

# RFCs and the RFC Editor

IAB Proposal

July 2006

# This Presentation

- Includes proposed changes to draft-iab-rfc-editor-00
  - incorporates changes based on feedback
- Provides context for the independent submissions work
  - independent@ietf.org
  - to be discussed after IAB plenary
- Goal: ability to move forward
  - to solve problems over the next 30 years;
- Non Goal: answer *all* questions
  - not to solve the next 30 years' problems now

# What problem(s) are we trying to solve?

- Where and how do RFC stream-specific issues get discussed and resolved?
  - there is confusion about level of community involvement/RFC Editor control
  - depending on type of issue, there might be more or less IAB, IAOC, IETF, other involvement
- Where and how RFC Series wide issues get discussed and resolved?
  - and balanced across the whole series
  - e.g., IPR -- for IETF documents only, or...?

# General Principles

- We (the Internet technical community) need an RFC Series that is implemented for the community. We need to be sure we have all of these characteristics, balanced:
  - expertly implemented
  - clearly managed -- operations & evolution across all the series (IETF & not)
  - appropriate community input into and review of activities
- What follows is a proposed model to achieve that

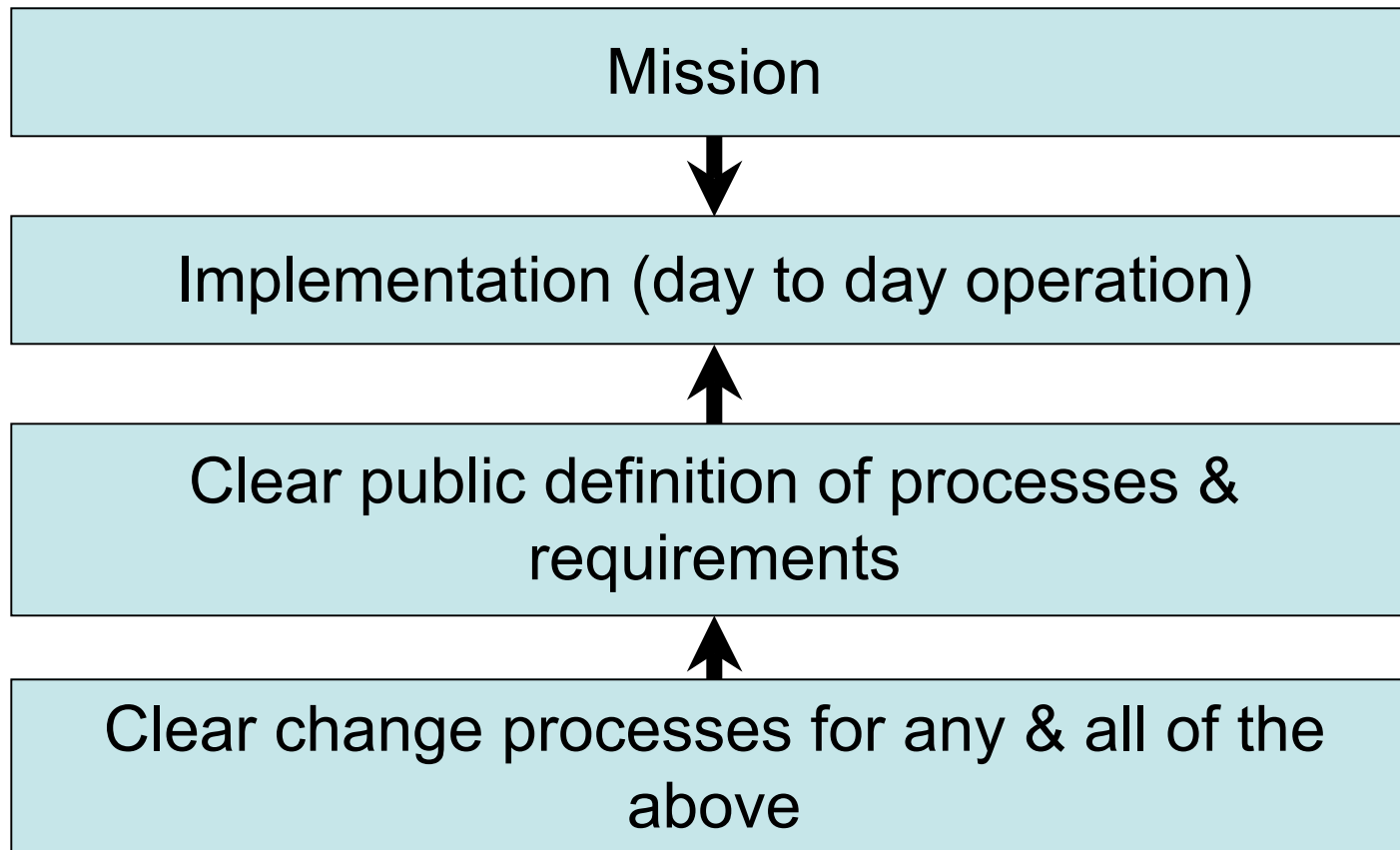
# RFC Series Mission

- The RFC Series is the archival series dedicated to documenting Internet technical specifications, including standards and related contributions by the Internet research and engineering community.

# RFC Editor

- The RFC Editor is an expert technical editor and series editor, acting to support the mission of the RFC Series
  - The RFC Editor is the implementer handling the RFC Series.
- In addition, they are expected to be the expert and prime mover in discussions about policies for editing, publishing and archiving RFCs.
- RFC Series policies will be changed based on discussions and appropriate community involvement, with oversight from IASA and the IAB.

# A layered conceptual model



# More detail in the layers

<b><i>RFC Series Mission</i></b>			
<b><i>Implementation</i></b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Editing Processing Publication</b>	<b>Archive Index</b>
