

Presentation for RASP-RG @IETF

Remarkable Regenerative Patterns and Practices of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)

You can see and download our Version 1.0

<https://identitywoman.net/ietf-research/>

Funded by Summer of Protocols 2024

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We presented at IETF 120 about doing this research

Link to slides: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/meeting/120/materials/slides-120-rasprg-arc-regenerative-communities-03>

Link to video of talk: <https://youtu.be/Pu3hGjjQzQM?si=kZCzGfb7RfC0XLu8&t=4531>

If “Code is Law”

and coders follow protocols when they code.

the SDO*s that define protocols are
“legislative bodies”

**What are the legislative processes, or protocols,
for protocol creation?**

*SDO Standards Development Organization

The Internet is perhaps the “ultimate” Digital Public Infrastructure, an active Digital Commons.



Commons and Commoning

The commons includes anything which supports quality of life and is available to all—nature, culture, knowledge, infrastructure, etc.—that we are responsible for stewarding and passing on in good condition, a responsibility called *commoning*. So treasure, reclaim, steward, share, and mindfully evolve the commons as an open source of abundance, life and wisdom, and as sacred common ground.

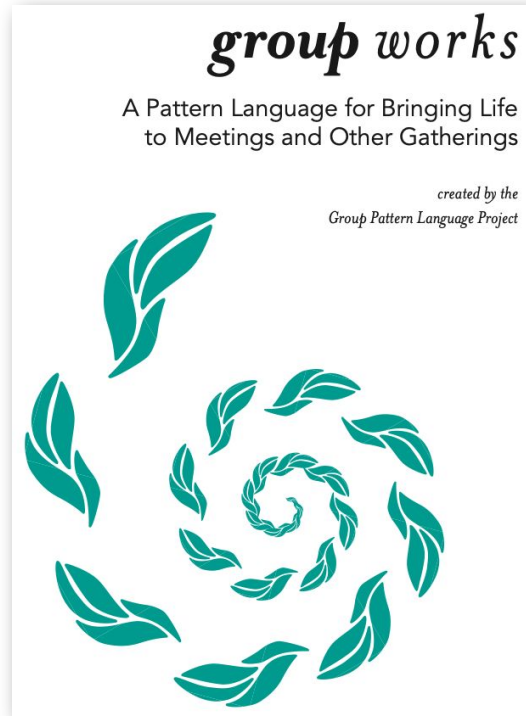
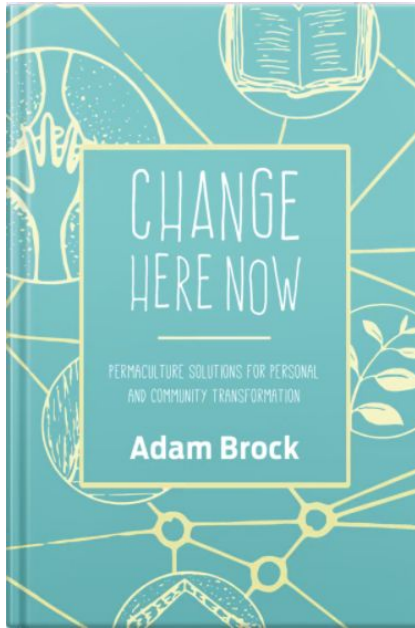
Some related patterns

24 Deep Time Perspective 28 Equity
41 Groundedness 46 Inclusive Stakeholder
Governance 57 Nature First 72 Regenerativity
75 Sacredness



13

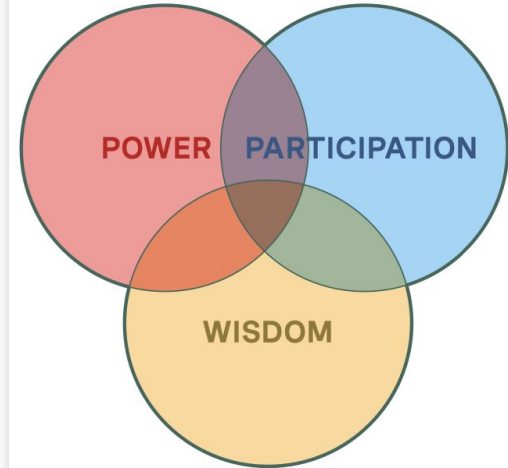
We are use three pattern languages as sources of regenerative patterns.



groupworksdeck.org

A Wise Democracy Pattern Language

Evoke and engage the wisdom and resourcefulness of the whole on behalf of the whole



Design guidance for catalyzing groups, activities, systems and societies capable of co-generating collective wisdom

www.wd-pl.com

Understanding the IETF as Living System



Life as Perpetuation of Purpose

the IETF is very clear that it is not value neutral and clearly says so in its mission statement [RFC 3935]:

The Internet isn't value-neutral, and neither is the IETF. We want the Internet to be useful for communities that share our commitment to openness and fairness. We embrace technical concepts such as decentralized control, edge-user empowerment and sharing of resources, because those concepts resonate with the core values of the IETF community. These concepts have little to do with the technology that's possible, and much to do with the technology that we choose to create.

***How does the IETF distribute governance?
How it embodies and expresses key patterns
from the Wise Democracy Pattern Language.***

The last force on us -- us

The standards elephant of yesterday -- OSI.

The standards elephant of today -- it's right here.

As the Internet and its community grows, how do we manage the process of change and growth?

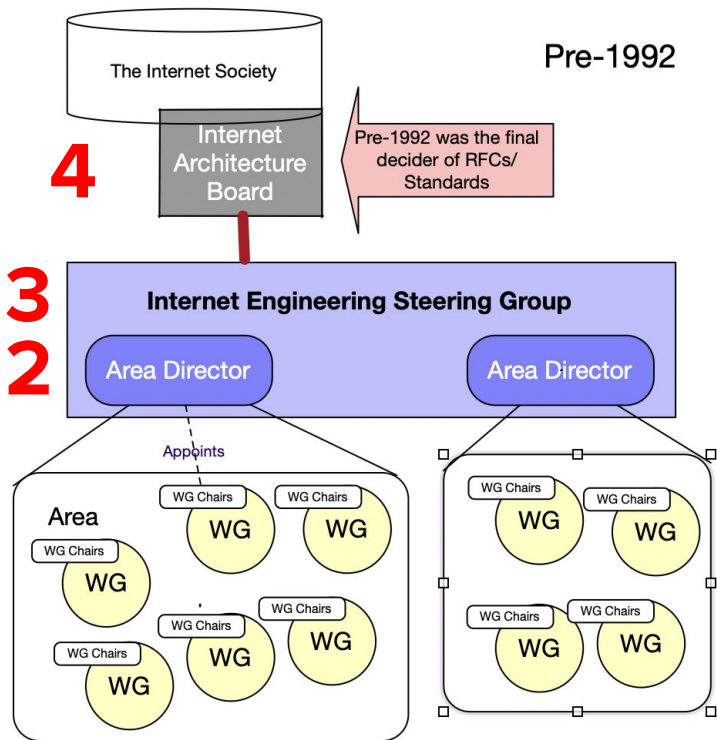
- **Open process -- let all voices be heard.**
- **Closed process -- make progress.**
- **Quick process -- keep up with reality.**
- **Slow process -- leave time to think.**
- **Market driven process -- the future is commercial.**
- **Scaling driven process -- the future is the Internet.**

We reject: kings, presidents and voting.

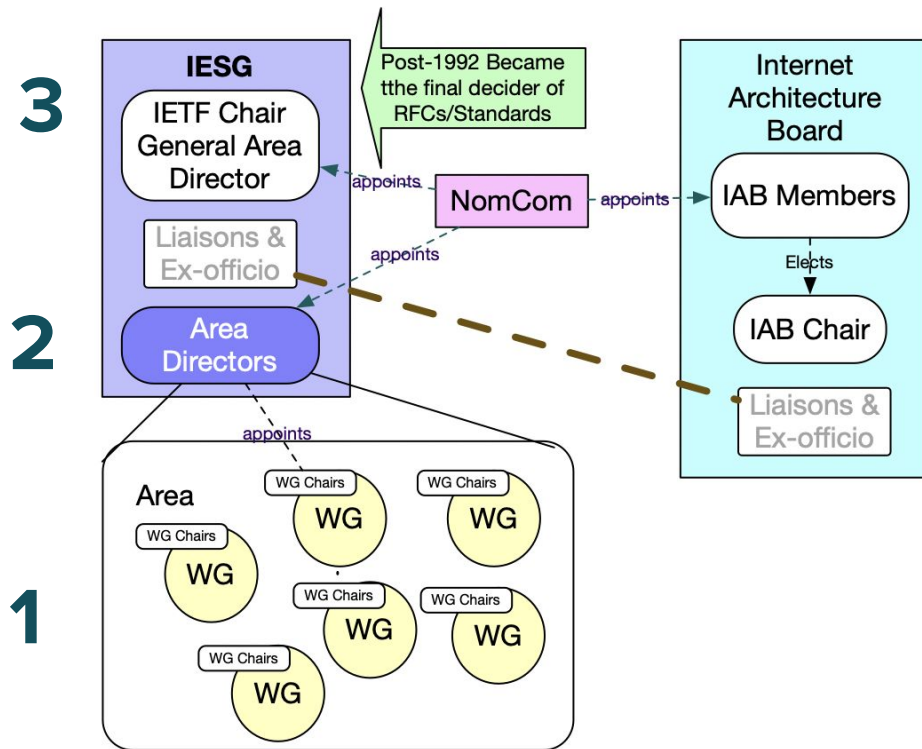
We believe in: rough consensus and running code.

