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Increasing the Number of Area Directors in an IETF Area
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Abstract

This document removes a limit on the number of Area Directors who manage an Area in the definition of "IETF Area". This document updates RFC 2026 (BCP 9) and RFC 2418 (BCP 25).

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1. Introduction and Scope

This document updates RFC 2026 ([RFC2026], BCP 9) to remove a limit on the number of Area Directors who manage an Area in the definition of "IETF Area". This document also updates RFC 2418 ([RFC2418], BCP 25) to reflect this updated definition.

The change described in this document is intended to allow the IESG additional flexibility in organizing the IETF's work. It does not make any changes to the role of an Area, and does not argue that assigning more than two Area Directors to an Area is an optimal solution in the long run. In particular, this change is not intended to increase the size of the IESG significantly. If several Areas will require more than two Area Directors, the IESG should consider investigating alternative ways of organizing the IETF's work.

2. Discussion

In recent discussions, the IESG has explored splitting and combining Areas. One proposal resulted in a single Area that would be managed by three Area Directors.

An Area managed by three Area Directors conflicts with this definition in Section 14, "DEFINITIONS OF TERMS" of RFC 2026 ([RFC2026]):

> IETF Area - A management division within the IETF. An Area consists of Working Groups related to a general topic such as routing. An Area is managed by one or two Area Directors.

A similar statement appears in Section 1, "Introduction" of RFC 2418 ([RFC2418]):

> Each IETF area is managed by one or two Area Directors (ADs).

In the distant past, all IETF Areas had a single Area Director. The movement from single Area Directors in an Area to pairs of Area Directors in most Areas happened over a period of years (for reference, see http://www.ietf.org/iesg/past-members.html), as part of the IESG organizing itself to do the work the IESG is chartered to do,

The last time the IESG increased the number of Area Directors in an Area was when they provided a position description to the Nominating Committee for a second Area Director in the Routing Area in 1999. Although the number of Area Directors in an Area hasn't changed since then, the IESG continues to be responsible for specifying the positions that Nomcom would fill each year.

It is consistent with the IESG's role in creating and dismantling entire Areas to allow the IESG flexibility in assigning enough Area Directors who have been selected by the Nominating Committee to effectively manage the working groups within an Area.

Note that the requirement in RFC 3777 ([RFC3777], BCP 10) that the Nominating Committee review (approximately) half the positions for the IESG each year is unchanged. The Nomcom may assign an appropriate term duration for each position to ensure the ideal application of this rule in the future, and this is also unchanged.

3. Normative Text Change

For this text (OLD) in Section 14, "DEFINITIONS OF TERMS" of RFC 2026 ([RFC2026]):

> IETF Area - A management division within the IETF. An Area consists of Working Groups related to a general topic such as routing. An Area is managed by one or two Area Directors.

Replace with this text (NEW):

> IETF Area - A management division within the IETF. An Area consists of Working Groups related to a general topic such as routing. An Area is managed by one or more Area Directors.

For this text (OLD) in Section 1, "Introduction" of RFC 2418 ([RFC2418]):

> Each IETF area is managed by one or two Area Directors (ADs).

Replace with this text (NEW):

> Each IETF area is managed by one or more Area Directors (ADs).

Informational RFCs such as RFC 3710 ([RFC3710]) and informal descriptions of IETF organizational structure which also describe IETF Areas as being managed by one or two Area Directors should be considered updated by this normative specification.

4. Security Considerations

This document updates an IETF process BCP and has no direct Internet security implications.

5. IANA Considerations

This document makes no requests of IANA, and the RFC Editor can safely remove this section during publication.

6. Acknowledgements

Thanks to Barry Leiba and Jari Arkko for applying the giggle test to this document and to Brian Carpenter and David Harrington for providing comments.

7. References

7.1. Normative References

[RFC2026] Bradner, S., "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3", BCP 9, RFC 2026, October 1996.

[RFC2418] Bradner, S., "IETF Working Group Guidelines and Procedures", BCP 25, RFC 2418, September 1998.

[RFC3777] Galvin, J., "IAB and IESG Selection, Confirmation, and Recall Process: Operation of the Nominating and Recall Committees", BCP 10, RFC 3777, June 2004.

7.2. Informative References

[RFC3710] Alvestrand, H., "An IESG charter", RFC 3710, February 2004.

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