<b><i>How Defined</i></b>	General policies Per-stream policies	General req's Per-stream Reqs	General policies and requirements
<b><i>Change Process</i></b>	RFC Editor, community -- dependent on Stream	RFC Editor, community	RFC Editor, community



# Oversight

<i>Oversight:</i>		<b><i>RFC Series Mission</i></b>		
		<b>Approval</b>	<b>Editing Processing Publication</b>	<b>Archive Index</b>
IASA (IAD) works with RFC Editor	<b><i>Implementation</i></b>			
IAB works with RFC Editor to get community input and approves changes by validating appropriate consideration of community requirements	<b><i>How Defined</i></b>	General policies Per-stream policies	General req's Per-stream Reqs	General policies and requirements
	<b><i>Change Process</i></b>	RFC Editor, community -- dependent on Stream (eg IESG approved for IETF stream)	RFC Editor, community	RFC Editor, community

# How is this different?

- More explicit integration of RFC Editor, IAB and IETF
  - while retaining distinct responsibilities
- Series decisions are more open to community discussion
- IAB monitors discussion and coherency of whole series and related discussions
- Acknowledges the role of the IAOC as has been reality since BCP101 model went into operation

# Key points of the proposal

- The IAB acts to ensure appropriate community involvement and checks/balances on proposed changes
  - not a surrogate RFC series or editing expert
- The RFC Editor does not have the discretion it had 30 years ago
  - but the lines of delegation and others' involvement in decisions are much clearer
- These points together mean that the RFC Editor and IAB must communicate well and continuously

# Further notes of interest

- Currently discussed within IETF (stream) but needing series-wide answers and/or confirmation
  - IPR
  - Experiments
- Types of general requirements
  - Formats
  - Structure (sections)
  - Labelling (STD, BCP; Obsoleted, Updated)

# Conclusions

- This *is* a proposed change to the status quo
- It leverages the IAB's
  - documented involvement with the RFC Editor
  - independence from the IETF hierarchy
  - support of the IETF effort
- Clarifies decision making groups
  - e.g., to ensure we can get the right balance of RFC streams
- It provides a coherent future for the RFC Series and RFC Editor to meet future needs while addressing current concerns