An Update on Milestones

draft-schinazi-update-on-milestones

PROCON

IETF 123 – Madrid – 2025-07

David Schinazi – dschinazi.ietf@gmail.com

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

(datatracker screenshot taken in 2024)

Date	Milestone	Associated documents
Apr 2015	WG adoption call for 6lo security related draft	
Mar 2015	WG LC for draft-ietf-6lo-dect-ule	
Mar 2015	WG last call for draft-ietf-6lo-6lobac	

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- 82% of WG milestones were out of date
- more than half of them were more than 2.5 years out of date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 (from before PROCON)

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

What do we do with this?

Add these changes into 2418bis?

Leave as separate draft that updates 2418 / 2418bis?