IETF Structure

Pre-1992



Post-1992



Nihil de nobis, sine nobis

Not about us without us

It took until 1996 for the IETF to officially come under the umbrella of ISOC, with **RFC 2031** documenting this relationship stating:

All subgroups in the IETF and ISOC that have an official role in the standards process should be either:

- **open to anyone (like Working Groups); or**
- **have a well documented restricted membership in which the voting members are elected or nominated through an open process.**

Sortition

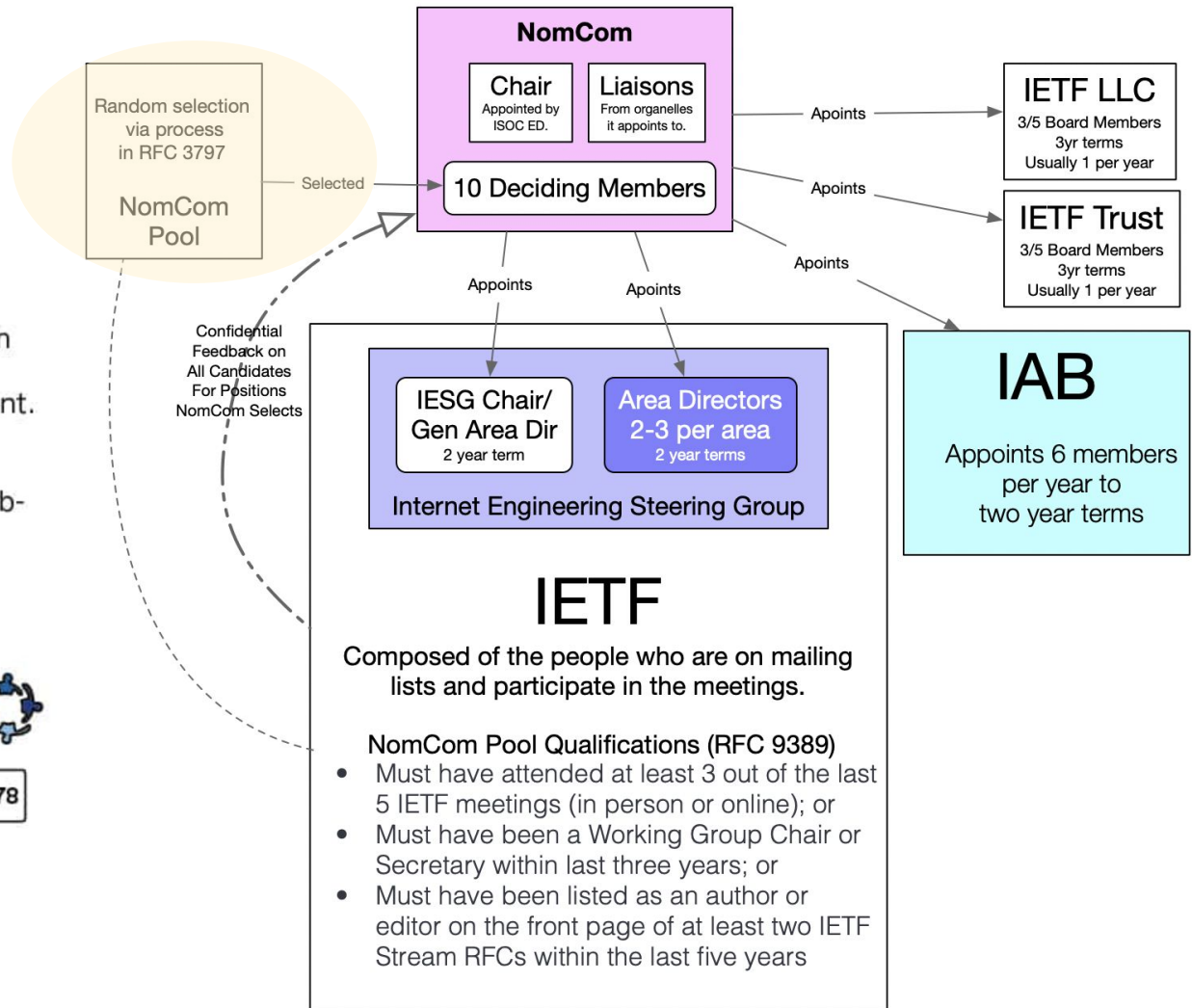
Random selection by lot replaces human agency with chance (the modern view) or supernatural agency (the view of Italian city-states and ancient Athens). It can help democracy be just, clean, and efficient. So use it mindfully to thwart corruption, to produce legitimate deliberative cross-sections of a population, and to fairly distribute social goods or burdens.

Some related patterns

18 Consulting and Abiding by Willingness
 26 Diversity 28 Equity 48 Integrity and Authenticity
 54 Multi-Modal Intelligence
 76 Safety First, Then Challenge 81 Synergy Between Part and Whole



78

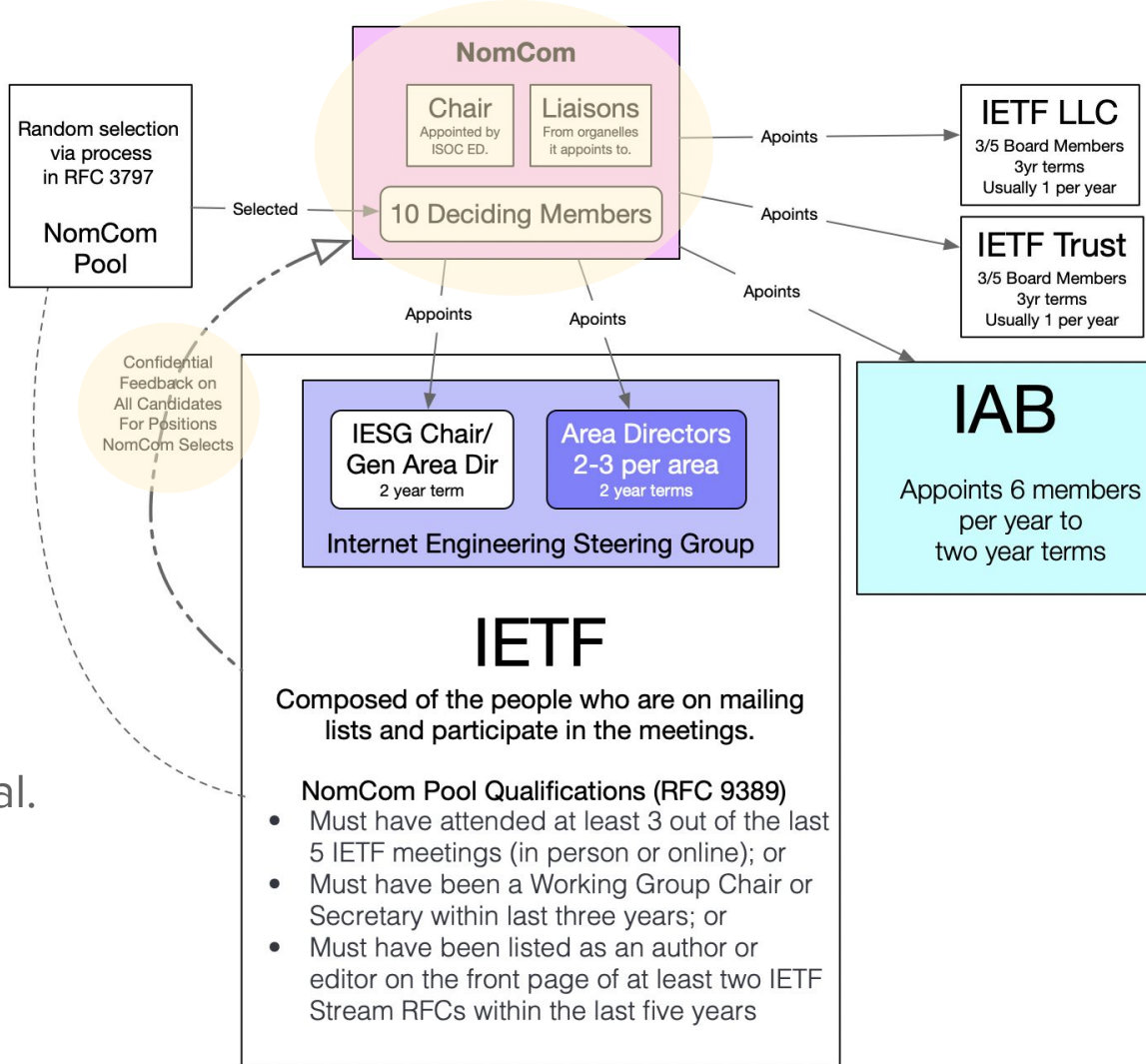


Privacy Guarantees

While openness is a hallmark of a wise democracy, such a democracy requires that people feel both safe to develop and express their uniqueness and also able enough to defend themselves from oppressive power. So seek to appropriately guarantee privacy while also helping people feel safe enough to be open.

Feedback into the NomCom about candidates is confidential.

Deliberations of the NomCom are confidential.



Deliberation

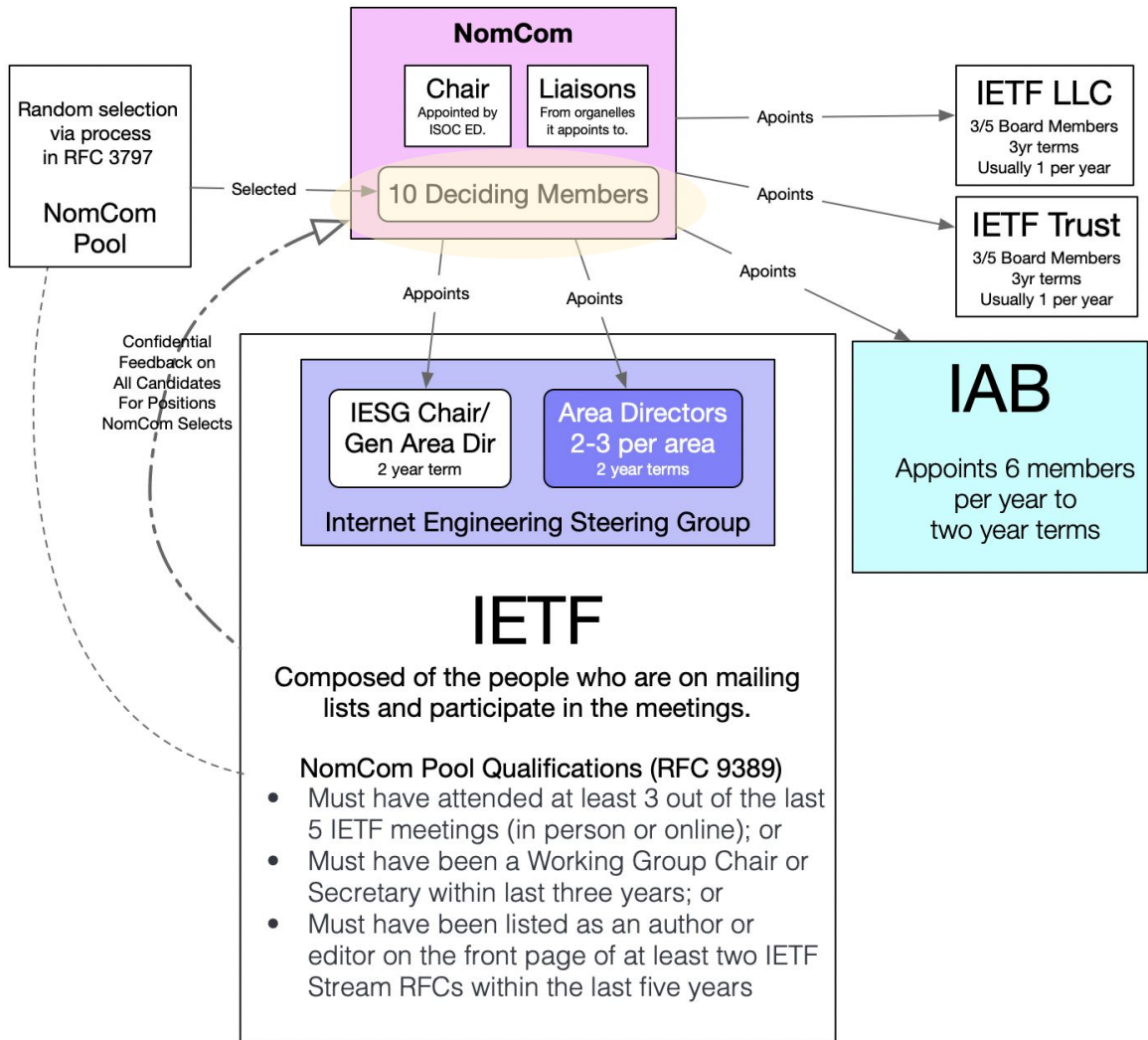
Wisdom explores, discerns, weighs, creates and envisions; it avoids jumping to conclusions and getting trapped by assumptions. Anything which helps us raise and care-fully consider a healthy range of factors, perspectives and options before and as we act, qualifies as deliberation. So utilize and institutionalize diverse forms of such potent consideration.

