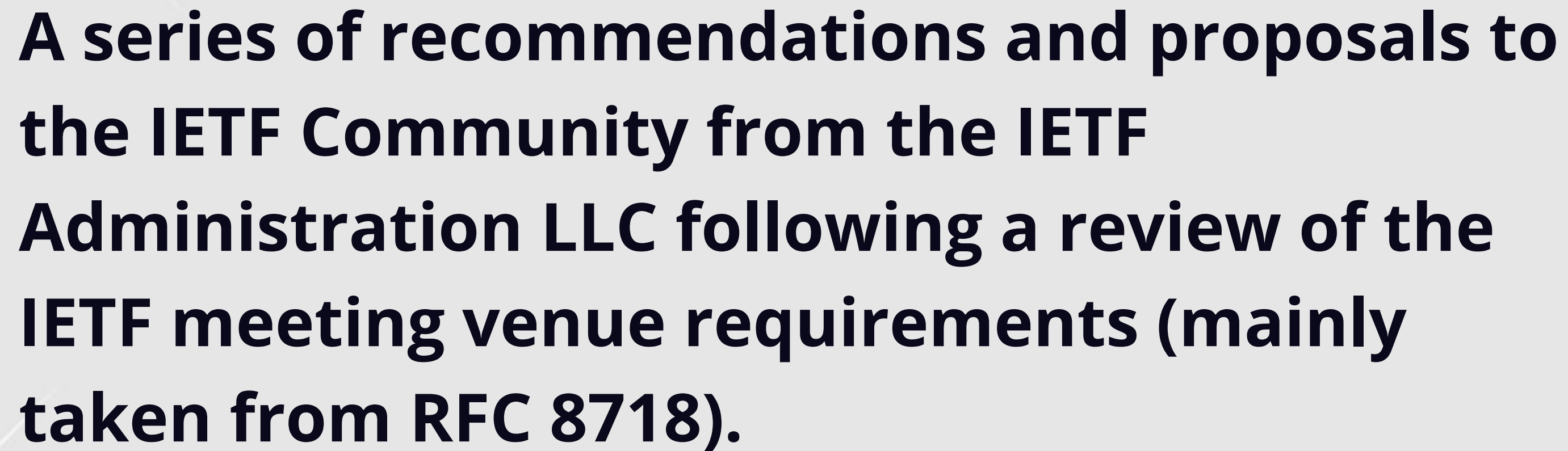# draft-daley-gendispatch-venue-requirements
IETF 116 Yokohama

I E T F®

Making the Internet work better

A series of recommendations and proposals to the IETF Community from the IETF Administration LLC following a review of the IETF meeting venue requirements (mainly taken from RFC 8718).

Four key areas of discussion

01 The "IETF Hotels" / "One Roof" Model

02 The Lounge, Terminal Room and Ad-hoc Space

03 Internet Filtering

04 New Venues vs Known Good Venues

Summary of Key Recommendations and Proposals
A lot more detail in the draft

1. We recommend replacing the "close proximity" requirement with a "time to walk" requirement somewhere between 5-15 minutes.

2. We recommend replacing the "one-third" requirement for rooms in the IETF Hotels with a "sufficient to meet projected demand" requirement.

3. We propose to no longer provide a Terminal Room and direct people to the Lounge instead.

4. We recommend that the community reopen the discussion on Internet filtering at venues and provide us with better guidance by considering four key questions.

I E T F Making the Internet work better

The "IETF Hotels" / "One Roof" Model
Current Policy

- *"One or more hotels, in close proximity to the Facility, where the IETF guest room block allocations are negotiated and where network services managed by the IASA (e.g., the "IETF" SSID) are in use."*

- *"The IETF Hotels are within close proximity to each other and the Facility."*

- *"The guest rooms at the IETF Hotels are sufficient in number to house one-third or more of projected meeting attendees."*

- *"We have something of a preference for an IETF meeting to be under "One Roof"; that is, qualified meeting space and guest rooms are available in the same facility."*

The "IETF Hotels" / "One Roof" Model
Practical Concerns

- Excludes "one roof" venues with sufficient meeting space but insufficient rooms, and venues with a suitable meeting space and a choice of nearby hotels (but not all meeting "close proximity" test) with sufficient rooms to accommodate us, but none big enough to meet our requirements for a single IETF Hotel

- Large room block strategy losing appeal. Hotels increasingly wary - want deposits and guarantees and not providing good pricing. People making their own arrangements - rise of AirBnB.

- Clearly need to continue with the IETF Network in IETF Hotels, but have rarely put it in more than one, and don't really understand what feature of the network is critical (capacity, bandwidth, unfiltered, etc).

