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Publishing the "Tao of the IETF" as a Web Page
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Abstract

This document describes how the "Tao of the IETF", which has been published as a series of RFCs in the past, will instead be published as a web page.

Status of this Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

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Tao as Web

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1. Introduction

The "Tao of the IETF" ("Tao") describes the inner workings of IETF meetings and Working Groups, discusses organizations related to the IETF, and introduces the standards process. It is not a formal IETF process document but instead an informational overview. The Tao has traditionally been published as an RFC. It has been RFCs 1391, 1539, 1718, 3160; it is currently [[RFC4677](#)].

There is now a strong desire in the IETF community to turn the Tao into a web page that can be edited more easily than an RFC. This document describes how that will happen. At the same time, this document formally obsoletes the last version of the Tao that was published as an RFC because that last version, [RFC 4677](#), will no longer be considered the "latest" version of the Tao: the new web page will.

This document contains the procedure agreed to by the IESG. The Tao has traditionally been an IETF consensus document, which means that the IESG has had the final say about what the Tao contained before it was sent to the RFC Editor. Thus, the IESG should have final say for what the Tao says when it is a web page.

2. Procedure for Publishing and Editing the Tao

The Tao will be published at <http://www.ietf.org/tao.html> and <https://www.ietf.org/tao.html>. The initial content for the Tao web page is based on the last Internet-Draft that was meant to replace [RFC 4677](#).

The Tao will be edited by one person who is chosen by the IESG. Suggestions for changes to the Tao will be discussed on an open, Tao-specific mailing list.

The editor of the Tao decides which proposed changes should be submitted to the IESG for approval. The editor will publish the proposed changes in a version at <http://www.ietf.org/tao-possible-revision.html>. The IESG may accept as many of the proposed changes as it wishes. The IESG will then submit the changed version to the IETF Secretariat for publication on the IETF web page at the URLs given above.

Each version of the Tao will have a visible timestamp near the beginning of the document. All published versions will be archived using URLs of the form <http://www.ietf.org/tao-archive/tao-YYYYMMDD.html>.

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[3.](#) Proposals for How The Tao Web Page Should Be Developed

During the discussion that led to this document, there were many proposals for how the Tao as a web page should be published and edited. Some wanted just a web page; some wanted a web page and periodic snapshots as RFCs; some wanted a wiki that could be easily edited by anyone in the IETF community, with a master editor who would revert bad edits; some wanted a wiki with a more limited group of contributors. The procedure in [Section 2](#) above was the rough consensus of the discussion.

[4.](#) IANA Considerations

None.

[5.](#) Security Considerations

The Tao is available over TLS at <https://www.ietf.org/tao.html>.

[6.](#) Informative References

[RFC4677] Hoffman, P. and S. Harris, "The Tao of IETF - A Novice's Guide to the Internet Engineering Task Force", [RFC 4677](#), September 2006.

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