NTPv5 Algorithms

draft-grant-ntp-ntpv5-algorithms

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What does it (not) describe?

- General information for algorithm designers for NTPv5
- Considerations using NTPv4 algorithms with NTPv5
- Informational, no normative language

- No algorithm details (formulae or code)
- No new algorithms

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Why?

"...for NTP to be generally useful and reliable, the related RFCs MUST specify both the protocol and the algorithms/behaviors." [1]

"When we chartered the work on RFC 5905... the original intention was to separate the protocol from the algorithms... it does add a lot of complexity to separate the algorithms from the protocol, but I feel that's what's made [PTP] more flexible and able to adapt to different use cases" [2]

"One way I think for NTPv5 would be to say that implementations can use NTPv4 algorithms, and I expect that at least in the beginning most implementations will do that anyway" [3]

Why?

draft-ietf-ntp-ntpv5-06, Section 9:

> These algorithms are not specified in this document. The client MAY use the NTPv4 algorithms, or any more or less advanced algorithms optimized for the same or different conditions. [1]

draft-ietf-ntp-ntpv5-requirements-04, Section 4.3:

> The working group should consider creating a separate informational document to describe an algorithm to assist with implementation, and consider adopting future documents which describe new algorithms as they are developed. [2]

Questions

1. Do algorithms need to be specified, or is referring to RFC 5905 enough?

2. Is normative text required at all? Is an informative document sufficient?

3. Are there any topics not yet included which are needed for adoption?