How Requests for IANA Action Will be Handled on the Independent Stream
draft-ise-iana-policy-00

Abstract

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) maintains registries
to track codepoints used by protocols defined by the IETF and
documented in RFCs developed on the IETF Stream.

The Independent Submissions Stream is another source of documents
that can be published as RFCs. This stream is under the care of the
Independent Submissions Editor (ISE).

This document updates RFC 4846 by describing how the current ISE will
handle documents in the Independent Submissions Stream that request
actions from the IANA. Nothing in this document changes existing
IANA registries and their allocation policies.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the
provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering
Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute
working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-
Drafts is at https://datatracker.ietf.org/drafts/current/.

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."

This Internet-Draft will expire on February 14, 2020.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2019 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the
document authors. All rights reserved.
1. Introduction

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) maintains registries to track codepoints used by protocols defined by the IETF and documented in RFCs developed on the IETF Stream. A full list of registries and code points can be found at <https://www.iana.org/protocols>.

Requests may be made to IANA for actions to create registries or to allocate code points from existing registries. Procedures for these operations are described in [RFC8126].

Many requests for IANA action are included in documents that are progressed for publication as RFCs. RFCs may be sourced from within the IETF (on the IETF stream), but may also be sourced on the Independent Submissions Stream (the Independent Stream) as described in [RFC4846]. The Independent Stream is under the care Independent Submissions Editor (ISE).

This document updates [RFC4846] describes how the current ISE will handle documents in the Independent Stream that request actions from the IANA. Nothing in this document changes existing IANA registries and their allocation policies.
In the event that a case arises that is not precisely covered by this document, the ISE may discuss a solution with the interested parties, including IANA, the IESG, and the authors of an Independent Submission that requests IANA action.

2. Allocations from Existing Registries

Each IANA registry is governed by an allocation policy: the rules that IANA applies to determine which code points can be allocated and under what circumstances. These policies are described in [RFC8126].

Documents proceeding from the Independent Stream will always follow the assignment policies defined for the registries from which they request allocations. Similarly, all code point assignments are subject to the oversight of any Designated Expert appointed for the registry.

It should be noted that documents on the Independent Stream can never result in Standards Track RFCs and Independent Stream documents are never subject to IETF review. Thus a registry whose policy is "IETF Review" or "Standards Action" [RFC8126] is not available to Independent Stream documents.

3. Changing Policies of Existing Registries

From time to time a decision is made to change the allocation policy for a registry. Such changes are normally only made using allocation policy of the registry itself, and usually require documentation from the same stream as created the registry.

Independent Stream RFCs will not seek to change the allocation policies of any registries except those created by documents from the Independent Stream. The list of such registries is, itself, very limited (see Section 4).

4. Creating New IANA Registries

Sometimes new registries are needed to track a new set of codepoints for a new protocol or an extension to an existing protocol. In general, documents on the Independent Stream can not request the creation of a new registry.

The only exception to this rule is the creation of a sub-registry that is specifically tied to a code point allocated for the same document from an existing registry where the allocation policy for that document is Specification Required, Expert Review, or RFC Required. Furthermore, where there is an appointed Designated Expert (DE) for the parent registry, that DE must approve the creation of
the sub-registry. Additionally, the allocation policy for the new
sub-registry may only be First Come First Served or RFC Required. In
particular, no sub-registry may be created that would require IETF
action to achieve a future codepoint allocation. See Section 5 for
an explanation of why the application of Specification Required and
Expert Review are not acceptable policies for any sub-registry
created from a document in the Independent Stream.

5. Assigning Designated Experts

Some IANA allocation policies (specifically, Specification Required
and Expert Review) utilize the review of a DE. The procedures
applicable to the appointment and actions of a DE are described in
section 5 of [RFC8126].

When a DE is appointed, the position must be maintained and supported
by whoever designated the DE in the first place. That is, someone
must appoint replacement DEs if necessary, and someone must provide a
backstop in case the appointed DEs are unresponsive.

The ISE will not appoint a DE. That means that all sub-registries
created for Independent Stream documents will not require the review
of a DE. That means that no new sub-registry can be created that
uses the Specification Required or Expert Review policies.

6. IANA Considerations

This document is all about IANA actions, but makes no request for
IANA action.

7. Security Considerations

There are no direct security considerations arising from this
document. It may be noted that some IANA registries relate to
security protocols, and the stability and proper management of those
registries contributes to the stability of the protocols themselves.
That is a benefit for the security of the Internet and the users of
the Internet.

8. Acknowledgements

Thanks to Brian Carpenter, Subramanian Moonesamy, Craig Partridge,
and Michelle Cotton for suggestions and advice.
9. Normative References


Author’s Address

Adrian Farrel
Independent Submissions Editor

Email: rfc-ise@rfc-editor.org