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A Template for IETF Patent Disclosures and Licensing Declarations

Status of this Memo

This document is an Internet-Draft and is in full conformance with all provisions of <u>Section 10 of RFC2026</u> [i].

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Abstract

This document describes a template for IETF patent disclosures and licensing declarations. The optional use of this template is meant to simplify the process of such disclosures and licensing declarations and to assist disclosers in providing the necessary information to meet the obligations documented in RFC XXXX [ii].

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1. Introduction

RFC XXXX [ii] documents the current IETF policies and obligations with respect to disclosure of patents and patent applications. It also documents the information requested in licensing declarations for IETF specifications. In the interest of making these patent disclosure and licensing declaration processes simpler, this document proposes a patent disclosure and licensing declaration template that may be optionally used as one method for IETF participants and patent holders to comply with patent disclosure requirements and licensing declaration provisions under RFC XXXX. For the latest information on how to submit a patent disclosure or licensing declaration, please see http://www.ietf.org/ipr-instructions.

2. The Patent Disclosure and Licensing Declaration Template

START OF TEMPLATE

This document is an IETF Patent Disclosure and Licensing Declaration Template and is submitted to inform the IETF of a) patent information regarding the IETF document or contribution listed in Section IV, and b) a Patent Holder's intention with respect to the licensing of its necessary patent claims upon approval by the IESG for publication as an RFC of the relevant IETF specification. No actual license is implied by submission of this template. Please complete and submit a separate template for each IETF document or contribution to which the disclosed patent information relates.

I. Patent Holder/Organization ("Patent Holder")

Legal Name:

II. Patent Holder's Contact for License Application

Name:

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Department:
Address:
Telephone:
Fax:
Email:
III. Contact Information for the IETF Participant Whose Personal Belief Triggered the Disclosure in this Template (Optional):
Name:
Department:
Address:
Telephone:
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Email:
IV. IETF Document or Working Group Contribution to Which Patent Disclosure Relates
Title:
RFC Number or I-D Tag:
Other Designations:
V. Disclosure of Patent Information (i.e., patents or patent applications required to be disclosed by <u>Section 6</u> of RFC XXXX)
A. For granted patents or published pending patent applications, please provide the following information:
Patent, Serial, Publication, Registration, or Application/File number(s):

Date(s) granted or applied for:
B. Does your disclosure relate to an unpublished pending patent application?
Select one: Yes No
C. If an Internet-Draft or RFC includes multiple parts and it is not reasonably apparent which part of such Internet-Draft or RFC is alleged to be covered by the information disclosed in Section V(A) or V(B), the discloser should identify here the sections of the Internet-Draft or RFC that are alleged to be so covered.
VI. Licensing Declaration
The Patent Holder states that, upon approval by the IESG for publication as an RFC of the relevant IETF specification, its position with respect to licensing any patent claims contained in the patent(s) or patent application(s) disclosed above that would be necessary to implement the technology required by such IETF specification ("Patent Claims") is as follows (select one licensing declaration option only):
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Royalty-Free, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory License to All Implementers Check here if this licensing declaration is limited solely to standards-track IETF documents
Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory License to All Implementers with Possible Royalty/Fee Check here if this licensing declaration is limited solely to standards-track IETF documents
Licensing Declaration to be Provided Later (implies a willingness to license in some form to all implementers; otherwise, "Unwilling to License to All Implementers" must be selected)
Unwilling to License to All Implementers

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NOTE: The individual submitting this template represents and warrants that he or she is authorized by the Patent Holder to agree to the above-selected licensing declaration.

VII. Contact Information of Submitter of this Form (if different from IETF Participant in Section III above)

IETF Participant in Section III above)
Name:
Title:
Department:
Address:
Telephone:
Fax:
Email:
VIII. Other Notes:

END OF TEMPLATE

3. Commentary on Terms used in the Template

Section III requests contact information for the Patent Holder's IETF Participant whose personal belief that necessary patent claims were implicated by an IETF document or discussion caused this template to be filed. This is an optional section. However, if Section III is not completed, then Section VII must be completed. Even if Section III is completed, Section VII must still be completed if the submitter of this template is different from the IETF participant identified in Section III.

The "Other Designations" field in Section IV may be used to identify relevant IETF working group materials (oral or written) other than an Internet-Draft or RFC to which a disclosure is related.

Here is an explanation of the licensing declaration options in Section VI of the template:

- a) No License Required for Implementers: The Patent Holder does not require parties to acquire any license to its Patent Claims in order to implement the IETF specification.
- b) Royalty-Free, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory License to All Implementers: The Patent Holder will, upon request, grant a license to its Patent Claims to all implementers of the IETF specification on a royalty-free basis (i.e., no royalty or other fee) and under reasonable and non-discriminatory terms.
- c) Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory License to All Implementers with Possible Royalty/Fee: The Patent Holder will, upon request, grant a license to its Patent Claims to all implementers of the IETF specification under reasonable and non-discriminatory terms (which may include a royalty/fee).
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Options a), b) and c) above also allow the Patent Holder to indicate (with a check) whether its licensing declaration is limited solely to standards-track documents. If left unchecked, the Patent Holder's licensing declaration will be deemed to apply to all IETF documents, including non-standards-track documents. This standards-track qualifier is not relevant to licensing declaration options d) and e), because under d) the Patent Holder has not yet indicated its specific licensing intention and under e) the Patent Holder has indicated a general refusal to license.

Section VIII in the template, "Other Notes," may be used for any additional information a discloser or Patent Holder wishes to provide. For example, a Patent Holder may use the "Other Notes" Section to indicate any other conditions on the licensing declaration option selected in Section VI (e.g., reciprocity).

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Security Considerations

This document relates to IETF process, not any particular technology. There are security considerations when adopting any particular technology, regardless of whether patents and patent applications or licensing disclosures are implicated by such technology. A working group should take those security considerations into account as one part of evaluating the technology, but there are no security considerations per se with these IETF processes.

References

- i Bradner, S., "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3", BCP 9, RFC 2026, October 1996.
- ii Bradner, S., "Intellectual Property Rights in IETF Technology", RFC XXXX, <month> 2003.

Acknowledgments

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