

RFC9518

# Centralization, Decentralization, and Internet Standards

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# Some questions to get more conversations rolling

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1. The definition of "distributed" versus "decentralized": what is/are the \*fundamental\* differences between these 2 terms (if any)?
2. A number of things have been consolidated/centralized over the last decade:
  - platforms (e.g. a very small number of OSes),
  - resources (computation power, storage),
  - popular applications (e.g. search, maps, videos)
  - collection of individuals' data (through centralized apps)

What is/are the driving force behind the movement?

3. Which of the above items should we aim to decentralize (first)?  
Or is there (also) some important things that are not explicitly listed in the above?

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4. network protocol designs and (de)centralization: it seems clear that a poorly designed protocol (e.g. with functional dependency on a single server) inclines to centralized deployment; can a well designed protocol steer its realization to decentralized direction?  
If so, how do such a design look like?
  5. network architecture and (de)centralization: today's network users, by and large, play the role of eyeballs (powerless); they make large contributions to application contents, but with little control power. Are there means to empower users to decentralize the control?