

WG Milestones and Dates

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What Value Do Milestones Serve?

- A list of deliverables from the WG (to the community and other interested parties)
- A tool for the chairs to use to manage the WG
- A mechanism for communication between the chairs and the AD

What Value Do the Dates Serve?

- External entities may use them for planning
 - Although they probably learn quickly that this isn't terribly wise
- I have had a real, live sitting AD tell me that they have successfully used them to drive WG progress
 - Although this does not appear to be typical

Do Inaccurate Dates Cause Harm?

- Can cause issues for those external entities that rely on them
- Arguably, there is some degree of reputational damage for the IETF

Can We Improve Accuracy?

- One option is to reduce resolution (e.g., quarter, year, IETF meeting #, etc)
- Focusing on active management might help
 - Although we would need to weigh the return on investment for doing this kind of work

Would It Hurt To Remove Dates?

- If the value of having accurate dates were high enough, presumably chairs and/or ADs would find time to manage them
- Would we lose any degree of urgency inside WGs?
- Would an undated, list of deliverables ordered by priority serve our purposes better?
- If we change, would we want to spend the extra effort (tools, processes) to allow some WGs to have dates and others not to?