Some related patterns

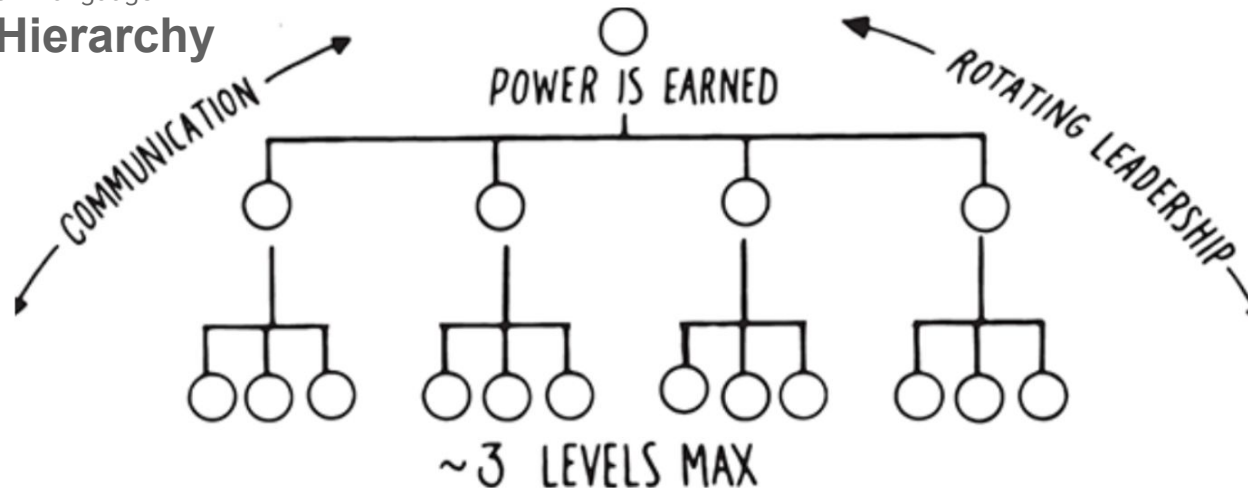
27 Enough Time 29 Expanding Situational Curiosity 36 Full Spectrum Information 37 Fullness of Choice 39 Generative Interactions 41 Groundedness 84 Tackling Cognitive Limitations



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Consensual Hierarchy



Power must be earned. Members of a group must trust the people making decisions on their behalf.

Power must be shared. No matter how much trust and support any given decision maker earns, no single person can be expected to completely understand the needs of a community.

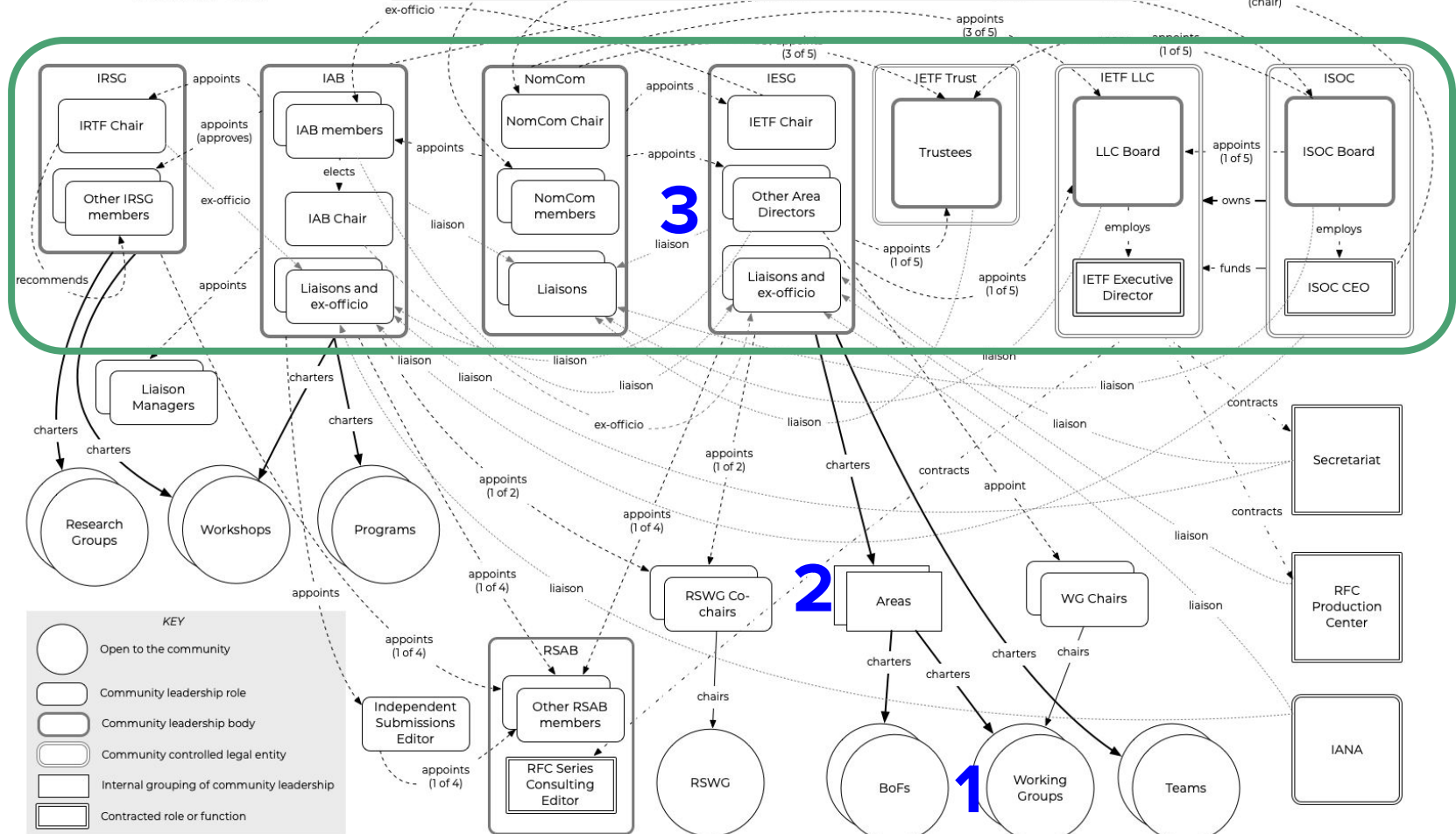
Communication must be open throughout all levels of the hierarchy. Hierarchies, by nature, tend to excel at one-to-many pronouncements. But in order for hierarchies to be consensual, communication needs to be able to flow in the other direction as well, from the bottom to the top. Every member of a hierarchy, no matter how lowly their status, should feel empowered to access the decision makers.

Structure of the IETF and inter-related organisations

February 2022

These institutions are all “parallel” in that they are accountable to each other. No one is on “top”

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Create the Tooling for your Process

Transparency



“Letting Go of Control”

Be open about what's real: feelings, experiences, how decisions get made, finances, and more. Transparency arises from a belief that the free flow of information and taking action in direct and honest ways best serves group needs. Handled well, openness nurtures trust, collaboration, and authentic community.

related: Courageous Modelling
~ Inform the Group Mind ~ Power Shift ~
Self-Awareness ~ Shared Leadership and Roles
~ Naming ~ Taking Responsibility

84



Credit: biletskiy / Monkey Business Images / Shutterstock / Hasive-Wikimedia / Jake Lyle / Alamy / Photo Bank

Holistic Leadership and Governance Dynamics

Fragmented, one-sided leadership and management of our collective affairs impedes the wisdom and resourcefulness of the whole. So promote organizing modes that generate free abundance from the fractal, holonic, networked and self-organizing capacities of whole systems and their powers of synergy, participation, distributed functionality, life energy, resilience and more.

Some related patterns

6 Capacitance **18** Consulting and Abiding by Willingness **29** Expanding Situational Curiosity **41** Groundedness **46** Inclusive Stakeholder Governance **48** Integrity and Authenticity **72** Regenerativity



45

Screenshot



Credit: dotshock - Shutterstock

Collective Distributed Intelligence

Many diverse individuals and groups have intelligence and resources to apply to shared situations. So minimize alienation, domination and conformity while encouraging and creatively engaging many diverse voices and players. Enable them to call forth, organize and tap their vast collective intelligence, resourcefulness and parallel processing capacity for better solutions.

Some related patterns

18 Consulting and Abiding by Willingness **26** Diversity **34** Felt Agency **37** Fullness of Choice **55** Multi-Modal Power **84** Tackling Cognitive Limitations **90** Well-Utilized Life Energy



11



Credit: Rawpixel.com - Alamy / Shutterstock / Shutterstock / Shutterstock / Shutterstock

Collective Wise Oversight of Governance

Wherever decisions are made and power exercised that impact public affairs, separate sources of wise oversight should be in place. So ensure that citizens, stakeholders, journalists, experts and institutions are able to effectively observe, comment on, and act to coordinate and correct each other's behaviors towards wiser outcomes.

Some related patterns

17 Constraints on Concentrated Power **25** Deliberation **28** Equity **47** Integral Political Will **52** Microcosms and Populations **74** Rich Feedback Dynamics **84** Tackling Cognitive Limitations



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Glocal Subsidiarity

Governance functions are best performed by those closest to the realm being managed, keeping in mind the scope of that realm and its interdependence with broader and narrower realms. So promote governance functions being done at the smallest scale—from personal or local to global—where they can best serve the life of all.

