

IETF Mailing List Principles

Brian E Carpenter

James M Galvin

Eric Gray

Martin Hannigan

Sam Hartman

Eliot Lear

Lucy E. Lynch

Margaret Wasserman

Agenda

- . Brief overview of document and concept – clarifying questions only please
- . Progressing the document
- . Questions to the room

Introduction

- . A model is suggested for guiding the management of IETF mailing lists, including a set of bullet points for the principles and structure of that guidance. The IESG could use this to develop and evolve the procedures for the operation and use of IETF mailing lists.
- . Although the IETF has face-to-face meetings on a regular schedule, all official work of the IETF is conducted on its mailing lists.
- . Need to create uniformity in the management of IETF mailing lists.
- . Need to create some structure to assign authority and delegate responsibilities.
- . Need to be flexible and allow for rapid evolution.

Model

- . Assign authority for the management of IETF mailing lists to the IESG.
- . Community will develop a set of principles (a draft of some are proposed here) to be specified in a BCP to guide the management, including process for announcement, review, and enactment of policies and procedures.
- . IESG will develop policies and procedures for the management of IETF mailing lists. Some policies and procedures already exist.
- . IESG will create a group -- for example, a mailing list resolution committee or a mailing list directorate -- to which to delegate the responsibility of execution of the policies and procedures.
- . The BCP would need to include appropriate guidance for the constitution of the group, the rules by which it operates, and the appeals process.

Principles and Structure (1)

- . IESG has responsibility and authority to create, manage, and update mailing list management policies and procedures.
- . Each IETF working group MUST have one open discussion list; a working group MAY have one or more closed mailing list(s).
- . Unless otherwise specified the working group chair is the owner of all the working group mailing lists. Other roles to be assigned and should have more than one person.
- . Any action that effects the distribution or content of any message submitted for an IETF mailing list MUST be visible to and auditable.
- . Submitting messages to an IETF mailing list is a privilege not a right. This privilege MAY be revoked.

Principles and Structure (2)

- . Anyone MUST be permitted to subscribe to receive messages distributed by any open working group mailing list.
- . A working group's open mailing lists' archive MUST be publicly accessible.
- . It MUST be possible to subscribe or unsubscribe from an IETF mailing list using an email-based manager. An IETF mailing list MAY include a web-based manager for managing subscriptions.
- . All issues or appeals of any action or decision regarding the operation of an IETF mailing list MUST be addressed first to the working group chair, then the “mailing list group”, and finally may be appealed to the IESG.

Mailing List Group

- . Need discussion of how this group is constituted. Options include serving at the pleasure of the general area director, selected by NOMCOM, drawn from the pool of working group chairs, some combination of all of the above, or something else entirely.
- . Need discussion of its operation. Suggestion is a consensus body whose deliberations are private but it must release a detailed decision that includes all relevant and appropriate documentation and supporting material.

Setting Policies and Procedures

- . IESG has specified a few policies and procedures already. A central location needs to be identified for collecting them and all future entries for ease of access.
- . Need discussion of how policies and procedures are enacted. Suggestion is that the IESG announces them with a 4 week last call. If there are no substantial issues then they automatically approve at the end of the 4 weeks. This is similar to what has been done on many existing policies and procedures.

Progressing the Document

- . The proposed process for progressing this work is to use the General Area open meetings for discussion as needed, i.e., do not create a working group. We will use a mailing list for all substantive discussions. One question to the room is whether or not a working group is needed.
- . Goal is for a final draft document ready for IETF Last Call by Third IETF 2006.

Questions About the Work

Would like to do a “hum” for each question. Before calling for the “hum” we would like to hear from anyone who objects.

- . Is this an important work item for the IETF, independent of how you feel about the work being presented. We should ask for those who object to the work item to speak first.
- . Does the outline presented represent a good starting point? We should ask for those who substantially object to the outline to speak first.
- . Do you agree we can progress this work using just a mailing list and the General Area open meeting?