A Process for Handling Essential Corrections to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)
draft-drage-sip-essential-correction-01

Status of this Memo

By submitting this Internet-Draft, each author represents that any applicable patent or other IPR claims of which he or she is aware have been or will be disclosed, and any of which he or she becomes aware will be disclosed, in accordance with Section 6 of BCP 79.

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), its areas, and its working groups. Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

The list of current Internet-Drafts can be accessed at http://www.ietf.org/ietf/1id-abstracts.txt.

The list of Internet-Draft Shadow Directories can be accessed at http://www.ietf.org/shadow.html.

This Internet-Draft will expire on September 6, 2007.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (C) The IETF Trust (2007).
Abstract

The Session Initial Protocol (SIP) defined in RFC 3261 and a large number of extensions forms a considerable body of work, which through sheer size has a number of errors that require correction. This document explains the process for managing essential corrections to SIP.
1. Introduction

RFC 3261 [1] and its extensions have already had a number of issues identified against it, and other issues are expected. These are issues where the normative text of the already published specification is found to be either in error, or lacking, such that interoperability is endangered.

There has been a reluctance to document these issues for a number of reasons. A revision could either replace or update an existing RFC. A replacement for an existing RFC would normally occur when there is a need to progress from proposed standard to draft standard, and will encompass substantially more work than merely documenting the identified error. An update to an RFC still requires a whole new RFC to be issued. This may be appear too complex for a one line correction, or may just overwhelm potential submitters due to the complexity of the process.

There is also a need to control the number of updating RFCs that exist for any one specification. A situation where an RFC has 10 or 20 update RFCs clearly means that an implementor will miss at least one of these documents. Therefore the target is to have the SIP RFC or SIP extension RFC originally produced by the working group, and a single RFC that updates that document. Any subsequent RFC will therefore need to replace the any existing RFC that updates the original RFC.
2. Objective

For SIP RFCs and RFCs specifying SIP extensions, provide clear guidelines as to when corrective RFC content is required that updates the original specification. If the work is an extension or of editorial nature, then existing rules should be followed.
3. Process

Corrections will be proposed to the SIP working group.

All changes should be essential. An essential change is one where in the absence of the correction, it will not be possible to implement the specification contained in the original RFC in a manner to ensure interoperability or correct operation. Clarifications, statements of best practice, additional informative material, and editorial revisions are in general not essential - if publication of such material is necessary, it should be published as a separate informational RFC. The working group will analyse the proposed correction and decide whether it is essential.

The correction will be processed as an internet-draft belonging to the SIP working group. For management purposes, there may be one correction or more corrections per internet draft. The underlying principle for splitting essential corrections into different internet drafts is one of envisaged amount of working group time to process a correction. A correction where the solution is likely to be contentious should be submitted as a separate internet draft to one where the solution is likely to be readily accepted, unless one is dependent on the other.

When complete the internet draft will be working group last called by the SIP working group, along with any required expert review that may be appropriate to the contents.

At an appropriate period in time, an editor working on behalf of the SIP working group will compile all changes to the original RFC that have successfully completed working group last call into a internet draft, along with the contents of all previous RFC that update the SIP RFC requiring correction.

The internet draft will be submitted to IESG as a proposed standards track RFC for approval for publication, without any further working group last call. This RFC will update the original SIP RFC or SIP extension RFC, and replace any previous update RFCs for that original RFC.

Further corrections after this point will repeat the process.

A web page will be maintained by the SIP WG chairs and the corrections editor giving the current status of corrections in progress.
4. Required Contents For a Change Request

In addition to the normal rules for contents of a standards track RFC, sections to the RFC should document the following:

Reason for change. Text which explains why the change is necessary. This should be focused on identifying why the text in the existing RFC is incorrect.

Summary of change. Enter text which describes the most important components of the change. i.e. how the change is made.

Consequences if not approved. Enter here the consequences if this change were to be rejected. Explain the issues that implementations will have in the absence of this change, i.e. what fails to operate correctly. This text should be drafted such that the working group can make a decision as to whether the change is essential or not.

The change. Clearly identify the section of the RFC to be changed, and show precisely how the text change. An implementor should be able to take the original RFC and edit the change as described to obtain the new approved text.
5. Security considerations

There are no security considerations relating to this document.
6. IANA considerations

This document requires no action by IANA.
7. References

Author’s Address

Keith Drage
Alcatel-Lucent
Optimus, Windmill Hill Business Park
Swindon, Wilts
UK

Email: drage@alcatel-lucent.com