

Planning for Completely Virtual Meetings

draft-manycouches-completely-virtual-meetings

IETF 108 Virtual
Presenter: Dan York

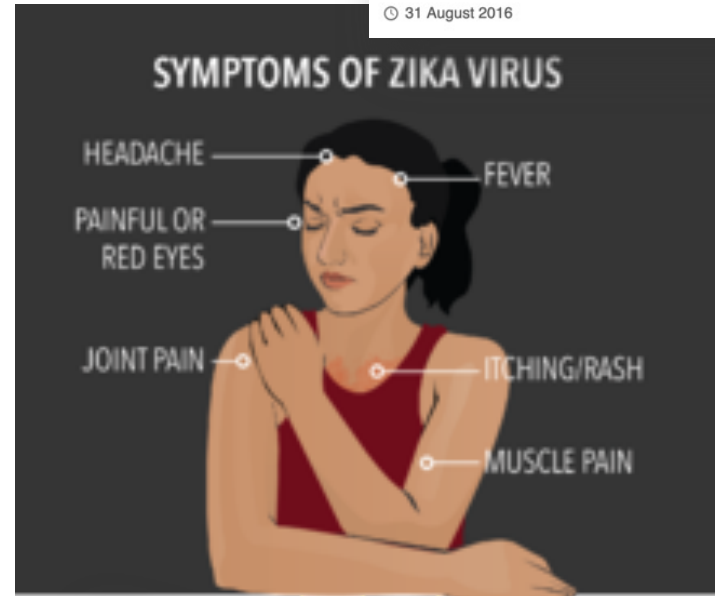
Disclaimer / Note

- The Internet Society (my employer) has no opinion about the outcomes of SHMOO, nor will any outcomes impact ISOC's continued commitment to support the IETF. **It is entirely a community decision.**
- With the exception of the bullet above, I am presenting as an individual IETF participant and do not speak on behalf of the Internet Society.

Context - 2016



Source: Wikipedia



Source: Wikipedia

Zika virus set to spread across Americas, spurring vaccine hunt

Tom Miles, Ben Hirschler

GENEVA/LONDON (Reuters) - The mosquito-borne Zika virus, which has caused brain damage in thousands of babies in Brazil, is likely to spread to the Americas except for Canada and Chile, the World Health Organization said Monday.

February 02, 2016 | 1 min read

WHO declares Zika epidemic a 'public health emergency'

Infectious Disease > General Infectious Disease
Zika: The Unexpected Pandemic
— World remains unprepared as novel pathogens just keep coming
by Michael Smith, North American Correspondent, MedPage Today
January 29, 2016

Context - 2016

ICANN 56

Panama City, Panama

**ICANN will not hold 56th Meeting in Panama
due to Zika Virus**

By domainnewafrica • On February 8, 2016 • In Featured • Featured • ICANN, Marrakech, Morocco, Panama, Zika Virus • 0



ICANN 57

San Juan, Puerto Rico

ICANN diverts from Puerto Rico to India to avoid Zika

Kevin Murphy, May 17, 2016, 20:20:17 (UTC). Domain Policy

ICANN has confirmed that its 57th public meeting will not be held, as originally planned, in Puerto Rico.

ICANN
57
HYDERABAD
3-9 November 2016

Context – “manycouches”

- Small design team in 2016 to think about what an IETF meeting would look like if everyone met from home sitting on their couches
- Met at IETF 96 (Berlin) and IETF 97 (Seoul), and briefly at IETF 98
- Summary draft: draft-manycouches-completely-virtual-meetings

Remote attendance at IETF meetings is increasing. Over time one might expect that this trend might continue and even accelerate to the point where eventually one or more of the traditional IETF meetings could be replaced or augmented by a mega-virtual meeting with all or almost all participants working from 'home.'

The manycouches list is a design team list to identify issues that would arise should an IETF meeting ever be held with $O(1000)$ 'remote' participants.

The goal for now is only to identify issues that would need to be addressed and possible experiments that could be performed to explore those issues. Further action on such large scale remote participation would require significant community discussion before implementation or deployment.