Constraints on Concentrated Power

Concentrated power—while necessary for certain functions—tends to corrupt and ossify, undermining collective wisdom. So counter those tendencies with transparency, openness to critique, and constitutional answerability to—and oversight by—those whom concentrated power affects. Limit its scope and term and balance it with other power centers.

Some related patterns

10 Civil Rights **12** Collective Wise Oversight of Governance **28** Equity **40** Glocal Subsidiarity **45** Holistic Leadership and Governance Dynamics **74** Rich Feedback Dynamics **78** Sortition



17

Inform the Group Mind



ACEI Cheung

We gather facts, feelings, and perspectives to reveal and deepen the group's awareness of itself and its world. The most helpful information comes from diverse sources and is accurate, relevant, accessible, and compelling.

related: Distilling ~ Experts on Tap ~ Feedback ~ Harvesting ~ Inquiry ~ Mapping and Measurement ~ Whole System in the Room

41



Credit: Andy Palec

Inclusive Stakeholder Governance

Democracy ideally means people affected by a decision play meaningful roles in making it and those closest to a situation take meaningful action to address it. So help full-spectrum networked stakeholders—who already play informed (if conflicted) roles in their shared areas of concern—manage their issue domains responsibly and wisely together.

Some related patterns

9 Citizen-Stakeholder Integration **40** Glocal Subsidiarity **55** Multi-Modal Power **71** Realizing Essential Aspirations **79** Spaces for Dialogue and Collaboration **88** Using Diversity and Disturbance Creatively **92** Whole System in the Conversation



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How the Ritual and Flow of week-long meetings embody many Patterns from the Group Works Deck: A Pattern Language for Bringing Life to Meetings and Other Gatherings.

Sense of Place at IETF Meetings

Power of Place



The location, setting, and beauty of the site for an event have a major impact on the group's energy, attentiveness, and ability to connect. Do your best to choose a place that is the right fit and expression for your intention.

related: Aesthetics of Space
~ Gaia ~ Group Culture ~ History and Context
~ Hosting ~ Nooks in Space and Time
~ Purpose

Aesthetics of Space



Gathering places that are beautiful, comfortable, functional, and creatively designed to serve the purpose of the meeting call forth participants' best life energy to contribute. Thoughtfully arrange the space and decor to inspire, focus, and sustain the group's work.

related: Circle ~ Gaia ~ Hosting ~
Nooks in Space and Time ~ Power of Constraints
~ Power of Place ~ Preparedness

Held in different hotels around the world, the gatherings are effectively “the same” in their layout.

The same desks:

- IANA,
- RFC editor,
- Registration desk where the secretariat can be found.

There is a large plenary room (which can be split for Working Group meetings),

8 breakout rooms,

* Two projectors set up, one for the remote participants to be seen/to share on and one for the slides being presented.

2 side meeting rooms.

Plenary on Wednesday

Whole System in the Room

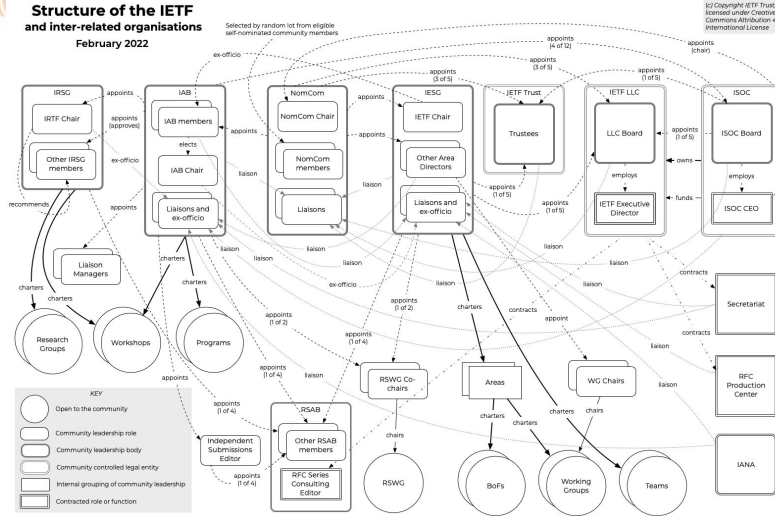


Chris Metcalf

A critical mass of diverse stakeholders working together helps the whole system adapt and learn more effectively. Spark transformative change by gathering a cross-section of the organization or community to coordinate visioning, innovate novel solutions, make more informed choices, and motivate quick implementation.

related: Common Ground ~ History and Context
 ~ Inform the Group Mind ~ Invitation ~ Preparedness ~ Subgroup and Whole Group
 ~ Viewpoint Shift

Structure of the IETF and inter-related organisations February 2022



Credit: Monkey Business Images - Shutterstock

Whole System in the Conversation

Conditions—both desirable and undesirable—are co-created by all the players involved, directly and contextually. To the extent these diverse people, interests and perspectives are brought into creative interaction, wise outcomes can be co-created. So think seriously about who or what else should be part of any given conversation.

Some related patterns

- 17 Constraints on Concentrated Power
- 29 Expanding Situational Curiosity
- 39 Generative Interactions
- 43 Healthy Competition/Cooperation Dynamics
- 60 Out of Many, One
- 71 Realizing Essential Aspirations
- 79 Spaces for Dialogue and Collaboration



Rituals of Appreciation, Celebration and Grief

Penned by Vint Cerf about the ARPANET in 1989 before it was fully shut down in 1990

It was the first, and being first, was the best,
but now we lay it down to ever rest.

Now pause with me a moment, shed some tears.

Of faithful services, duty done, I weep.

Lay down thy packet, now O friend, and sleep.

Celebrate



With joy and zest, publicly celebrate milestones and recurring events. Affirming shared history, we nourish community, crystallize a sense of accomplishment, and build group identity by unifying our stories and common goals. Can be planned and ritualized, or as spontaneous as a group cheer.



related: Appreciation ~ Story
~ Breaking Bread Together ~ Common Ground
~ Group Culture ~ Playfulness ~ Ritual

8

Appreciation



Enthusiasm and thankfulness are infectious, deepening trust and connection. Positive energy provides the most generative base for whatever comes next. Look for the good in what's happening and who people are, then work from there.



related: Celebrate ~ Feedback
~ Good Faith Assumptions ~ Group Culture
~ Honour Each Person ~ Listening
~ Tend Relationships

3

If an IETFer dies between one meeting and the next they are memorialized during the plenary. The community is good at **Practicing Grief** [SP38] in healthy ways.

Grounding in Running Code for technical protocols & community leadership and governance protocols



Iteration

Wisdom is not a one-time thing. It is intelligent learning stretched over the long haul and applied mindfully. Situations change, calling for course corrections—or an unexpected level of complexity appears, revealing new paths and challenges. So use periodic, iterative processes whose outcomes give birth to—and feed into—new inquiries, insights, possibilities and activities.

Some related patterns

- 20 Cooperative Ownership as Stewardship
- 29 Expanding Situational Curiosity
- 53 Multi-Media Engagement 72 Regenerativity
- 74 Rich Feedback Dynamics 88 Using Diversity and Disturbance Creatively 94 Wise Use of Uncertainty



Simplify

Ethan Feuer

A simple process allows you to stay focused on your purpose. A clear understanding of your purpose allows you to do what is needed, no more, no less. Include only the details that are significant, so participants will understand what is and is not important.

related: Circle ~ Distilling ~ Letting Go ~ Preparedness ~ Presence ~ Purpose ~ Silence



Credit: www.shutterstock.com

Grounding in Fundamental Needs

Positions and demands impede consensus, whereas addressing deep needs makes true consensus possible. Deep needs are universal and can be satisfied in many ways, opening up possibilities. So help people clarify and meet the deep needs of all parties and to understand the addictive, shallow nature of pseudo-satisfiers and their manipulative power.

Some related patterns

- 1 All Concerns Addressed 33 Feeling Heard
- 37 Fullness of Choice 63 Power of Listening
- 69 Quality of Life Indicators 71 Realizing Essential Aspirations 96 Working With Feelings



Credit: iStock.com - Portrait of Owen Lyons - Faithkeeper of the Iroquois Confederacy

Groundedness

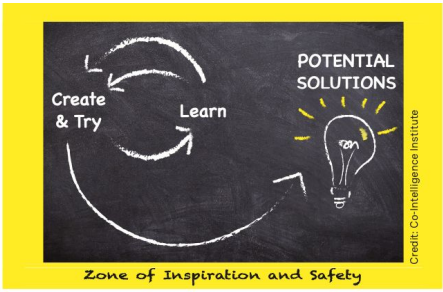
The ground is the dependable fundamental upon which we stand. Groundedness involves centering ourselves in what is truly fundamental and dependable, like factual reality; reason; deep caring; strongly coherent connections to self, community, place, nature, earth; basic needs and deep aspirations. The more of these we are grounded in, individually and collectively, the wiser we can be.

Some related patterns

- 4 Big Empathy 57 Nature First 71 Realizing Essential Aspirations 72 Regenerativity
- 75 Sacredness 86 Universal Intelligence 87 Universal Participation



Willingness to Experiment & Learn & Learn how to Learn



Credit: Co-intelligence Institute

Improvise



Quinn Dombrowski

For all our careful planning, sometimes circumstances call upon us to wing it. Ad lib. Extemporize. Spontaneously invent a new approach. Making it up as we go along may lead to unexpectedly desirable outcomes. Be open, and ready!

Creative Experimentation

Existing evidence is necessary but insufficient to enable appropriate evolution in changing contexts. Thoughtful trial and error within a reasonable range of tolerance for risk is vital for wise development. So promote imagination and prototyping of possibilities wherever need, reason and aspiration suggest it might be productive – and then review and spread the results.

Some related patterns

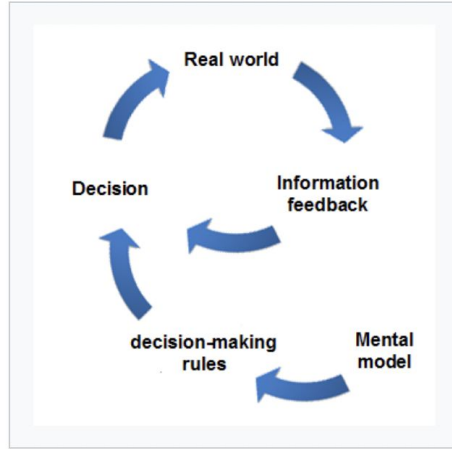
- 3 Appropriate Technology 29 Expanding Situational Curiosity 62 Possibility Thinking 70 Range of Tolerance 74 Rich Feedback Dynamics 84 Tackling Cognitive Limitations 88 Using Diversity and Disturbance Creatively



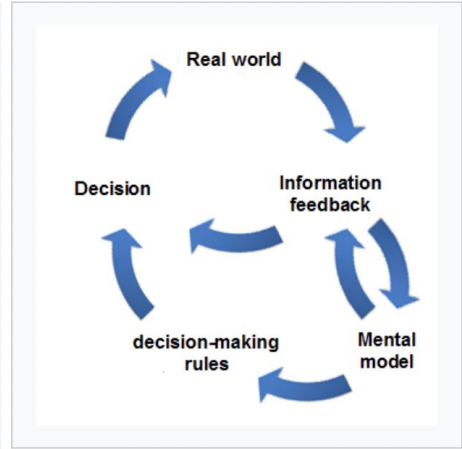
21

related: All Grist for the Mill ~ Dive In ~ Courageous Modelling ~ Follow the Energy ~ Letting Go ~ Presence ~ Seasoned Timing

40



Single-loop learning



Double-loop learning

How an organization that is totally open to participation from anyone in the world maintains its coherence and achieves effective results developing the protocols for data communications networks.

