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Report on the Experiment with IETF Operational Notes (IONs)
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Abstract

This document is a report from the experiment with IETF Operational Notes (IONs), conducted by [RFC 4693](#) in accordance with [RFC 3933](#). It also updates [RFC 4693](#) and moves it to Historic status.

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1. Introduction

This document is a report from the experiment with IETF Operational Notes (IONs), conducted by [RFC 4693](#) [[RFC4693](#)] in accordance with [RFC 3933](#) [[RFC3933](#)]. It discusses the results of this experiment after first giving some background information on it in [Section 2](#) and makes the appropriate conclusion. This document updates [RFC 4693](#) [[RFC4693](#)] and moves it to Historic status [[RFC2026](#)].

1.1 Terminology

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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

2. Background

IETF Operational Notes (IONs) are a series of documents established by [RFC 4693](#) [[RFC4693](#)] on an experimental basis [[RFC3933](#)] in 2006. This series is (in accordance with [RFC 4693](#) [[RFC4693](#)])

intended for use as a repository for IETF operations documents, which should be more ephemeral than RFCs, but more referenceable than Internet-Drafts, and with more clear handling procedures than a random Web page.

[RFC 4693](#) [[RFC4693](#)] contains some regulations regarding this series, such as ION attributes, approval procedure, ION store considerations, etc. It also proposes a set off initial IONs to be published and sets the sunset period [[RFC3933](#)] of 1 year. See [RFC 4693](#) [[RFC4693](#)] itself for more background information on this topic.

3. Experiment Results

After establishing the IONs series per [RFC 4693](#) [[RFC4693](#)], a number of this document proposed by that document were published. They include ION on sponsoring Individual submissions by ADs, ION on DISCUSS ballot criteria, ION on [RFC 2026](#) [[RFC2026](#)] in practice, ION on subpoenas in the IETF and others.

However in 2008 it was identified that IONs experiment was closed.

The IESG has determined that IONs will not be used in the future. It is clear that the IESG, IAB, and IAOC need the ability to publish documents that do not expire and are easily updated. Information published as web pages, including IESG Statements, are sufficient for this purpose.

was mentioned in IESG note on this topic [[IESG-IONS](#)] by Russ Housley.

Almost all of the IONs were republished as IESG statements (for example, ion-discuss-criteria was republished as IESG statement "DISCUSS Criteria in IESG Review" [[DISCUSS](#)]), Web Pages (for example, ion-subpoena was republished as IAOC Web Page "Subpoenas in the IETF: Procedures" [[SUBPOENAS](#)]) or other documents. Some of them were also discarded (mostly those IONs that describe internal procedures for ION formatting, approval and store). See [[IESG-IONS](#)] for a full list.

4. Conclusion

Taking everything into account, it is now considered that IONs were an excessive facility, that does not give a great benefit to the IETF. This document formally concludes the IONs experiment [[RFC4693](#)]. The IONs series SHALL now be terminated; no new IONs MUST be either approved or published.

5. Security Considerations

IONs did not include protocol specifications and therefore terminating this series is not believed to have any impact on the Internet security.

6. IANA Considerations

None. RFC Editor SHALL delete this section upon publication.

7. Acknowledgments

Many thanks to Harald Alvestrand for his work on [RFC 4693](#). I would also like to thank all the authors and editors of IONs for their input to the experiment.

8. References

8.1. Normative References

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8.2. Informative References

- [DISCUSS] Peterson, J., "DISCUSS Criteria in IESG Review", IESG Statement, July 2007.
<<http://www.ietf.org/iesg/statement/discuss-criteria.html>>
- [IESG-IONS] Housley, R., "IETF Operational Notes", Web Page, April 2008.
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- [RFC2026] Bradner, S., "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3", [BCP 9](#), [RFC 2026](#), October 1996.
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