The IETF Process: a Roadmap
draft-carpenter-procdoc-roadmap-03

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Abstract

This document describes a roadmap for various IETF process documents, to support ongoing discussions about process reform.
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1. Introduction

BCP 9 [1] has been the basis for the IETF standards process for many years. However, many other process documents exist, some of which are partial updates to BCP 9. This situation is confusing and needs to be resolved by a clear set of interlocking documents. The present document suggests a structured way of looking at these documents, and some commentary about what already exists or has been proposed.

It is difficult to linearise a complicated and interlocked process. This document presents the roadmap in one particular order, but that is not intended to imply priority or importance, and it cannot capture all interactions between components.

2. Outline of roadmap

For readability of what follows, this section simply lists the process document structure. The following section repeats this structure with explanatory text.

Modifying the process
   General description of workflow in the IETF
   Definition of standards track and related document types
      Specifications
      Information
      Descriptors
   Intellectual Property
      Rights in Contributions
      Rights in Technology
      Trademarks
   Review and approval process
      Criteria for review
      Criteria for approval
      Appeal process
   Bodies involved in the process
      WG procedures
      IESG
      Review panel TBD
      IAB
      Liaison management
      Nomcom
   Conduct of participants
   Publication process
      Requirements
      Format and mechanics for drafts
3. Details of roadmap

Note 1: RFC numbers have been used rather than BCP numbers, for convenient lookup. Most of the cited RFCs are BCPs. Of course, many of them may need updating.

Note 2: Where drafts are cited, it is not implied that they have reached consensus. Internet-Draft citations have not been given in detail; see https://datatracker.ietf.org/public/idindex.cgi?command=search_id.

- Modifying the process
  A general description of how the IETF modifies its own processes does not exist, but probably should. An experimental procedure is described in RFC 3933[2].

- General description of workflow in the IETF
  This document does not exist, although the Tao (RFC 3160[24], draft-hoffman-taobis) offers hints, but it is needed.
  How ideas for new work enter the IETF, reach a BOF, enter IAB or IRTF discussion, and possibly become material for a new or existing WG. How WGs are chartered - the AD role. How specific proposals become drafts and flow through the development, review and approval process.

- Definition of standards track and related document types.
  This material is currently embedded in RFC 2026[1]. The newtrk WG is chartered to revise the standards track - multiple proposals have been floated, most recently draft-carpenter-newtrk-twostep and draft-loughney-newtrk-one-size-fits-all.
  * Specifications
    This material is currently embedded in RFC 2026[1], covering standards track, BCP and experimental documents. The STD (standard) designation is documented in RFC 1311[25]. A variance procedure for down-level normative references is in RFC 3967[3]. A specific process for advancing MIB documents is in RFC 2438[4].
* Information
This material is currently embedded in RFC 2026[1], covering informational and historic documents. A distinction between obsolete and deprecated documents should probably be added.

* Descriptors
    See draft-ietf-newtrk-repurposing-isd and draft-otis-newtrk-rfc-set.

  o Intellectual Property
    * Rights in Contributions
      RFC 3978[5], draft-bradner-author-contributors, draft-bradner-rfc-extracts
    * Rights in Technology
      RFC 3979[6] (Guidelines, RFC 3669[26])
    * Trademarks
      draft-ietf-ipr-trademarks

  o Review and approval process
    This material is currently embedded in RFC 2026[1].
    * Criteria for review
      Some material was in draft-carpenter-solution-sirs and a version can be found at http://www.alvestrand.no/ietf/gen/art/review-guidelines.html
    * Criteria for approval
      Material on current IESG practice can be found in draft-iesg-discuss-criteria
    + Appeal process
      This material is currently embedded in RFC 2026[1].

  o Bodies involved in the process
    Bodies involved, RFC 2028[7]; Defining the IETF, RFC 3233[8]; Mission Statement, RFC 3935[9].
    * WG procedures
      RFC 2418[10]
    * IESG
      RFC 3710[27]
    * Proposed review panel
      draft-klenstin-stds-review-panel
    * IAB
      RFC 2850[11]
      + Liaison management
        RFC 4052[12], RFC 4053[13], draft-andersson-iab-liaison-guidelines
    * Nomcom
      RFC 3777[14], draft-klenstin-nomcom-term
    * Relationship to ISOC
      RFC 2031[28], RFC 3677[15]
o Conduct of participants
RFC 3005[16], RFC 3184[17], RFC 3683[18], RFC 3934[19], and also discussed in RFC 2418[10] and in the Tao (RFC 3160[24], draft-hoffman-taobis).

o Publication process
* Requirements
  This is intended to be the subject of the techspec BOF in Vancouver. See draft-mankin-pub-req.
* Format and mechanics for drafts
  http://www.ietf.org/ietf/1id-guidelines.html
* Format and mechanics for archival publications
  See draft-hoffman/rfc-author-guide for a minimalist version, or draft-rfc-editor-rfc2223bis for a version including other topics. RFC 2223[29] is the published version today.
* Direct submissions to RFC Editor
  RFC 3932[20]

o Registration process
* Requirements
  RFC 2860[30]
* Guidelines for authors
  RFC 2434[21], draft-narten-iana-considerations-rfc2434bis
* Assignment criteria
  draft-klensin-iana-reg-policy
* Format and mechanics
  Case by case at IANA web site.

o Administration
  RFC 4071[22], RFC 4333[23], draft-carpenter-bcp101-update, draft-alvestrand-subpoena

4. Security Considerations

This document has no security implications for the Internet.

5. IANA Considerations

This document requires no action by the IANA. However, it does mention how IANA’s registration functions should be documented.

6. Acknowledgements

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This document was produced using the xml2rfc tool[31].

7. Change log [RFC Editor: please remove this section]

draft-carpenter-procdoc-roadmap-03: minor additions, 2005-12-20

draft-carpenter-procdoc-roadmap-02: minor additions, 2005-10-11

draft-carpenter-procdoc-roadmap-01: minor additions, 2005-09-20

draft-carpenter-procdoc-roadmap-00: original version, 2005-08-22

8. References

8.1. Normative References


8.2. Informative References


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