

Terminology, Power, and Inclusive Language in Internet-Drafts and RFCs

draft-knodel-terminology-04

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Basic info

- Objective: Increase readability and readership of RFCs and I-Ds.
- Non-objectives: Change existing words, forbid words.
- RFCs should be readable, understandable, and useful for as many people as possible
- Inclusive language helps with this, because it makes text relevant for more people
- Draft is cited by Codespell, which treats exclusionary words as typos (and provides tooling!)
- Many others in our communities have come to this conclusion as well (GitHub, Linux Foundation, Django, Python, IEEE-SA 802.1 TGmd, etc)
- Many in our community have come this conclusion as well:
 - RFC 8499 replaced Master/Slave
 - RFC8783, RFC8782 and RFC8612 use accept-list and drop-list instead of black-list

Changes in -04

- “Inclusive terminology in IETF Documents”
 - Alissa Cooper and others have populated this (PRs accepted)
 - IETF GitHub repository
 - <https://github.com/ietf/terminology>
 - Meant as a long-term resource to track:
 - Alternative terminology
 - Suggestions for IETF document authors and reviewers
 - Guidance on what to do with previously used terms (map and reference).
 - References

Steps forward

- We don't think this draft should be dispatched elsewhere.
- We are hoping for draft sponsorship by the gen-area AD.
- Aim for publication as a BCP.