Create Clear Boundaries

*Groups Have
Charters*

*People in Leadership
have clear role
definition*

Cultivate Group Proprioception

Patterns for Openness and Coherence

Appropriate Boundaries [GWD4]

Pattern description:

The health and effectiveness of a group will be partially determined by its ability to develop and maintain appropriate boundaries, and to hold or adapt those boundaries as required.

Purpose



Kate Ter Haar

Purpose is the destination we choose from a sea of possibilities. Shared purpose calls us together and focuses us, evolving as understanding deepens. It gives impetus and energy to our work—when we're connected with genuine purpose, energy flows and things happen.

related: Commitment ~ Setting Intention
~ Spirit ~ Holding Space ~ Common Ground
~ Seeing the Forest, Seeing the Trees
~ Priority Focus

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Setting Intention



Zach Duchner

Envision and name what will be done to reach toward or achieve the purpose of the group. Setting Intention reminds us of our responsibilities, guiding us to actions that fulfill the reason for which a gathering was called.

related: Commitment ~ Holding Space
~ Ritual ~ Invitation ~ Opening and Welcome
~ Priority Focus ~ Purpose

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Mission Statement: The goal of the IETF is to make the Internet work better.

The mission of the IETF is to produce high quality, relevant technical and engineering documents that influence the way people design, use, and manage the Internet in such a way as to make the Internet work better. These documents include protocol standards, best current practices, and informational documents of various kinds.

The IETF will pursue this mission in adherence to the following cardinal principles:

Open process - any interested person can participate in the work, know what is being decided, and make his or her voice heard on the issue. Part of this principle is our commitment to making our documents, our WG mailing lists, our attendance lists, and our meeting minutes publicly available on the Internet.

Technical competence - the issues on which the IETF produces its documents are issues where the IETF has the competence needed to speak to them, and that the IETF is willing to listen to technically competent input from any source. Technical competence also means that we expect IETF output to be designed to sound network engineering principles - this is also often referred to as "engineering quality".

Volunteer Core - our participants and our leadership are people who come to the IETF because they want to do work that furthers the IETF's mission of "making the Internet work better".

Rough consensus and running code - We make standards based on the combined engineering judgement of our participants and our real- world experience in implementing and deploying our specifications.

Protocol ownership - when the IETF takes ownership of a protocol or function, it accepts the responsibility for all aspects of the protocol, even though some aspects may rarely or never be seen on the Internet. Conversely, when the IETF is not responsible for a protocol or function, it does not attempt to exert control over it, even though it may at times touch or affect the Internet.

Structure of the IETF and inter-related organisations

February 2022

9389 & 8713

Selected by random lot from eligible self-nominated community members

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Mission of the IETF:

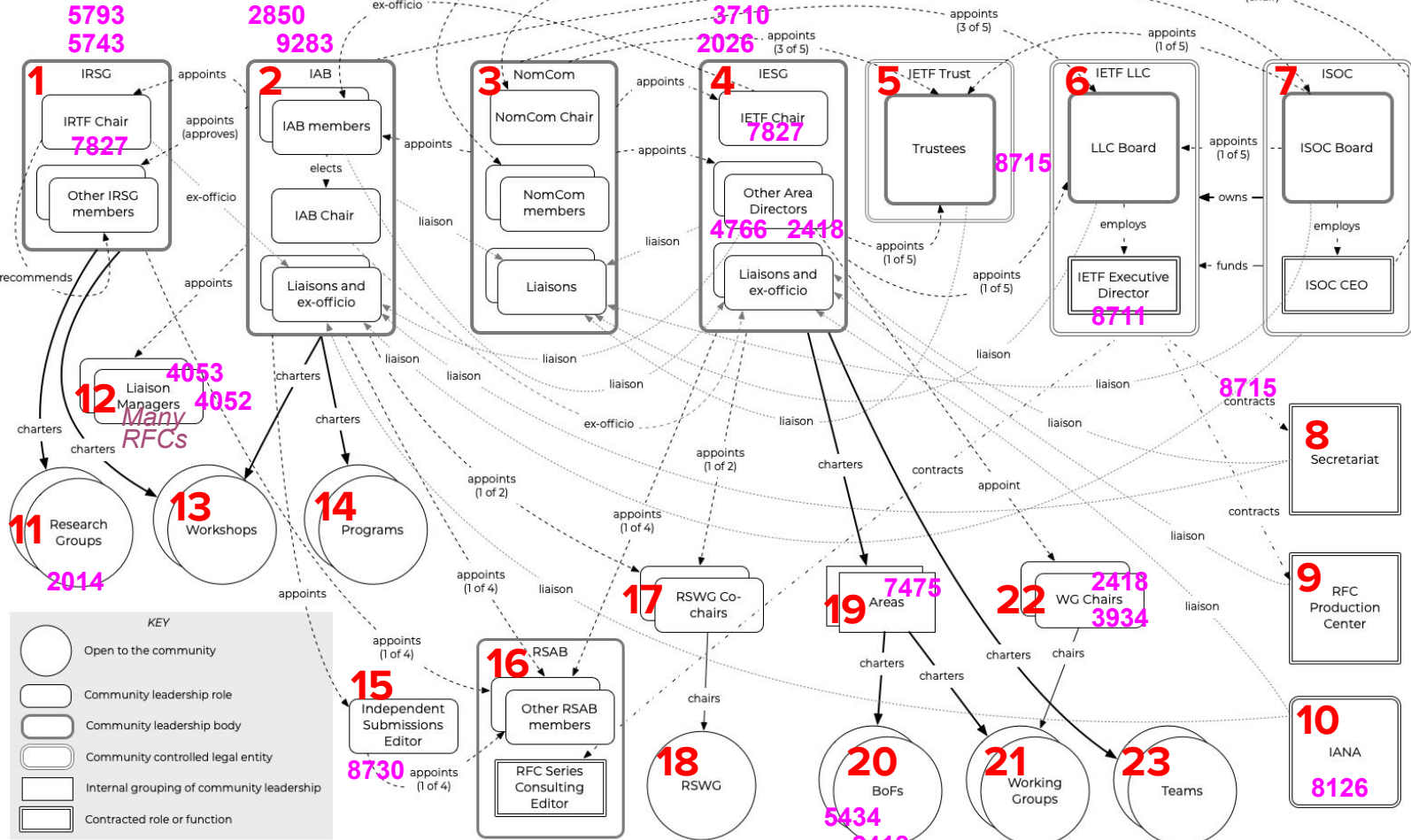
3935

Tao of the IETF:

6722

IETF Discuss

9245



KEY

- Open to the community
- ◻ Community leadership role
- ◻ Community leadership body
- ◻ Community controlled legal entity
- ◻ Internal grouping of community leadership
- ◻ Contracted role or function

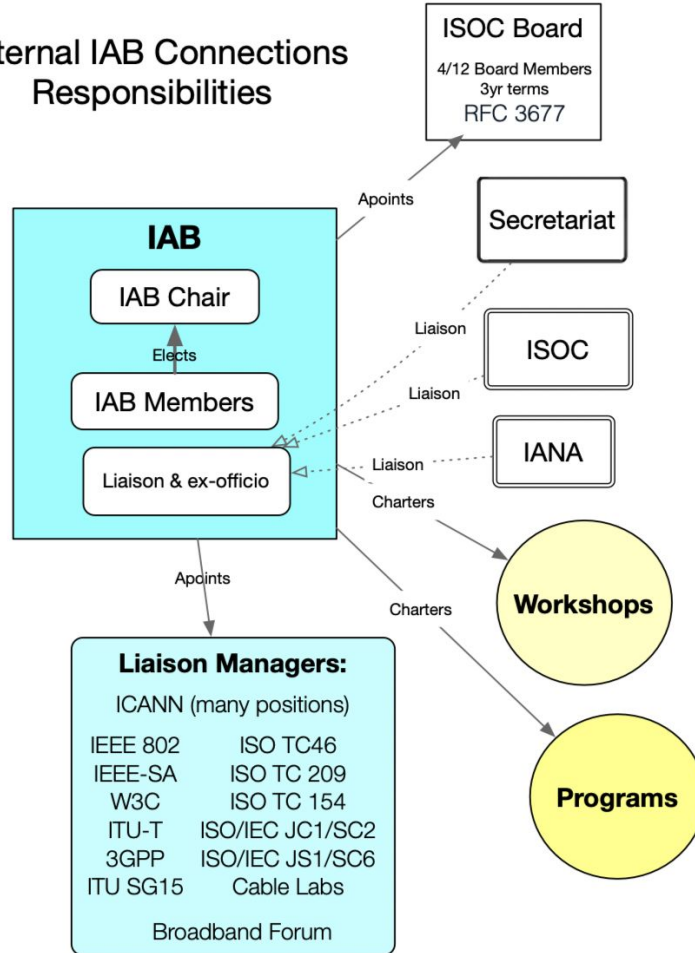
People serving in leadership positions have real clarity about what people in that role do.

It is all written down in RFCs and because the organization at all levels is so transparent, there are a lot of eyes on people as they enact their roles. If they overstep their bounds, people who are paying attention will say something. In this way it is self-regulating and regenerative.

