Advisory Committee (AdvComm) Report

Wednesday Plenary

IETF 58
Outline

• What is AdvComm?
• Current Reality
• Identified stress points
• Requirements
• Recommendations
• Next steps
What is AdvComm?

- A committee formed to advise the Internet Architecture Board (IAB)
- Members
  - Leslie Daigle, IAB Chair & Chair of AdvComm
  - Harald Alvestrand, IETF Chair
  - Lynn St. Amour (ISOC President)
  - Fred Baker (Chair, ISOC Board of Trustees)
  - Brian Carpenter (ex-IAB Chair, ex-member ISOC Board of Trustees)
  - John Klensin (ex-IAB Chair, former IESG)
  - Steve Crocker (member, ISOC Board of Trustees)
  - Russ Housley (IESG Security Area Director),
  - Bernard Aboba (member, IAB)
AdvComm, cont’d

• **Timeline**
  – IETF 58: Presentation of findings & recommendations
  – mid-November: publish Internet Draft documenting the findings & recommendations
  – mid-December: Incorporate comments, issue final document & shutdown

• **Acknowledgements**
  – Thoughtful input from RFC Editor, Secretariat and IANA in response to AdvComm’s questions
Goals & Non-Goals

• Goals
  – To review the IETF administrative structure and relationships (RFC Editor, IETF Secretariat, IANA)
  – To propose structural changes necessary to improve the functioning of the IETF

• Non-goals
  – Reorganization of IETF internal structure (IESG, IAB)
  – Changes to the standards process
# IETF Functions & Organizations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Known as (within the IETF)</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>IESG Support</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>Foretec/CNRI</td>
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<td>IAB Support</td>
<td>ISOC/Secretariat</td>
<td>ISOC, Foretec/CNRI</td>
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<td>WG Support</td>
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<td>Community Support</td>
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<td>IETF Meetings</td>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>Foretec/CNRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>RFC Publication</td>
<td>RFC Editor</td>
<td>USC/ISI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parameter Registration</td>
<td>IANA</td>
<td>ICANN</td>
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<td>Legal, insurance, etc.</td>
<td>(largely invisible)</td>
<td>Provided by ISOC</td>
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IETF Support Organizations

- Internet Society (ISOC)
  - Since 1992, the organizational home of the IETF, IAB, IESG and IRTF.
- Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)/Foretec
  - Since 1987, CNRI has provided the IETF Secretariat.
  - Foretec: A for-profit subsidiary of CNRI.
  - No MOU or contract in place with Foretec/CNRI
- University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute (USC/ISI)
  - RFC Editor activity organized as a project within ISI
  - For 30 years, the RFC Editor was Jon Postel, manager in the Networking Division of USC/ISI.
  - Role of the RFC Editor and USC/ISI is detailed in RFC 2555.
  - Contract in place between ISOC and USC/ISI
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
  - Non-profit formed in 1998.
  - Has responsibility for domain name administration and parameter assignment, including IANA
  - IANA MOU in RFC2860
Identified stress points

- Informal (not supported by MOU or contract) relationships creates vagueness about management responsibility, makes it difficult to determine how to act on IETF community consensus.
- IETF operational procedures and knowledge recorded only in people’s minds.
- IETF institutional records stored across multiple organizations.
- Significant manual labor & coordination required for common tasks (lack of automation).
- Negative trends in meeting attendance, revenue
  - And the IETF Chair’s presentation of the year to date income and expenses trends underscore the continuing problem.
Requirements

• The AdvComm composed a set of requirements on the administrative organization of the IETF
  – intended as a constructive structure
  – not the set of requirements for change
  – some of these are already met
Requirements – Stewardship

• Accountability
  – The IETF leadership needs to be accountable to the IETF community.
  – This includes accountability for budgetary decisions.

• Persistence & accessibility of records
  – IETF history needs to be adequately documented.
  – IETF needs to maintain and support the archiving of all of its working documents so as to ensure future accessibility.
Requirements – Resource Management

• Clarity in relationships
  – The IETF needs clear contractual relationships with organizations supporting basic services.
  – IETF needs to respect the needs of the supporting organizations (no micromanagement)

• Budgetary autonomy
  – The IETF needs to make its own budgetary decisions.

• Budgetary unity
  – The IETF is supported by money from multiple sources: meeting fees, donations in cash or in kind.
  – The IETF needs to consider all sources of income & expenses as pieces of one budget.

• Flexibility in service provisioning
  – The IETF needs to commission additional services as appropriate (e.g. tools support)

• Administrative efficiency
  – The IETF should operate with the minimum of administrative overhead
Requirements – Working environment

• Service automation
  – For the non-rocket-science aspects of supporting our work, we ensure minimal friction (i.e., delays) through appropriate use of automated process management

• Tools
  – The IETF needs to have an environment that supports the creation and operation of the type of tools needed by participants (e.g., as noted by the PROBLEM WG).
Recommendations

• AdvComm believes that change in the IETF’s structure is required.
  – Current structure does not meet requirements
  – Change needed to meet budgetary challenges
  – Change needed to address concerns raised by the PROBLEM WG.

• Proposes formalization of the IETF organization
  – the administration of the IETF would remain accountable to the
    IETF leadership and community; the goal would be to ensure that
    lines of responsibility and accountability were clearer;
  – this formalized IETF would be responsible for managing financial
    resources (revenue and expenses) directly;
  – this formalized IETF would directly negotiate and administer any
    appropriate contracts.
AdvComm next steps

• Report
  – revised, if needed, from this discussion
  – sent to draft editor (aim: early next week)
  – will be draft-iab-advcomm-00.txt
  – comments reviewed & final version planned for mid-December

• AdvComm will be closed upon delivery of its report to IAB

• Comments re. data gathering, or the report document:
  – advcomm@ietf.org

• Other comments/questions:
  – IAB/IETF Chairs, IAB, IESG