New tags for relations between RFCs
draft-kuehlewind-update-tag-04

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3 new tags proposed to replace "Updates"

- **Amends/Amended by:** The amending RFC specifies changes that are ***mandatory*** to implement e.g. bug fixes, behavior changes

- **Extends/Extended by:** The extending RFC defines an ***optional*** addition, e.g. use existing extension points or clarifications that do not change existing protocol behavior

- **See Also/See Also:** Intended as a ***catch-all*** tag where two documents are related loosely but do not fit either of the above categories.

➔ Tags provide a forward reference from an existing RFC to a new RFC and MUST only be used for the defined meanings but are not mandatory to use
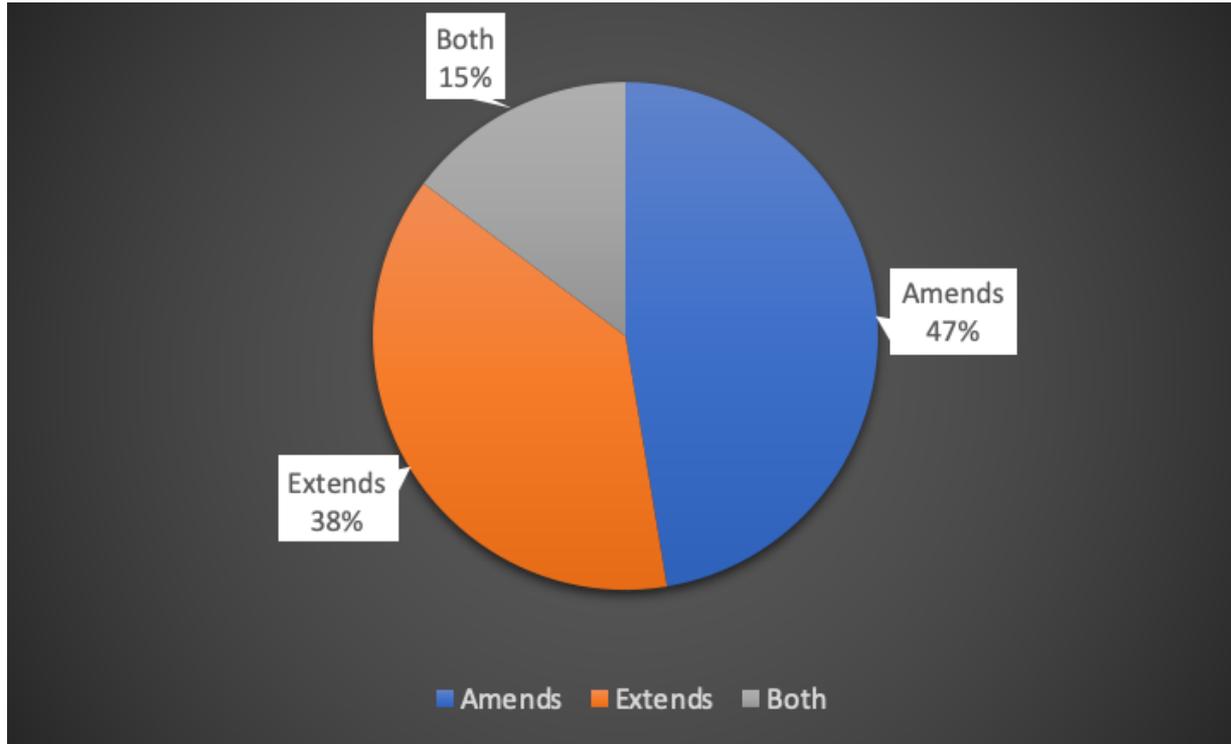
Studying Updates in Recent RFCs

- The goal was to study the use of Updates Tags in Recent RFCs

- We did this for RFCs 8000-8500

- Out of these 500 RFCs there were 95 RFCs that updated other RFCs

- These 95 RFCs updated 163 RFCs
  - Maximum RFCs updated was 13

Amends vs Extends

- Fairly even split between "Amend" and "Extend" usages

Other findings

- There was minimal use observed of the "See Also" relationship
  - Only 4 RFCs out of 500 fit the bill

- This potentially explained by the fact that we are fairly conservative with the use of the Updates tag.
  - We might see more indicative results looking at non-updating RFCs but it will certainly take a lot more time.
  - A better approach is to make it available and see if it is used.

Open issues

- Run this as an experiment or propose as BCP?
  - Currently BCP as risk to make things worse on failure is expected to be low
  - Text added to reflect discussion about risks but can be removed if published as BCP

- Limit to IETF stream for now?
  - Draft discusses that cross-stream use of "amends"/"extends" should have same level of consensus but does make any restrictions (or require a specific process)
  - The alternative is to wait for RSE and proposed editorial stream for generic use

- Who decides about use of "amends"/"extends"?
  - Same as usual consensus process (WG/IESG) -> no additional text added
  - Draft does not discuss changes to existing meta data (incl. the old "Also RFCxxxx")