Problem Statement                                        E. Davies
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## IETF Structural Problems Improvement Process
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Abstract

This document suggests a possible process to address the
structural problems identified in the IETF Problem Statement as
requested in Version 02 of the IETF Problem Resolution draft.

The process proposes that the IESG delegate responsibility for
coordinating, moderating and synthesising proposals for solutions
to parts of the structural problems to a Synthsis and Action Panel

(SAP) selected through a variant of the nomcom selection process.
The SAP should, if possible, deliver an integrated set of
proposals for changes derived from community input, both
unsolicited and, if necessary, solicited. The SAP would act as a
moderator between authors of alternative propoasals in attempting
to achieve a proposal on which the community could agree. The
agreed plan be would be delivered to the IESG for final approval
and action.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

   Version 02 of the Problem Resolution draft[4] solicited proposals
   from the community for processes to resolve the more structural
   problems identified in the Problem Issues draft[1]. This document
   offers one possible process.

   The process proposed requests the IESG to delegate responsibility
   for identifying the changes that need to be made to rectify all or
   most of the existing structural problems identified in [1] to a
   Synthesis and Action Panel (SAP). The SAP would coordinate and
   moderate between authors of community proposals for change in
   order to synthesise an integrated plan of action leading to a
   reinvigorated IETF.

1.1 Acknowledgements

   The development of this proposal was assisted by Dave Crocker, and
   Spencer Dawkins.

2. A Proposal for Changing the Structure and Practices of the IETF

   A significant number of the issues that were identified in the
   IETF Problem Statement appear to require alterations to the
   structure of the IETF and/or the core practices which effectively
   characterize the IETF.

   The process documented in this section is designed to overcome the
   objections that lead to the rejection of the working group process
   which was proposed in earlier versions of the Problem Resolution
   draft[4]. It is intended to produce, in a well-defined period of
   time,

   o  a proposal for such structural changes to the IETF as the
      community finds necessary to allow the various issues to be
      resolved, together with

   o  a migration plan which will allow the IETF to transform itself
      as painlessly as possible.

   In outline the plan requires:

   o  Selection of a Synthesis and Action Panel (SAP) which will
      moderate the process and own the final proposal for change
      under the general oversight of the IESG.

   o  Generation of a list of issues that appear to require
      attention, initially in this document, but subject to additions

by agreement of the SAP.

o  Solicitation of contributions from individuals or groups of
   IETF stakeholders which will address solutions to any part of
   the problem space as described in the Problem Issues draft[1].

o  Moderation between contributors and synthesis of the resulting
   contributions by the SAP in order to create a proposal which
   appears to result in an organization which will, so far as is
   possible, no longer suffer from the issues identified, and a
   minimally disruptive changeover process.

o  Acceptance of the proposal initially by as large a part of the
   IETF community as possible through open discussion by email and
   at plenary session(s), and finally by the existing IESG at the
   time of completion.

The plan will be subject to a tight timetable, enforced by the SAP
with the backing of the IAB, IESG and ISOC that is intended to
deliver an accepted proposal at the second IETF meeting after the
inception of the SAP.

The following sections expand on the plan outline and give details
of the way in which the work should be carried out.

2.1 Constitution and Selection of the SAP

The SAP will comprise a number of members that is sufficiently low
so that the group is able to take decisions rapidly and
effectively. The members of the SAP (SAPs) will be selected to
represent the interests of as wide a range of the stakeholders in
the IETF as is possible. To this end one group of the SAPs will be
nominated by the existing management structures of the IETF (IESG,
IAB and ISOC) whilst the remainder will be selected through a
re-use of the latest nomcom selection process.

There will be eleven members of the SAP as follows:

o  Two members of the current IESG nominated by the IESG.

o  Two members of the current IAB nominated by the IAB.

o  One member of the current ISOC Board nominated by the ISOC
   Board.

o  Six members selected by the same process as is used to select
   the nomcom as described in RFC 2727[2] and RFC2777[3] but using
   an extended eligibility period as is currently being suggested

by the nomcom working group in the revisions to RFC 2727[10]
and RFC 2777[11] (i.e. attendance at least 3 out of the
preceding 5 IETF meetings).

The SAP will elect its chair from amongst its members in the same
way as the IAB does at present.

