An Update on Milestones

draft-schinazi-update-on-milestones

SUPERMEGADISPATCH
IETF 120 – Vancouver – 2024-07-22

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Milestones, where do they come from?

RFC 2418: IETF Working Group Guidelines and Procedures

The working group charter **MUST establish a timetable** for specific work items. While this may be renegotiated over time, the list of milestones and dates facilitates the Area Director's tracking of working group progress and status, and it is indispensable to potential participants identifying the critical moments for input. **Milestones shall consist of deliverables** that can be qualified as showing specific achievement; e.g., "Internet-Draft finished" is fine, but "discuss via email" is not. It is helpful to specify milestones for every 3-6 months, so that progress can be gauged easily. This milestone list is expected to be updated periodically (see Section 5 of [RFC2418]).
Milestones, what are they good for?

Management tool for ADs to keep track of WGs

View from folks outside of IETF into WG status
"Milestones are useful to know what's going on"

## Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Associated documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2015</td>
<td>WG adoption call for 6lo security related draft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2015</td>
<td>WG LC for draft-ietf-6lo-dect-ule</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2015</td>
<td>WG last call for draft-ietf-6lo-6lobac</td>
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In 2022, Lucas Pardue measured that:
- 82% of WG milestones were out of date
- more than half of them were more than 2.5 years out of date
Dateless Milestones

IESG started experiment in 2020 to allow milestones without dates

Still need to be manually updated

Technically violates RFC 2418
A Proposal

Update RFC 2418

Milestones are now optional

Dates are now officially optional

Flexibility in the granularity of dates

Allow chairs to update dates with AD approval

All of this on a per-WG basis, as decided by AD in consultation with chairs

Guidance for chairs: review milestones once per IETF meeting
The Dispatch Question - What do we do with this?

Updating RFC 2418 requires a BCP, which requires IETF consensus
GENDISPATCH cannot public documents per its charter

GEN-AD-sponsor this draft

Short-lived WG in GEN-area just for this

Short-lived WG in GEN-area for this and other work

Long-lived WG in GEN-area for process work

/dev/null

/dev/urandom?