IETF Oversight of the IANA Protocol Parameter Function

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The IETF-IANA working arrangement is based on a high level of integration between the IANA protocol parameter function and IETF internal processes, with the IETF specifying both the design of registries, criteria for adding or altering values, and their substantive content. Due to the close coupling between the IANA protocol parameter function and the document publication process, timeliness is very important.

Annually the IETF Administrative Oversight Committee (IAOC) negotiates a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the IANA. In each of the SLAs there is a summary of IANA actions to be taken and within what timeframe. Ray Pelletier has handled the negotiation on the IETF side since his hiring as IETF Administrative Director in 2005. The agreements are posted at the http://iaoc.ietf.org/ site [Mou]. Negotiation of the 2012 SLA is currently in progress; the most recent draft was sent to the IAOC on 27 February.

The IETF-IANA committee (sometimes called the Working Group) reviews IANA performance. It has IETF and IANA members. This group makes recommendations to the IAOC with respect to the SLA. The IETF has set processing goals for the IANA protocol parameter function since 2006.

Each week a list of open issues is provided by the IANA protocol parameter functions contractor to ensure that nothing falls between the cracks. IANA produces a monthly report and email to the IETF-IANA committee, which includes narrative and statistics presented in graphical form. The information is posted on the IANA performance website [Performance]. From 2007 – 2011, the IETF-IANA committee held monthly conference calls to discuss the report. Due to IANA progress with respect to the SLAs (noted in the IAB's evaluation [Evaluation]) these calls have now been reduced to a single call between each IETF meeting in addition to a face-to-face at each IETF meeting.

In addition to monthly reporting, the IETF-IANA committee required an evaluation of every RFC by IANA to make sure that IANA had taken appropriate action over the years. This took over one year to review more than 4500 RFCs. Discrepancies were corrected and oversights addressed.

One of the 2012 goals for the IETF-IANA committee is integration of the IANA work states within the IETF database which tracks the status of Internet-Drafts, known as "Datatracker". The goal of this project is to provide greater transparency into the IANA protocol parameter actions relating to each Internet-Draft. We expect this project to be completed this calendar year. There are two sides to this interface, which is based on detailed requirements supplied by the IETF. The IAOC has funded the development of extensions to the Datatracker, and ICANN has funded the development on the IANA systems.

References

 [Mou] IETF-CANN MoU and supplemental agreements, http://iaoc.ietf.org/contracts.html

[Performance] IANA Performance Reporting, http://www.iana.org/about/performance/

[Evaluation] IAB evaluation of ICANN performance, http://www.iab.org/wp-content/IAB-uploads/2011/12/IAB-Past-Performance-Questionnaire.pdf