



How can the IRTF help academia (and vice versa)?

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With thanks to the COIN community and Lars Eggert

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Why this discussion?

- Some comments at the COIN interim meeting
 - Academics do not do drafts
 - Attendance from professors and students difficult
 - We need to do a better job of connecting academia and IRTF
- Other inputs:
 - There is more than drafts
 - The typical draft format is ill suited for research discussions

Top concerns from the COIN community

- Drafts (and standardization) work poorly considered in academic circles
- Need for more dissemination of RG activities
- Travel/participation aspects

It's not just drafts but then drafts have a use

- Writing drafts is not necessary to participate in a RG meeting:
 - Academic presentations welcome
 - ANRW and ANRP are examples of research being presented in IRTF meeting
 - Grad students and post docs welcome
- IRTF draft perception in the academic world is uneven at best
 - Yet a draft goes through a thorough review before going to RFC and has often more scrutiny than most published papers
 - But the mindset is hard to change –some ideas
 - Clearly state the research challenges in Wikis and Github
 - Invite participation in RGs and I-Ds from leading academics (not just wait for volunteers)
 - Co-locate interim meetings during leading conferences in the field and organize workshops and tutorials (like Lars did in 2012 in Brazil) on RG activities
 - See : Bridging the Gap between Internet Standardization and Networking Research (<http://www.sigcomm.org/sites/default/files/ccr/papers/2014/January/2567561-2567572.pdf>)
- Other ideas for dissemination:
 - Create and then share specific use case and data on github/wiki to create leverage
 - Add RG topics in academic seminars and presentations
 - Enable I-Ds to evolve from RG documents into Vision or Blue Sky paper at conferences and workshops; deliberately foster this path (early reviews for free)

Travel and attendance costs

- Budgets for attending IETF/IRTF are limited or non-existent in academia
- Some ideas for solutions (some already implemented):
 - Remote attendance (time difference issues)
 - Do a better job at advertising reduced fees at local venues for academics and students
 - Use the Hackaton to gain interest from students who have specific projects
 - Co-locate interim meetings during leading conferences in the field when the researchers are already there
 - Apply to the NSF - and its equivalent in other geos – to fund new programs
 - Create a Travel Grant program targeting academics (professors and students) to attend
 - Create a competitive Internship program that pairs University researchers with IETF/IRTF participants
 - Other funding ideas
 - A small tax on registration or remote participation (\$5)
 - Seek sponsorship from some of our biggest IETF/IRTF industry partners

Why co-locating IRTF and IETF? Win-Win

Researchers in IRTF

- Learn about the **real problems**
- Work on meaningful open issues – help build the Internet
- Understand what promotes and hinders deployment
- **Meet potential collaborators** and funding sources
- Have a realistic understanding of time commitments

IETF Implementer Community

- Gains highly skilled, less-biased experts
- Use academic results to create **better standards**
- Enable researchers to directly **improve the Internet**
- **Insight into trends** that will impact standards down the road
- Accompany relevant topics in the IRTF research arm

Conclusion

- We can obviously do better
- ISG inputs/discussion?

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