There are RFCs about:

- The role of the IRTF Chair [RFC7827]
- The role of a Working Group Chair [RFC2418] Working Group procedures and how they should manage mailing lists [RFC 3934]
- The role of an Area Director [RFC 4766] and [RFC 2418]
- The role of RFC Editor in the context of the RFC Series [RFC4844]
- Instructions to Authors of I-Ds [RFC 2223]
- Document Shepard [RFC 4858]
- The role of the independent series editor [RFC 8730]
- The IETF Standards Process [RFC 2026]
- How to run a successful “Bar BoF”, now called a Side meeting [RFC 6771]
- The Role of the IESG [RFC 3710]
- The Ombudsteam [RFC 7776]
- The IETF LLC and Executive Director [RFC 8711]

External IAB Connections Responsibilities



Go Meta



Sometimes we benefit from changing to a wider lens of analysis: from tactics to strategy, this year's planning to a ten-year horizon, or from content to process reflection. If the current level of focus seems inadequate, consider shifting outward.

related: All Grist for the Mill
~ Balance Process and Content ~ Purpose ~
Viewpoint Shift ~ History and Context ~ Fractal
~ Seeing the Forest, Seeing the Trees

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Going Meta with the IAB

Time Shift



Invite people to consider events and possibilities from the vantage point of either the past or the future, in order to change assumptions about what is possible in the present.

related: Expressive Arts ~ History and Context
~ Inform the Group Mind ~ Seeing the Forest,
Seeing the Trees ~ Story ~ Viewpoint Shift

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Viewpoint Shift



Step from your usual perspective into another, in order to better understand someone, shift energy, reframe meanings, open up new ideas, or simply see a situation with new eyes.

related: Embrace Dissonance and Difference
~ Expressive Arts ~ Go Meta ~ Story
~ Time Shift ~ Value the Margins
~ Witness with Compassion

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Go Deeper



Recognize and attend to what calls out for more intensive exploration. Take the time to unpack comments, drill down into issues, peel back the layers, delve further into underlying dynamics or feelings—in search of the crux of what matters most.

related: Courageous Modelling
~ Holding Space ~ Inquiry ~ Iteration
~ Listening ~ Seeing the Forest, Seeing the Trees
~ Subgroup and Whole Group

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Full Spectrum Information

Beyond minimizing bias and suppression, wisdom demands consideration of all major perspectives as well as significant views from the edges. Work to base all efforts on as full a range of information and ways of knowing as possible, thereby increasing the likelihood of taking into account what needs to be taken into account.

The IAB, both collectively and on an individual basis, is **expected to pay attention to important long-term issues in the Internet**, and to make sure that these issues are brought to the attention of the group(s) that are in a position to address them. It is also expected to play a role in assuring that the people responsible for evolving the Internet and its technology are aware of the essential elements of the Internet architecture.

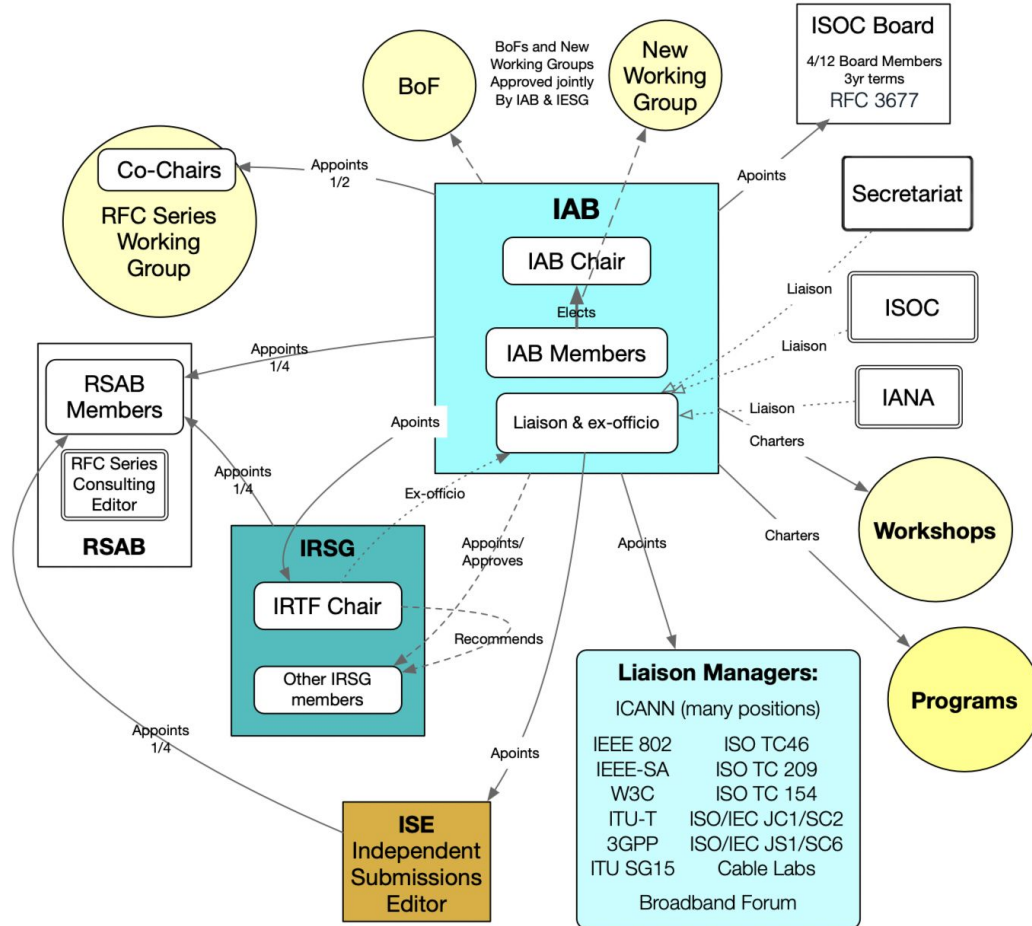
The IAB will convene **invitational workshops to perform in-depth reviews of particular architectural issues.**

Distilling

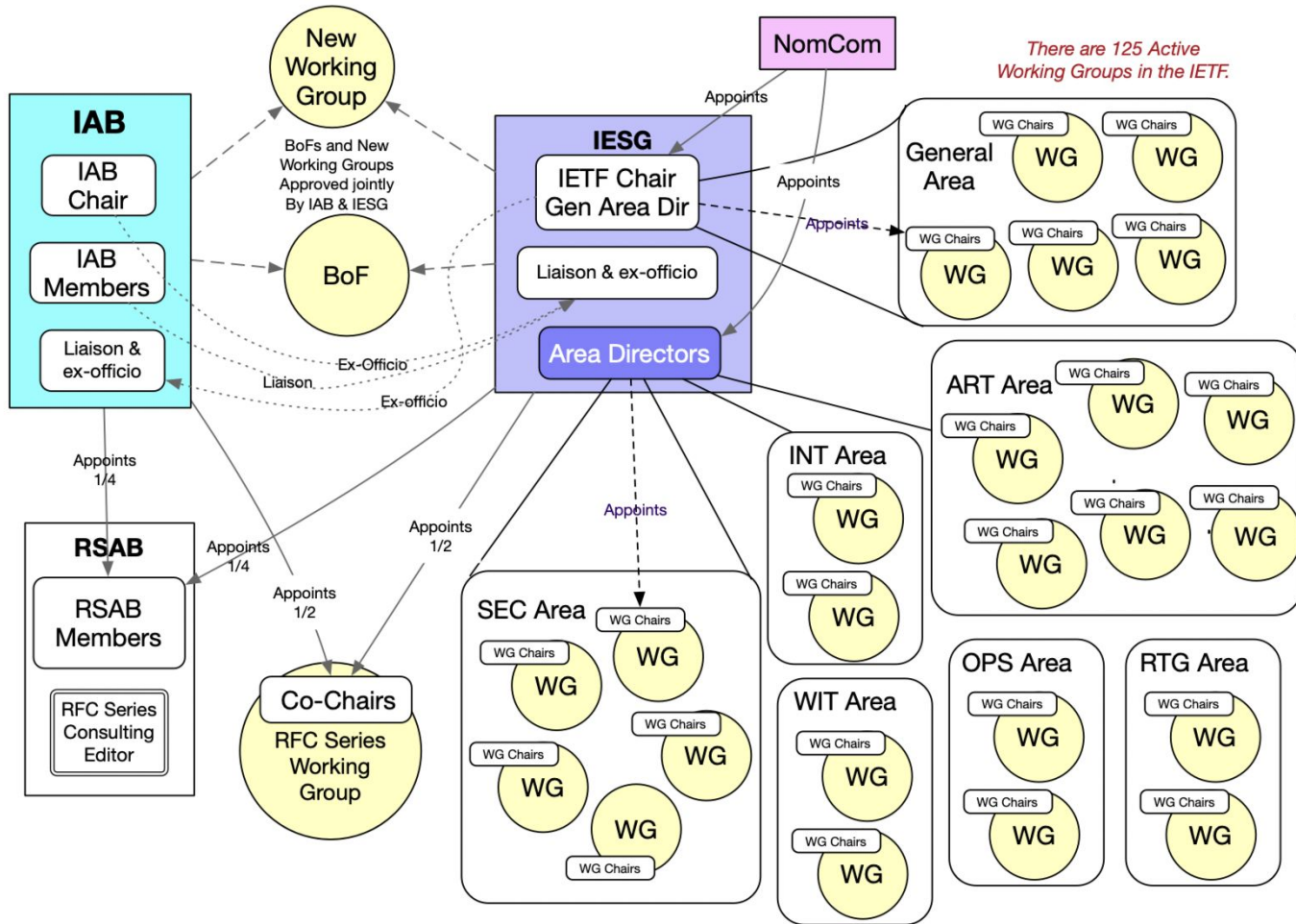


To keep a conversation or inquiry focused, regularly summarize and synthesize what has been said or learned. Articulate the common ground of meaning. Assess what it all adds up to. Distill elements to an essential, integrated whole.

