

# The Relationship between the IETF and its Trust



draft-eggert-ietf-and-trust  
Lars Eggert & Russ Housley

# Background

Started out as collection of notes doing due diligence during proposed Trust restructuring consultation

Found some misalignment between

- What I thought the Trust did
- What the founding document said the Trust should do
- What I saw the Trust doing

## Nothing critical!

But thought it would be helpful to have some agreed text on what the community expectations on the Trust are, for future clarity

Discussed document with various folks (Trust, Russ, etc.) before posting

# Trust is a core part of the IETF

Not in a legal sense

But operationally: The IETF critically depends on the assets the Trust is managing

Also morally: Most Trustees come from and are appointed by the IETF community

This means the IETF community should have an ability to express its desires to the Trust, and an expectation that the Trust will be receptive to these desires

And should continue to have legal and other recourse to safeguard this relationship

Also means the IETF community should robustly fund the Trust, and indemnify the Trustees

# Compliance with foundational documents

No published “procedures for management of the Trust assets”

Purpose of the Trust is to hold, manage and license assets

Key requirement for operational transparency

# Operational transparency

Purpose of the Trust is to hold, manage and license assets

Community should have transparency into

- Which assets is the Trust holding in detail, and their licensing
- Asset acquisition and divestment pipelines
- Operation of the Trust (decisions, meetings, announcements)

# Questions

Does the community think such a document would be useful?

Does the community think the current content is a starting point?