An Update on the RFC Format Project

Are you ready to help with testing?

IETF 99

Topics

- Project status and discussion
  - https://trac.tools.ietf.org/tools/ietfdb/wiki/FormatToolsPlan
  - https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/xml2rfc-dev

- Tools in use (but could still use testing)
  - id2xml

- Tools in testing
  - xml2rfc v2 to v3 converter

- Other features
  - non-ASCII characters
  - SVG Checker

id2xml v1.0.3

- Text to XML v2 converter
- What it does:
  - Converts txt of RFCs and I-Ds into XML v2 files that are compatible with xml2rfc
    - Great help for –bis docs!
- What it doesn't do:
  - Create a 100% perfect XML file (some manual process may still be required for lists, tables vs figures, and manually formatted reference entries)
- 80% is the goal for this tool; expectation is to spend most development time xml2rfc, HTML and PDF outputs, etc.

https://pypi.python.org/pypi/id2xml

xml2rfc v2.7.0

- xml2rfc v2 to v3 converter
  - reads RFC7749-compliant XML input, writes RFC7991-compliant XML output
  - *The contracted tools to convert v3 are not available yet; testing at this stage requires some persistence and creativity*

https://xml2rfc.tools.ietf.org/experimental.html

non-ASCII Characters

- Extensive testing done by the RPC to see where the existing tool chain fails when dealing with non-ASCII characters
  - test drafts: draft-ietf-httpbis-rfc5987bis-04, precis drafts (when they enter the RFC Ed queue)
- Updates required for:
  - RFC Editor database (Latin-1 to utf8mb4) and associated scripts
  - script converting .nroff to .txt**
  - script converting .txt to .pdf
  - Other areas of the tool chain will be handled by xml2rfc v3 and the preptool
- TBD
  - SMICng (MIB checker)
  - pyang (YANG checker)
  - ABNF.cgi (ABNF checker)

**only needs updating if we want to publish RFCs with non-ASCII characters before the rest of the v3 tools are ready

SVG Checker

- Expect this to be released for testing before IETF 100

- Need SVG files from the community for testing

Still to come…

- [idnits](#) rewrite
- [Publication Formatter](#)
- [RFClint](#)
- [svgcheck](#)
- [Text Submission](#) (id2xml for v3)
- [XML Diff](#)

Community assistance needed!

- tool discussion happening here:
  https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/xml2rfc-dev

- People to review output from v2 to v3 converter (now)

- People to create and review SVG files (soon)

- People to use and report on id2xml (now)

For reference
https://www.rfc-editor.org/rse/format-faq/

- The big picture
  - [RFC7990] Flanagan, H., "RFC Format Framework", RFC 7990, DOI 10.17487/RFC7990, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7990.
- The underlying vocabulary
  - [RFC7991] Hoffman, P., "The 'xml2rfc' Version 3 Vocabulary", RFC 7991, DOI 10.17487/RFC7991, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7991.
- The outputs
  - [RFC7992] Hildebrand, J. and P. Hoffman, "HTML Format for RFCs", RFC 7992, DOI 10.17487/RFC7992, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7992.
  - [RFC7993] Flanagan, H. "Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) Requirements for RFCs", RFC 7993, DOI 10.17487/RFC7993, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7993.
  - [RFC7994] Flanagan, H., "Requirements for Plain-Text RFCs", RFC 7994, DOI 10.17487/RFC7994, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7994.
  - [RFC7995] Hansen, T., Masinter, L., and M. Hardy, "PDF Format for RFCs", RFC 7995, DOI 10.17487/RFC7995, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7995.
  - [RFC7996] Brownlee, N., "SVG Drawings for RFCs: SVG 1.2 RFC", RFC 7996, DOI 10.17487/RFC7996, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7996.
- Generalized requirements
  - [RFC7997] Flanagan, H., "The Use of Non-ASCII Characters in RFCs", RFC 7997, DOI 10.17487/RFC7997, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7997.
- Workflow and tools
  - [RFC7998] Hildebrand, J. and P. Hoffman, "'xml2rfc' Version 3 Preparation Tool Description", RFC 7998, DOI 10.17487/RFC7998, December 2016, http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7998.