We believe that is important that the full range of stakeholder
interests should be represented.  To this end, we encourage people
from all parts of the community to put their names forward, so
that subject to the luck of the draw, there will be a true
diversity of views in the SAP.

2.2 Initial List of Issues to be Considered

The following issues taken from the problem statement document and
the analysis in [4]:

o  The Mission Problem (Section 4.1 of [4], [9]),

o  the Complex Problems problem (Section 4.3 of [4], [5], [8]),

o  the Standards Hierarchy problem (Section 4.4 of [4], [6]),

o  the Management Scaling problem (Section 4.6 of [4], [8], [5],
   [2]), and

o  The longer-term portions of the Engagement Problem (Section 4.5
   of [4], [7])

(Additional references on each item indicate associated documents
that may need to be updated as a result of this process).

The SAP will discuss this list and may add further issues if it is
deemed necessary.

2.3 Open Solicitation of Contributions to the Solution

The IESG will issue an invitation for proposals and actively
encourage people to contribute to the change process. Proposals
are solicited for both single items and comprehensive problems.
Individuals and groups are invited to participate. In addition the
SAP will approach people individually or as groups as tghey see
fit and ask for suggestions to address structural problems not
adequately covered by any other contributions. THE SAP will
publish all contributions in order to ensure transparency and to
allow people to get involved at each stage of the process.

   2.4 Achieving an Integrated Solution

      The SAP's chief task will be to generate an integrated proposal,
      which includes solutions to all items of the issue list (if
      possible) and a transition or migration plan. This task requires
      moderating the communication between all contributors,
      ascertaining consensus among contributors and producing a
      synthesis of the various proposals.

   2.5 Acceptance of the Integrated Solution

      The SAP will publish the proposed integrated solution as widely as
      possible. Since the IETF lacks an all-embracing forum which is
      guaranteed to place the result in front of all all stakeholders,
      various mailing lists and plenary meetings will be used for final
      community input and to confirm the overall acceptance of the
      proposed solutions.

      After final modifications based on community feedback, the SAP
      will send the proposed solutions to the IESG for implementation.

   3. Conclusion

      The IETF has problems, and we need to work to solve those
      problems, both via focused immediate improvements and via an
      integrated effort to build an IETF organizational structure and
      develop processes that can better handle our current size and
      complexity.

      The proposed solicitation process and the Sythesis and Answer
      Panel aims at including input of as many IETF members as possible
      to the solution of the more structural problems of the IETF. At
      the same time, the proposed solution process allows for faster
      results than a regular working group.

   4. Security Considerations

      This document contains suggestions for processes that the IETF
      could use to resolve process-related and organizational problems
      with the IETF. Although the structure and quality of the IETF's
      processes may have an affect on the quality of the IETF's
      security- related work, there are no specific security-related
      issues raised in this document.

Normative References

      [1]  Davies, E., Ed., "IETF Problem Statement",
           draft-ietf-problem-issue-statement-02 (work in progress), Jun

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     [2]   Galvin, J., "IAB and IESG Selection, Confirmation, and Recall
           Process: Operation of the Nominating and Recall Committees",
           RFC 2727, Feb 2000.

     [3]   Eastlake, D., "Publicly Verifiable Nomcom Random Selection",
           RFC 2777, February 2000.

     [4]   Davies, E., Ed. and J. Hofmann, Ed., "IETF Problem Resolution
           Processes", draft-ietf-problem-process-02 (work in progress),
           August 2003.

Informative References

     [5]    Alvestrand, H., "An IESG charter", draft-iesg-charter-03
            (work in progress), Apr 2003.

     [6]    Bradner, S., "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3",
            RFC 2026, Oct 1996.

     [7]    Bradner, S., "IETF Working Group Guidelines and Procedures",
            BCP 25, RFC 2418, September 1998.

     [8]    Carpenter, B., "Charter of the Internet Architecture Board
            (IAB)", RFC 2850, May 2000.

     [9]    Harris, S., "The Tao of IETF - A Novice's Guide to the
            Internet Engineering Task Force", RFC 3160, August 2001.

     [10]   Galvin, J., Ed., "IAB and IESG Selection, Confirmation, and
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            progress), August 2003.

     [11]   Eastlake, D., "Publicly Verifiable Nomcom Random Selection",
            draft-eastlake-rfc2777bis-selection-02 (work in progress),
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