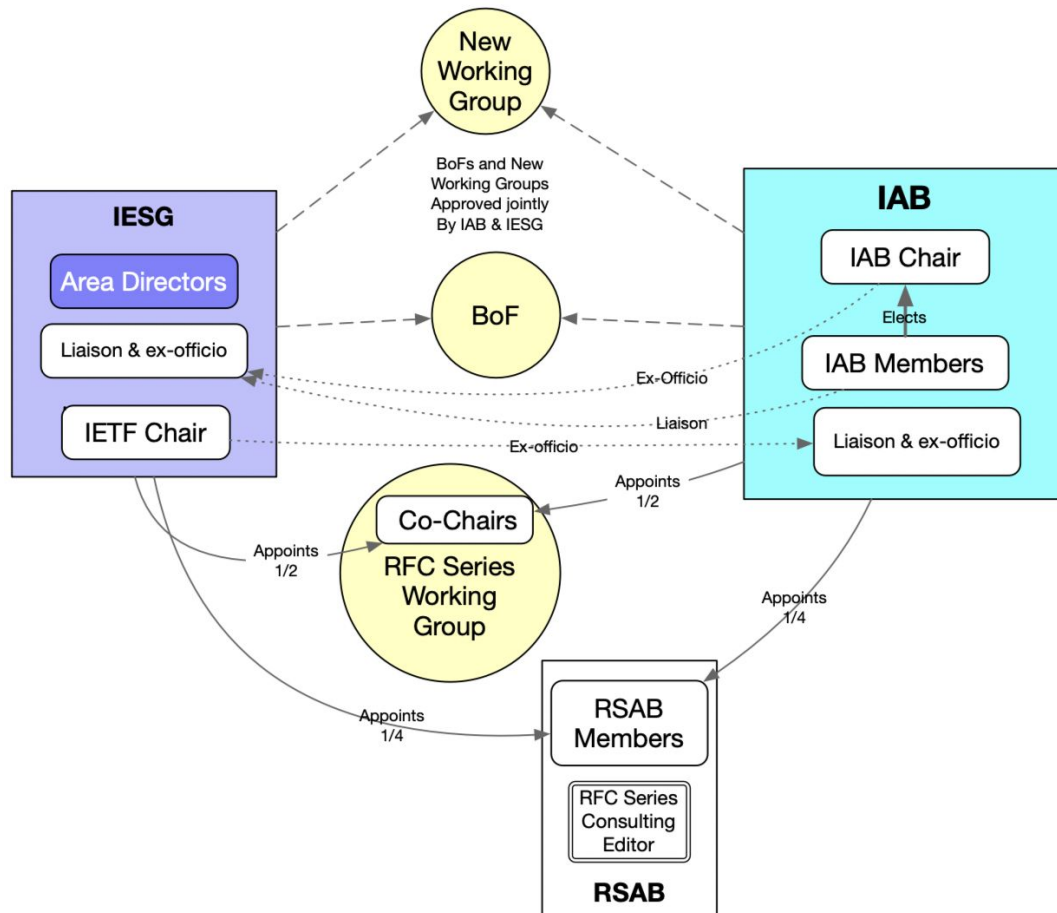
IAB Connections Responsibilities



IESG Connections Responsibilities

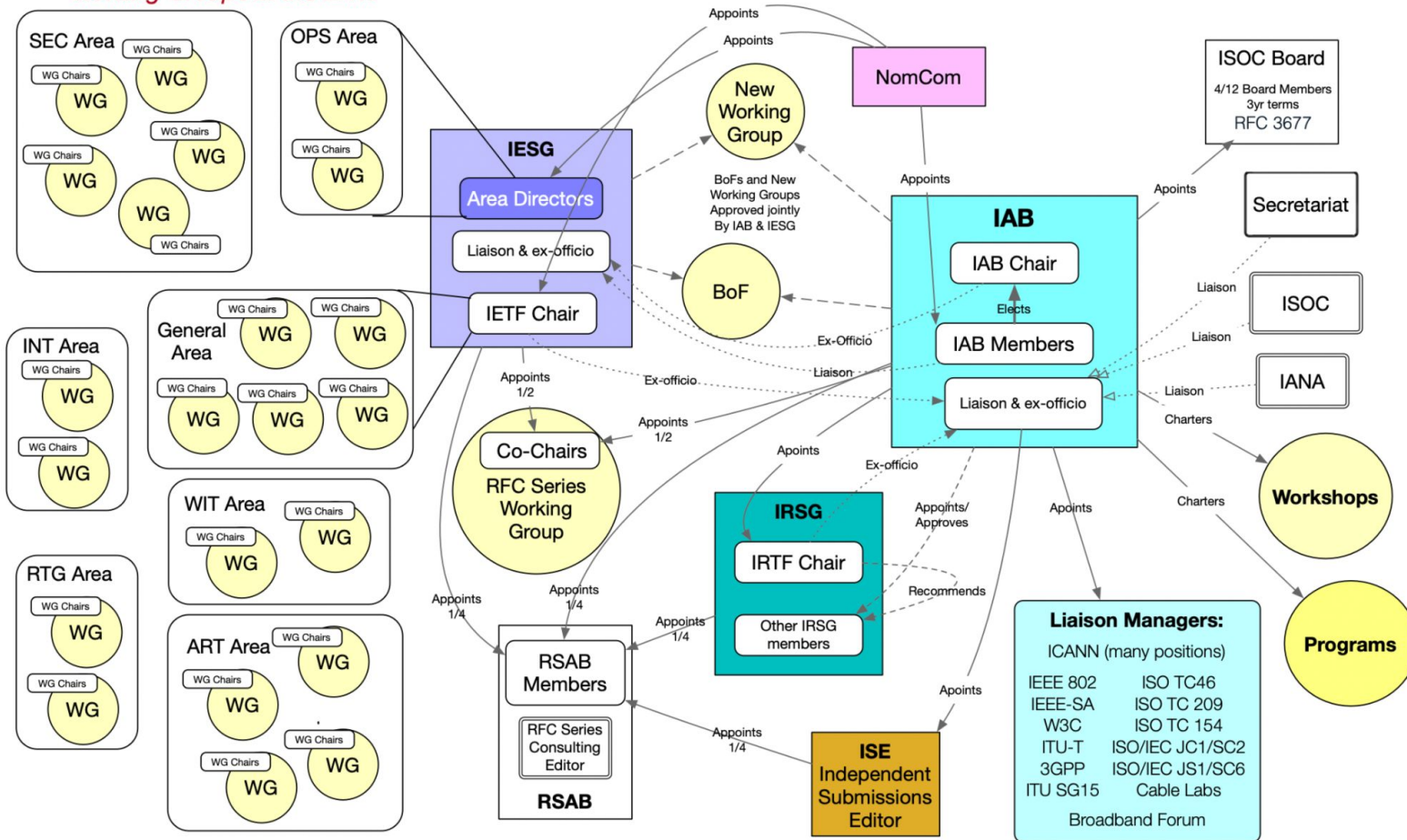


Where the IESG and IAB both have key roles



Wholistic Picture of IAB-IESG roles.

There are 125 Active Working Groups in the IETF.



How an organization that is totally open & be coherent?

Stability comes from **deepening center**, a **clarity about who it is, what it needs, what is required to survive in its environment**. **Self-organizing systems are never passive**, hapless victims, forced to react to their environments. As the **system matures and develops self-knowledge**, it becomes more adept at working with its environment. It uses available resources more effectively, sustaining and strengthening itself. Gradually it **develops a stability** that helps it shelter from many of the demands of the environment...

Openness to the environment over time spawns a stronger system, one that is less susceptible to externally induced change. What comes to dominate over time is not outside influences, but **the self-organizing dynamics of the system itself**. Because it partners with its environment, the system develops increasing autonomy from the environment and also develops new capabilities that make it increasingly resourceful.

How the organization sustains Joyful Communal Labor within a Zone of Autonomy it has cultivated and maintained.

Social Permaculture Pattern Language

Communal Labor

Communities are bound closer together when members provide communal labor for one another.

Communal labor is equitable. It rotates from household to household as the need arises, relying on no single home over the others.

Communal labor is local. Participating members generally live in close proximity to one another.

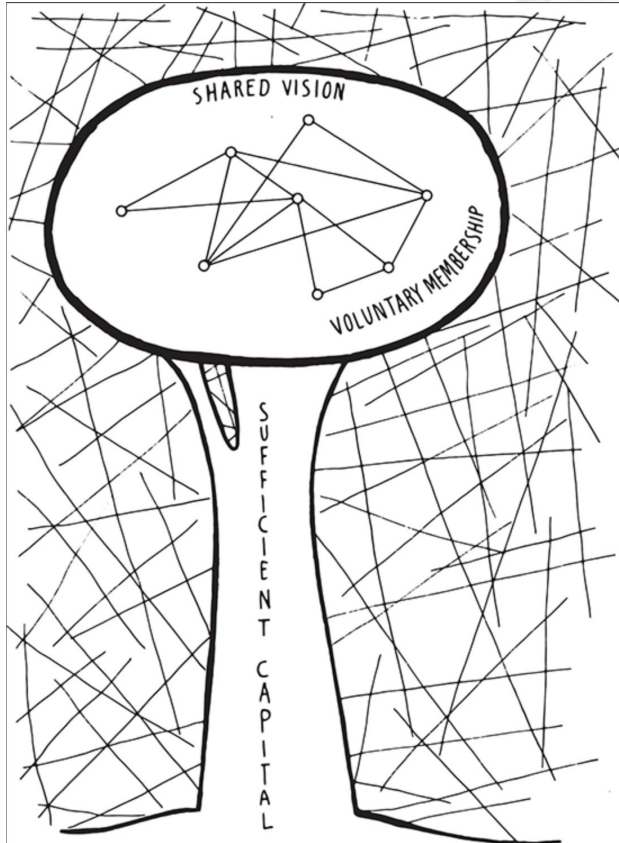
Communal labor is the norm. Participation is voluntary, but there is strong cultural pressure to participate—especially if you’ve recently been on the receiving end.

Communal labor is celebratory. It doubles as an opportunity for participants to socialize and gossip. Invariably, the hosts express their gratitude and contribute to the atmosphere of conviviality by supplying food and drink.

Communal Labor

- They work together to **produce RFCs about Internet protocols**, primarily in Working Groups.
- They work together to **make code that implements the protocols in Internet Drafts**. On the weekend before each IETF event during their **hackathon** they work on code and then share the results with each other on Sunday afternoon and at a social hour on Monday.
- They work together to conduct **research in the IRTF**. Current research groups include ones focused on the decentralization of the internet, human rights considerations for protocols and the world's foremost independent cryptographic forum, Crypto Forum Research Group (CFRG) among others.
- They work together to consider issues and **topics emerging in the future in the IAB**.
- They collaborate on the tools (primarily DataTracker) that undergird community processes (protocols) and the organization's operations. The **Tools Team** is a Working Group under the General (GEN) area. This group gathers the weekend before each IETF meeting to spend two days in a **Code Sprint**.
- They **collaborate to figure out how to make the protocols work transparently, fairly, and openly**. Currently they are focused on discerning the meaning and nature of the RFC series with the chartering of RFC Series Working Group [RFC9280].

Zones of Autonomy



Before they can spread to society at large, beneficial ways of living may need to be incubated in a space that is socially, legally, or geographically separate.

Each of these examples points toward a set of common attributes of well-functioning autonomous zones. Whether temporary or permanent, whether managed by Quechua elders or idealist hippies, autonomous zones all require a few key conditions to thrive:

Members of the autonomous zone must have a shared vision as well as a system of governance that reflects and effectively advances that vision.

Membership must be voluntary. The members must be there by their own volition—and fiercely committed to the ideals of the group.

What key patterns are present within Working Group meetings?

Meet Together
In Person

Grow
Community

What key patterns are present within Working Group meetings?