Context – some of 2016 participants

- Alia Atlas
- Lou Berger
- James Cloos
- Alissa Cooper
- Deborah Brungard
- Spencer Dawkins
- Lars Eggert
- Stephen Farrell
- Tony Hansen
- Suresh Krishnan
- Henrik Levkowetz
- S Moonesamy
- Kathleen Moriarity
- Alexa Morris
- Christian O’Flaherty
- Ray Pelletier
- Simon Romano
- Melinda Shore
- Robert Sparks
- Greg Wood
- Dan York

draft-manycouches-completely-virtual-meetings

"This is currently a thought experiment. There are no current plans to hold a completely virtual IETF meeting." - January 2017

2016- manycouches = many questions

early 2019 – Wes/Ted restarted discussions

2020 – experience of IETF 107 and 108

SHMOO – what guidance can we provide
about how community wants to answer some
of those questions?

Q – Meeting Structure?

- Is the “meeting” still structured over a week?
 - Or does it spread over a longer period of time? Multiple weeks?
- Do the meetings still exist within certain hours? Or do they meet over the course of 24 hours?
- Do we have multiple sessions happening at the same time?
- How long do we meet each day? What does the schedule look like for the day?
- What kind of breaks are planned in the day?
 - Balance between people wanting to get all the remote meetings “done”, and having time to socialize (if social tools are available)

Q – Timezones?

- What timezone does a virtual meeting operate in?
- Do all WG sessions use this timezone?
- Could WGs choose a timezone that works best for main contributors and leaders?
 - But if so, how does this attract people from other parts of the world?
 - Does this lead to too insular a group?
- Do we rotate timezones for virtual meetings as we do in-person meetings?
- Identified by many people as single hardest aspect of planning

Q – Deadlines?

- Do we keep with the deadlines for agendas and drafts as we do for an in-person meeting?

Q – Other meeting elements

- What role do these elements play in a virtual setting?
 - Plenaries
 - Tutorials
 - Welcome reception
 - Newcomers Meet and Greet and other support
 - Bits-N-Bites
 - Thursday Lunch Speaker Series
 - Social Event

Q - Side meetings?

- How do we enable groups to have side meetings?
 - In recent in-person meetings we have had space people could reserve.
 - Is there a way to offer the virtual equivalent of the Bar BoF?

Q – User experience

- What is the user experience for a fully remote session?
- What about registration? Sign-in? (Tools are in next session)
- A challenge may be in getting time to participate – you are not traveling “away” as you would for an in-person meeting
- Some users may want to be in multiple sessions simultaneously - how do we help that to happen?

Q – User experience - social

- How do we help people build relationships with others?
- Hallway conversations? (ex. [gather.town](#))
- Unstructured time?
- Guided social sessions?
- How do we help people discover/meet other people?

Q – User experience - newcomers

- How do we bring new people into sessions? Is this a priority?
- How do the mentoring and newcomers programs work?
- How do people learn about side meetings?
- How do they get involved with hallway conversations?
- How are we as inclusive as possible?
 - Note: In some ways a remote meeting may turn out to be *more* inclusive as people can attend without large travel costs.

Q – User experience – behavior

- Are the mechanisms we have for dealing with disruptive behavior at in-person meetings sufficient for virtual meetings?
- Do we need new or different mechanisms?

Q - Finances

- Registration fees – do we charge the same amount as a regular meeting?
- Sponsorships – how do they work with a completely virtual meeting?
- Do we need to invest in further infrastructure to support virtual meetings?

Q – Legal

- How do we ensure all attendees see and agree to the Note Well?
 - 2020 solution is requirement of datatracker logins
- Are there adequate privacy protections for people participating in virtual meetings?

Q – Miscellaneous questions

- Sessions by non-IETF groups? (ex. W3C, ISOC, others)
 - T-shirts?
 - Cookies...
-
- [Separately there are the questions about eligibility for NomComm, but that is currently being discussed in other sessions.]

Q – Technical / Security / Privacy Considerations?

- [See next talk by Richard Barnes]

Q – What can we learn from all the other conferences / meetings / events that are now virtual?

Thank you