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Updating the Definition of Term for IAOC Members
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Abstract

The start and end dates specified in [BCP 101](#) for terms of IAOC members has proven to be impractical. This memo updates [BCP 101](#) to establish that the IAOC may establish start and end dates for terms of IAOC members that will be more practical.

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1. Background

[BCP 101](#) says "IAOC terms normally end at the end of the first IETF meeting of a year". ([\[RFC4071\] Section 4.](#)) Having the terms of the IAOC members expire at the end of the first IETF meeting of the year has proved impractical for the IAOC to carry out its business and to elect its Chair during the meeting week. For a number of years, the IAOC has fudged the issue somewhat by defaulting to an informal process of having the transition occur during the administrative plenary (as the IESG does). This informal arrangement violates the letter of [BCP 101](#). But even this arrangement is problematic if the transfer happens after the IAOC's face-to-face meeting that happens during the week. For a number of years, the IAOC's meeting has been on the morning of the administrative plenary so the incoming IAOC members, while present, are not seated even with the informal arrangement.

Having the new IAOC members take office after the face-to-face meeting has caused difficulties in the chair selection and voting processes during the IAOC's face-to-face meeting held during the same week. There has been confusion over who should vote in the chair election and on any business actions that require a vote of the Trustees. If the incoming members are not seated then they should not vote, for example, to select a chair for the next year yet they, more than the outgoing members, should have a say in the chair selection. There is also confusion over who is eligible to be elected as chair - if the term of an IAOC member has not yet started could that IAOC member be elected chair (since the chair is selected from among the members). Having the terms expire at the end of the week also risks the IAOC not being able to raise a quorum if outgoing members decide to not come to the meeting. Since the IAOC members are the Trustees of the IETF Trust the same issues arise with the IETF Trust and its ability to carry out its business and elect a Chair during the meeting week

An additional issue with [BCP 101](#) is the current definition of the term of the IAOC Chair. [BCP 101](#) says "The term of the IAOC chair shall be one year from the time of selection or the remaining time of his or her tenure on the IAOC, whichever is less". Since the dates for the first IETF meeting of the year vary from year to year the current [BCP 101](#) text could result in there being no IAOC chair in weeks before the a meeting or in overlapping terms for IAOC Chairs.

2. BCP 101 Update

This memo updates [Section 4 of BCP 101](#) to remove the sentence defining when IOAC member terms end and to add a requirement that the IAOC and the IETF Trust each need to hold a regular meeting around

the time of the first IETF meeting of the year at which they select their chairs as the first order of business and otherwise in a manner of their choosing. The IAOC also needs to determine the beginning and end of the normal terms of its members unless those determinations are made by the appointing bodies.

A regular meeting has proper notice, with minutes posted, and may be held as face-to-face, teleconference, or as a combination of the two.

3. Security Considerations

This memo relates to IETF process, not any particular technology so it does not impact the security of the Internet.

4. References

4.1. Normative References

[RFC4071] Austein, R and B. Wijnen, "Structure of the IETF Administrative Support Activity (IASA)", [BCP 101](#), [RFC 4071](#), April 2005.

IANA Considerations

This memo requires no action by the IANA. [this section should be removed for publication]

5. Editor's Addresses

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6. changes between versions

This section to be removed by the RFC Editor before publication

ver 00 -> ver 01

add "or teleconference" in 2nd paragraph of [section 2](#)
clarified last paragraph of [section 2](#)
fixed typo and punctuation

ver 01 -> ver 02

replaced [section 2](#) to allow the IAOC to (re)define its procedures when needed
removed reference to the Trust Agreement