Naming



Babak Fakhamzadeh

Call it out, stating directly what is perceived. Naming functions to birth things not yet recognized by the group, sometimes things that are taboo. Akin to an alchemical process, to name can be to transform, and brings change in its wake.

related: Courageous Modelling

- ~ Listening ~ Not About You ~ Power Shift
- ~ Seasoned Timing ~ Transparency

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Possibility Thinking

We are co-creators of all that is happening and will happen and life is filled with potential. So take responsibility in each new situation by thinking "What is possible now?" Prepare for undesirable possibilities but focus on positive developments that are possible now that things have become arrayed as they are at this moment.

Some related patterns

- 20 Cooperative Ownership as Stewardship
- 31 Exuberance 37 Fullness of Choice
- 39 Generative Interactions 87 Universal Participation 89 Visionary Attractors
- 90 Well-Utilized Life Energy



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By Courtesy of The Office for Future Some Related Patterns Issues in Norderberg Austria

All Concerns Addressed

Objections and disagreements usually arise from failure to take into account someone's needs, values, interests, or sense of "what's needed here". So translate their objections into "concerns" to bypass their adversarial energy. That helps all parties to collaboratively address concerns so everyone feels heard and satisfied, generating wiser solutions and more buy-in.

Some related patterns

- 29 Expanding Situational Curiosity
- 62 Possibility Thinking 63 Power of Listening
- 70 Range of Tolerance 76 Safety First, Then Challenge 90 Well-Utilized Life Energy
- 96 Working With Feelings



1

What key patterns are present within Working Group meetings?



By Courtesy of the Office for Future-Some Related
Powerful Questions in Conference Cards

Power of Listening

The power of speaking is seriously undermined if no one is listening. Speakers need listeners in order for their perspectives to contribute to collective intelligence, and truly deep listening is sadly rare. So promote active listening to open up hearts and minds and to evoke the wisdom of all. And listen into silence, your center, nature, group energy, and other sources of valuable insight.

Some related patterns

6 Capacitance 27 Enough Time 33 Feeling Heard 64 Powerful Questions 76 Safety First, Then Challenge 80 Story 95 Working the Field



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Powerful Questions

Finding answers is important, but truly powerful questions open our attention and conversation into breakthrough insights and possibilities, evoking powerful life energy. So create powerful questions people can live into in ways that generate change with or without being answered, or that yield answers over and over, like a fruit tree.

Some related patterns

5 Bringing Understanding to Life 18 Consulting and Abiding by Willingness 29 Expanding Situational Curiosity 37 Fullness of Choice 63 Power of Listening 80 Story 83 Taboo Awareness



64

Mirroring



Tom Athie

Empathically reflect back the essence of what someone has said so the speaker feels heard, genuinely acknowledged and appreciated. Honouring people's gifts can heal individuals and relationships, unblock stuck places, and get energy flowing again.

related: Distilling ~ Not About You
~ Good Faith Assumptions ~ Listening ~
Witness with Compassion

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What key patterns are present within Working Group meetings?

Shared Leadership and Roles



“Mr. T in DC”

Rotate facilitators. Trade off note-taking. Let a voice at the margin take centre stage. Sharing responsibility increases participation and investment, taps the gifts of all group members, and leads to better results. Nurture equity and empowerment by sharing power, skills, and collective care for the whole.

related: Appreciation

- ~ Experts on Tap ~ Subgroup and Whole Group
- ~ Mode Choice ~ Power Shift ~ Purpose
- ~ Whole System in the Room

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Taking Responsibility



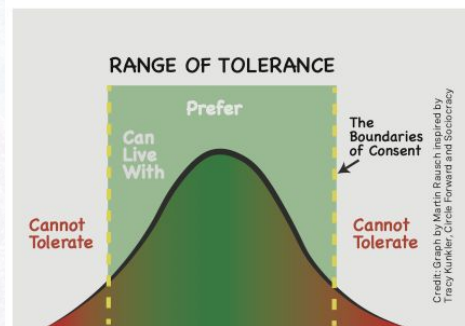
Sue Woehrlin

Taking Responsibility keeps a group connected with its own power, both collectively and individually. Regardless of who did what, when, let us ask, “What can we do here and now?” And, if you see something that needs doing, step up!

related: Good Faith Assumptions

- ~ Commitment ~ Embrace Dissonance and Difference ~ Guerrilla Facilitation ~ Letting Go ~ Setting Intention ~ Shared Leadership and Roles

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Range of Tolerance

Between preferred and unacceptable lies people's range of tolerance. Working with it can move a group beyond the search for perfection into flexibility, initiative, and experimentation. Mindfully encouraging its expansion can foster learning, growth, good relations, and wisdom. So clarify and dynamically work with the range of tolerance — one's own and others'.

Some related patterns

6 Capacitance 16 Consent 20 Cooperative Ownership as Stewardship 33 Feeling Heard 41 Groundedness 50 Life-Enhancing Enoughness 96 Working With Feelings



70



Complex Identity

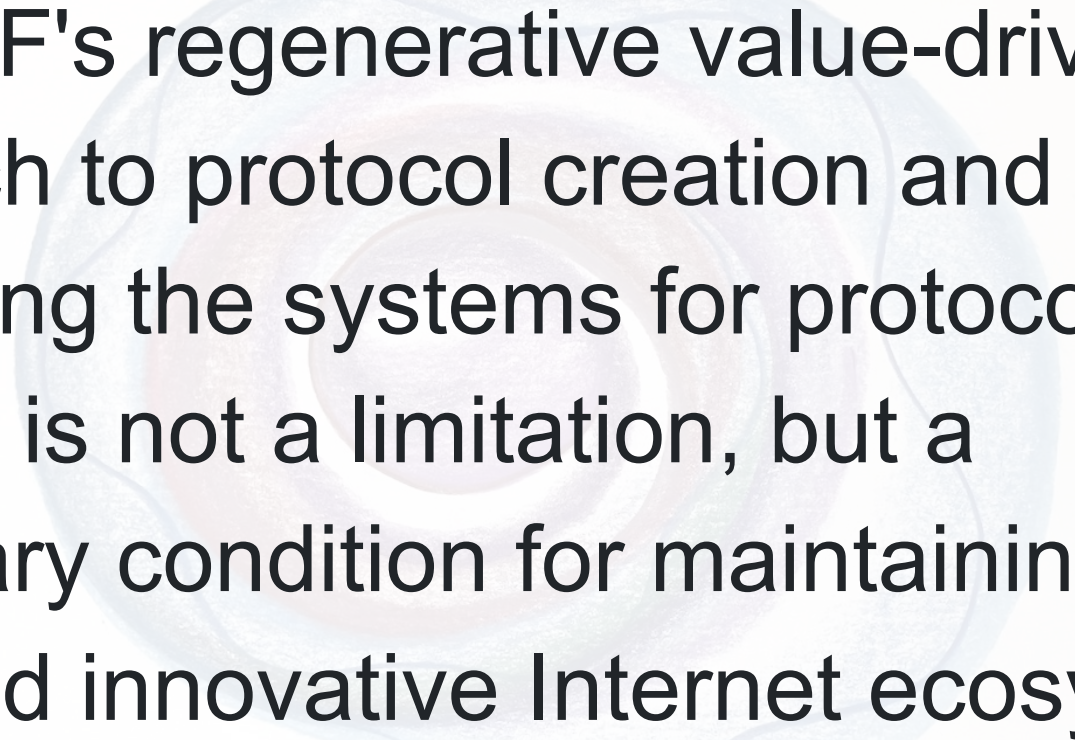
Any entity — person, group, idea, system, etc. — can be known through its essence, character, boundaries, story fruits, relationships, infinitude, and more. In and around every entity these dimensions coexist and coevolve. Much is lost through oversimplification. So honor, support, explore and engage many dimensions of everyone and everything.

Some related patterns

2 Appreciative Thinking **29** Expanding Situational Curiosity **36** Full Spectrum Information
54 Multi-Modal Intelligence **75** Sacredness
76 Safety First, Then Challenge **92** Whole System in the Conversation



The **tricky** part of describing the **IETF** process, certainly in the fast changing world of the Internet, is that **when you describe the process in too much detail, the IETF loses its flexibility**, when you describe to [sic] little it **becomes unmanageable**. This is therefore a **slippery subject**, hence the name **POISSON**, which is French for fish. The French word also serves to indicate the international aspect of the **WG**.



The IETF's regenerative value-driven approach to protocol creation and supporting the systems for protocol creation is not a limitation, but a necessary condition for maintaining a truly open and innovative Internet ecosystem.

Researchers



Kaliya “[Identity Woman](#)” Young

For the past 20 years, Kaliya has led a global community of developers and business supporters to create and adopt a layer of identity for people based on open standards. She co-founded the Internet Identity Workshop (IIW) to bring together technologists who want to develop and deploy user-centric identity protocols. In the past 15 years, our community has created widely adopted internet standards, including OpenID Connect, OAuth(IETF), Verifiable Credentials(W3C), Decentralized Identifiers(W3C) amongst others. She helped define the term unconference and pioneered using Open Space Technology to organize collaborative events in which the participants themselves create an agenda and define their goals. She is the founding partner of a [consultancy focused on Decentralized Identity](#).

Day Waterbury



What gives my life meaning is to serve and protect the living earth and her people. My mission is to equip the regenerative movement at scale at the pace of the polycrisis, connecting place-based systems change initiatives with trust-based funding, and empowering a global network of networks with tools for coordination. I truly believe that for our species to thrive we need to maximize the number of us who are fully prepared and resourced to contribute collaboratively to co-create a regenerative unfolding. I don't think of this as political, but rather the rational pursuit of my aspirations on behalf of humanity and the greater blossoming of consciousness in the cosmos. He is the founder of [Consensual Ventures](#) a venture acceleration firm.

Research Jury



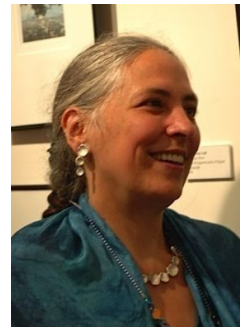
Tim Beiko

Tim is one of the core organizers of Summer of Protocols. He works for the Ethereum Foundation and runs the core protocol meetings for Ethereum. He is software developer and Ethereum client maintainer based in Vancouver. He has 74 repositories on GitHub, including projects related to Ethereum, Solidity, Python and JavaScript.



Kei Kreutler

Her work explores how cultural narratives of technology shape what worlds we can build. My research centers on philosophy of technology, and recent fellowship work explored the concept of memory in relation to protocols, in particular, how the concept of memory changed with the advent of computing. This culminated in my upcoming book *Artificial Memory*, which will be announced in more detail soon.



Rosa Zubizarreta, PhD

Is the founder of Diapraxis and has a PhD in Organizational Development. She works with leaders who are committed to organizational health and transformation, and consults with professionals who design and manage:

- public participation projects
- stakeholder collaborations
- community planning processes