

EDM Program

Evolvability, Deployability, & Maintainability

Mailing list: edm@iab.org



Upcoming calls

Meeting next week:

Wednesday August 4, 2021

21:00-22:00 UTC

draft-iab-use-it-or-lose-it

draft-eckel-edm-find-code

Coordination between implementations

Planning follow-on call in September

Use it or lose it

Published draft-iab-use-it-or-lose-it-01

Preparing to publish soon (before 112)

Please review and send your thoughts!

What limits protocol evolution?

Use it or lose it

Extension points that aren't used can harbor implementation bugs

Protocol design isn't enough to guarantee extensibility

Disuse is a problem (“ossification” in many protocols)

Middleboxes and intermediaries often make the problem harder

What promotes extensibility?

Use it or lose it

Protocols that use their extension points work well

Defining new extensions often

Deploying extensions in practice

Ideally functionality depends on extensibility

Renewing active use can recover extensibility for ossified protocols

Recommendations

Use it or lose it

Actively use extension mechanisms

Version negotiation is a special case

“Grease” is a way to falsify active use

Apply cryptography

Use fewer extension points to allow for more reuse

Define invariants

Monitor brokenness by using feedback