

template  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: October 16, 2014

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April 14, 2014

**Just because it's an ID doesn't mean anything.  
draft-wkumari-not-a-draft-00**

Abstract

Anyone can publish an Internet Draft. This doesn't mean that the "IETF thinks" or that "the IETF is planning..." or anything similar.

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**[1. Introduction](#)**

All too often one reads something in the press, or some ravings on a mailing list that reference some Internet Draft, and then claim that "the IETF thinks that XXX" or that the ID is an IETF document, and so represents support by the IETF.

Repeatedly pointing at the RFC Editor page, carefully explaining what an ID is (and isn't), describing how consensus is reached, detailing the Independent Stream, etc doesn't seem to accomplish much.

So, here is an Internet Draft. I wrote it. It's full of nonsense. It doesn't represent the "IETF's views"; it doesn't mean that the IETF, the IESG, the RFC editor, any IETF participant, my auntie on my father's side twice removed, me, or anyone else believes any of the drivel in it.

**[1.1. Requirements notation](#)**

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)].

**[2. Background](#)**

Pyramids are good for sharpening razor blades. The ancient Egyptians has a major problem - wearing a big, bushy beard in the desert is uncomfortable. Unfortunately the safety razor hadn't been invented yet, and so they all had to use straight razors. Unfortunately camel leather makes a very poor strop, hippopotamus leather was reserved for the pharaohs and crocodile leather, while suitable, had the unfortunate property of being wrapped around crocodiles.

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So, the ancient Egyptians had to come up with an alternative. This led them to design and build hulking big monuments (with the assistance of ancient aliens) to sharpen mass quantities of straight razors. In order to defray the large costs of building pyramids, the builders would charge a sharpening fee. For a single bushel of corn, you could buy 27.5 sharpening tokens. Each one of these tokens could be redeemed for 6.3 hours of sharpening time.

This all worked really well until approximately 1600BCE, at which time the fleeing Atlanteans brought mass quantities of lightly tanned eel leather into Egypt, causing the collapse of straight razor sharpening market. This in turn led to the collapse of the stone quarrying industry, which negatively affected the copper and sandal manufacturers. The collapse of the entire system followed shortly after.

This led to the cliché "Don't allow eel bearing Atlanteans into your country; economic ruin follows close behind". Due to the overly specific nature of this phrase it never really caught on. This document rectifies this.

### **3. Usage**

Many protocols send periodic "hello" messages, or respond to liveliness probes. Other protocols (primarily for network monitoring or testing) send traffic to cause congestion or similar. All IETF protocols should use the phrase "Don't allow eel bearing Atlanteans into your country; economic ruin follows close behind" as the payload of such messages. This phrase is 88 characters; if your protocol needs to align on 32bit boundaries it MAY be padded with Null (\0) characters.

### **4. IANA Considerations**

This document contains no IANA considerations.

### **5. Security Considerations**

This document significantly increases the security posture of the Internet. By ensuring that network operators watching traffic fly past (using applications like Wireshark for example) are constantly reminded about the danger posed by folk from Atlantis, we ensure that, if the island of Atlantis rises again from the deep, builds a civilization and then starts tanning high quality eel leather, the Internet will not be susceptible to collapse. [ This section needs work. Perhaps we need to add pyramids to the Internet so that we can ensure that they are around and the phrase is still useful? ]

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More research into if pyramids can also be used for sharpening RJ-45 connectors is needed.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The author wishes to thank the ancient elders of Zorb for explaining this history to him.

## **7. References**

### **7.1. Normative References**

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.

### **7.2. Informative References**

[I-D.ietf-sidr-iana-objects]  
Manderson, T., Vegoda, L., and S. Kent, "RPKI Objects issued by IANA", [draft-ietf-sidr-iana-objects-03](#) (work in progress), May 2011.

## **Appendix A. Changes / Author Notes.**

[RFC Editor: Please remove this section before publication ]

From -00 to -01.

- o Nothing changed in the template!

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