Routing Area Open Meeting (RTGAREA)

Thursday, March 30, 2023, Session IV 16:30 – 17:30

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IETF IPR policy review and discussion

- Recent WG experience with concerns about licensing terms in an IPR disclosure led to a discussion about what our procedures are.

- Of course, BCP 79 / RFC 8179 are authoritative.

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Licensing Terms

- RFC 8179 Section 7:

    - "In general, IETF working groups prefer technologies with no known IPR claims or, for technologies with claims against them, an offer of royalty-free licensing."

- So, it's *allowed*, though not *required*, for participants to consider matters relating to licensing terms when deciding what to do with a draft.

- Equally, discussion of these matters is fair game.

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Validity of IPR

- RFC 8179 Section 7(G):

  - "Although *the IETF* can make no actual determination of validity, enforceability, or applicability of any particular IPR, it is reasonable that *individuals* in a working group or the IESG will take into account their own views of the validity, enforceability, or applicability of IPR in their evaluation of alternative technologies."

- We don't discuss validity of claims as part of the WG discussion ("the IETF").

  - But individuals are free to consider it in making their own decisions.

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Working Group Procedure

- Within the RFC 8179 framework, each WG can have its own way of working.

- We participate in the IETF as individuals. Each individual...

  - Considers each draft on its own merits – different drafts in the same WG may have different considerations.

  - Chooses how to weigh various factors. As an example, these could include how the licensing terms might affect the uptake of the technology.

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Discussion?