The "IETF Hotels" / "One Roof" Model
Recommendations and Proposals

- Replace "close proximity" with a "time to walk" requirement - aims to limit the time it takes to walk from the hotel(s) to the meeting space and to each other. No proposal as to the length, but it should not be any less than five minutes nor more than fifteen minutes

- Replace the requirement for the total room block in the IETF Hotels from "one-third of the projected attendees" to a more flexible "sufficient rooms to meet the expected demand".

- Propose the NOC to monitor the usage of the IETF network in the IETF Hotels in order to understand it better. This would provide the data for a review of the hotel network and what, if any, changes are needed.

The Lounge, Terminal Room and Ad-hoc Space
Current Policy

- *"There are sufficient places (e.g., a mix of hallways, bars, meeting rooms, and restaurants) for people to hold ad hoc conversations and group discussions in the combination of spaces offered by the facilities, hotels, and bars/restaurants in the surrounding area, within walking distance (5-10 minutes)."*

- *"At least one IETF Hotel or the Facility has a space for use as a lounge, conducive to planned and ad hoc meetings and chatting, as well as a space for working online. There are tables with seating, convenient for small meetings with laptops. ... Preferably the lounge area is centrally located, permitting easy access to participants."*

- *The Terminal Room is in the The Tao of the IETF as a dedicated room with extended opening hours beyond the normal hours of IETF meetings, Ethernet connectivity, a printer and a staffed helpdesk.*

The Lounge, Terminal Room and Ad-hoc Space
Proposals and Related Actions

1. No longer have a Terminal Room - directed to the Code Lounge instead. Both have low usage and similar uses.

2. Drop the in-person helpdesk. Technical support still available via email and new Zulip channel. When support is required, an engineer will appear.

3. No IETF provided printer. Usage has dropped dramatically.

Related Actions:

- Where the opportunity arises for us to provide greater ad-hoc space through rental of furniture, then we will consider this.

- Will experiment with the location of the Lounge

- Improve the messaging and signage around the lounge.

Internet Filtering
Current Policy

- *"Meeting attendees need unfiltered access to the general Internet and their corporate networks. "Unfiltered access", in this case, means that all forms of communication are allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, access to corporate networks via encrypted VPNs from the meeting Facility and Hotels, including Overflow Hotels."*

- *"In some cases, local laws may require some filtering. We seek to avoid such locales without reducing the pool of cities to an unacceptable level by stating a number of criteria below, one mandatory and others important, to allow for the case where local laws may require filtering in some circumstances."*

- *"It MUST be possible to provision Internet Access to the Facility and IETF Hotels [...] Provisions include, but are not limited to, native and unmodified IPv4 and IPv6 connectivity, and global reachability;"*

Internet Filtering
Practical Concerns

1. Is any filtering acceptable? For example, some countries operate filters that are minimally invasive and it is not clear if we could meet in a country with such restrictions.

2. If we can be reasonably sure that people can legally, technically and practically circumvent filtering through the use of VPNs (or other) then does it matter what else is going on, on the local network?

3. We have historically met in venues where unfiltered access was provided to the meeting space and IETF Hotels but not to overflow hotels. Is that acceptable going forward?

4. There is much text in [RFC8718] about the importance of people being able to work in bars, cafes etc yet this is not considered when filtering is discussed. Should it be?

Internet Filtering
Recommendations

Community to please discuss the previous four questions please and provide us some better guidance, or leave it to a case-by-case decision when we ask for community feedback

New Venues vs Known Good Venues
Revisiting known good venues:

Advantages:

- We know the space, the services and access (e.g. visas) work for us
- Participants gain familiarity with the space and can use it more efficiently
- The staff costs associated with researching, booking and managing the meeting are lower than negotiating from scratch

Disadvantages:

- The venue becomes much less competitive on price (as has happened with Prague)
- It restricts the number of local communities that we interact with
- Is it less appealing to Global Hosts to sponsor a meeting in the same venue.

IETF LLC will continue to balance these as it feels is appropriate

IETF®

Making the Internet work better

New Venues vs Known Good Venues
Recommendations

Nothing required from the community, but this is an opportunity to provide better guidance if the community wishes to

Finally ....
What do we expect to happen next?

Option 1: Replacement for [RFC8718] with the same level of detail as the existing document. That provides for clarity and certainty around the requirements and while it will inevitably need replacing as those requirements change, it is unlikely that this will be an obstacle to change.

Option 2: Stripped back replacement for [RFC8718] that sets the key principles for the venue and leaves the details to the IETF LLC to interpret. This has the benefit of avoiding the importance of some meeting features being lost in the detail, as arguably has happened with the importance of ad-hoc meeting areas. However, this might not ensure sufficient community engagement and oversight of the interpretations of the principles

The END
and contacts for the record

thank you.

Jay Daley

exec-director@ietf.org

Sean Turner

sean@sn3rd.com

I E T F®