Quo vadis IETF?
Is the IETF (becoming) ossified?

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IETF115 – WG Chairs Forum
Analysing decision making in the IETF

Published work:


Project:

- SODESTREAM: Streamlining Social Decision Making for Improved Internet Standards (https://sodestream.github.io)
How hard is to chair a WG?

• More complex discussions
• Harder to publish
• Influential minority
Influential minority

Complex discussions — Hard to publish
Influential minority

Complex discussions

Hard to publish
3x increase in time to publish
# drafts pre-RFC publication has more than doubled
Influential minority

Complex discussions

Hard to publish

- Longer time, more drafts
- More affiliations, areas, authors
Influential minority

Complex discussions

Hard to publish
Decreasing number of email participants
Stable number of emails
Increasingly “chatty”
Growth in the number of draft mentions in the emails
Influential minority

- “Chatty"
- Multi-area discussions
- More drafts discussed

Complex discussions

Hard to publish
Influential minority
Complex discussions  →  Hard to publish
More areas discussed

Influential participants discuss more areas

Graph (email participants)
Betweenness ~ influence
Influence percentiles (+→-)

More influence -----------------> less influence
Influential authors increasingly dominate draft creation
Longer time to gain influence

More influence ----------------> less influence
• Draft authorship graph
• Co-authorship == link
• Betweenness ~ influence
More influence -------------------> less influence

WG chairs are influential participants/authors
More influence → less influence

WG chairs gain influence
Influential minority

Sherpas of IETF complexities?

Complex discussions ——— Hard to publish
• Groundtruth-ing:
  • Conversation annotation
  • Survey: deployment
  • Survey: reviewer recommendation engine
Reviewer recommendation engine

- NLP methods to create (vector) representations of
  - Drafts: using the text of the draft
    - Published between 2019 and Jun 1st 2020
Reviewer recommendation engine

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  • Drafts: using the text of the draft
    • Published between 2019 and Jun 1st 2020
  • Reviewers: using the text of their email messages
    • Members who joined before 2019
Reviewer recommendation engine

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For each draft, top 50 reviewers for annotation