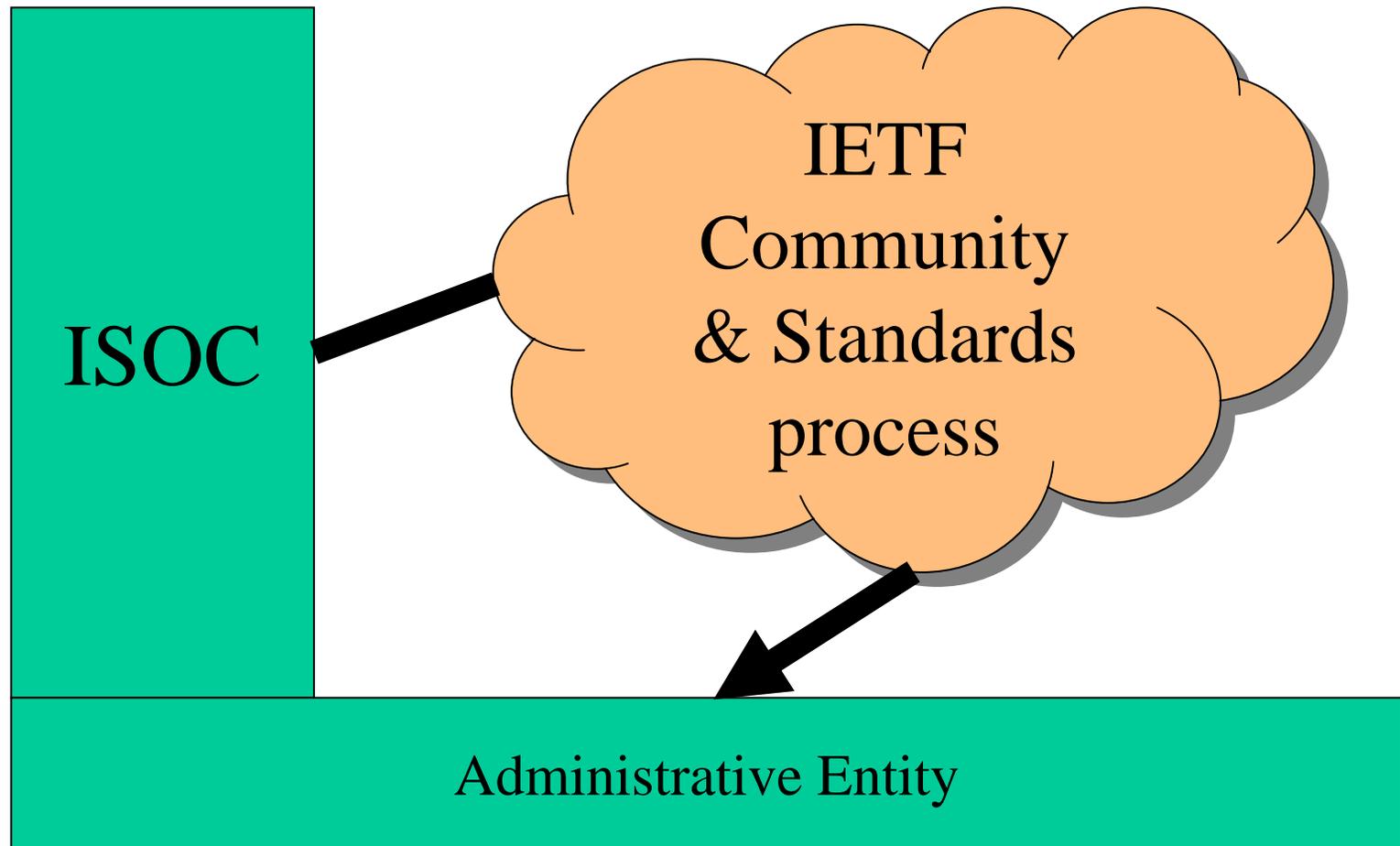
What is still being drafted (1)

- The formal relationship between this administrative function and the Internet Society.
 - We believe the entity should be strongly related to the Internet Society, just as the IETF standards process is strongly related to the Internet Society today
 - It is not yet clear whether it will be best to organize this function as a peer organization to ISOC, or as an organized activity of ISOC.
 - The draft document will flesh out both of these paths in some detail, before any recommendation can be made.

AE as peer entity



AE as part of ISOC



What is still being drafted (2)

- The governance structure to be put in place for the administrative entity
 - this depends strongly on the form chosen
 - ensuring that the entity remains responsible to the IETF community is paramount
 - making sure that ISOC, the IETF, the administrative entity and the various other organizations work well together is vital.

Upcoming

- This is not an announcement
 - nothing is yet decided
- We are not asking for consensus at this time
 - the community has not seen any proposals in writing
- Our hope & expectation is to get sufficient documentation out for discussion to establish consensus on the plan

Starting the execution

- establish a transition leadership team for the entity
- have that team find and hire the first employee
- run an open RFP process for the functions currently performed by the IETF secretariat
 - we expect this process to conclude before the end of 2004
 - service providers starting to execute under contract at the beginning of 2005
- As soon as we have the consensus to support it

A final thought

We heard last night, from Steve Crocker and Phil Gross, about the very beginnings of the IETF.

The hallmark of the IETF's history has always been the way individuals and organizations have come together to support the IETF and help build a better Internet.

We look forward to many more years of this cooperative community spirit.