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     IETF Administrative Support Activity 2.0: Update to the Process for
                 Selection of Trustees for the IETF Trust

Abstract

   This document captures the rationale for the changes introduced in
   RFC 8714, "Update to the Process for Selection of Trustees for the
   IETF Trust".

   At the time RFC 8714 was published, the changes to the IETF
   Administrative Support Activity, Version 2.0 (IASA 2.0) had an impact
   on the IETF Trust because members of the IETF Administrative
   Oversight Committee (IAOC), which was being phased out, had served as
   Trustees of the IETF Trust. This document provides background on the
   past IETF Trust arrangements, explains the effect of the rules in the
   founding documents during the transition to the new arrangement, and
   provides a rationale for the update.

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

    This document captures the rationale for the changes introduced in
    [RFC8714].

    At the time [RFC8714] was published, the changes to the IETF
    Administrative Support Activity, Version 2.0 (IASA 2.0) had an impact
    on the IETF Trust [RFC4071] [RFC4371] [RFC8711]. This is because
    members of the IETF Administrative Oversight Committee (IAOC), which
    was being phased out, had served as Trustees of the IETF Trust. A
    minimal change regarding the selection of the Trustees is implemented
    by [RFC8714].

    This companion memo provides some background on the details of the
    past IETF Trust arrangements, explains the effect of the rules in the
    founding documents during the transition to the new arrangement, and
    provides a rationale for the update.

2. Background

    The purpose of the IETF Trust is to acquire, hold, maintain, and
    license certain existing and future intellectual property and other
    property used in connection with the administration of the IETF
    [RFC8714]. The intellectual property is, for instance, rights that
    the IETF contributors grant for text in RFCs and Internet-Drafts.
    The IETF Trust also manages trademarks such as "IETF" and domain
    names such as "ietf.org". The IETF Trust is also serving the broader
    Internet community by holding domains and trademarks associated with
    the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) [RFC7979].

    The IETF Trust is a legal entity, registered in the Commonwealth of
    Virginia [Trust-FD].

    Previously, the members of the IAOC also served as ex officio
    Trustees of the IETF Trust. The founding documents specify persons
    eligible to become Trustees as having to be then-current members of
    the IAOC [Trust-FD]. The documents also specify that if for any
    reason there are fewer than three individuals serving as Trustees,
    then the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG), or the IESG's
    successor as the leadership of the IETF, shall appoint one or more
    individuals to serve in a temporary capacity as Trustee(s) until
    eligible persons can be found.

    In the previous system, there were eight voting members of the IAOC.
    Two were named by the IETF Nominating Committee (NomCom), one by the
    Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG), one by the Internet
    Architecture Board (IAB), and one by the Internet Society (ISOC)
    Board of Trustees. There were three ex officio members via their
    roles as IETF Chair, ISOC CEO, and IAB Chair. In addition, the IETF
    Administrative Director (IAD) was a non-voting IAOC member who also
    served as one of the Trustees.

3. General Approach

    There were two basic approaches to resolving the issue with the
    Trustees once the IAOC ceased to exist. One approach would be to
    merge all IETF Trust functions in the new IASA structure and under
    the new legal entity. However, this memo advocates a second approach
    where the IETF Trust is kept independent.

    The rationale for advocating the second approach is, in part, to
    minimize changes to the IETF Trust while the IETF's administrative
    structure is undergoing major change. In addition, the IETF Trust
    and other administrative IETF processes are quite different. While
    very important, the IETF Trust is a low-activity entity where changes
    are minimal and gradual, and there are no pressing issues.

4. Changing the Way Trustees Are Selected

When the Trustees were serving on both the IETF Trust and the IAOC,
many of the requirements for naming a particular group of people were
driven by the IAOC's requirements. For the IETF Trust in the new
model, some of those arrangements were rethought, both in terms of
the number and source of the Trustees, as well as the desired
qualifications and length of terms.

Several options were possible, of course. A newly designed selection
process could have been devised, but in this document we argue for
limited change based largely on the fact that a) the IETF Trust
arrangements worked generally well, b) the expected time commitment
is expected to be modest, and c) the assets need very careful
management.

As a result, a smaller group of Trustees appeared sufficient.

In addition, the terms set for the Trustees selected from the IETF
community could be longer than the two-year period typical of other
IETF bodies.

One could have continued the practice of having the chairs and CEOs
from the IETF, IAB, and Internet Society be Trustees as well, but
this may not be necessary. In general, the tasks of the IETF Trust
are well defined, and while there is a need for coordination, it does
not need to be at the level of chairs or CEOs.

Given all this, one approach was to have Trustees appointed by the
NomCom, the IESG, and the ISOC Board of Trustees. (One might also
have considered the IETF Administration LLC legal entity instead of
the Internet Society for this role, but the Internet Society is
perhaps more suitable for the role given their focus on the broad use
of the IETF Trust assets and not merely administrative aspects.)

If the same principles used for previous appointments continued to be
used, then appointments performed by the NomCom would need to be
confirmed by another entity. This could be, for instance, either the
IESG or the IAB. The IESG had previously been the confirming body
for the IAOC, so it has been retained in that role for the Trustees.

5. Transition

When the new entity for the IETF Administration LLC was set up, the
IAOC was expected to be discontinued soon thereafter. Fortunately,
there was no pressing need to change all the components of the IAOC
and its dependent organizations at the same time. As discussed in
Section 2, the IESG holds the ability to continue to name Trustees.
Once the updated procedures were in place, the IETF Trust had its
management nominated in the usual manner, and the IESG's exception
process was no longer needed.

6. Security Considerations

This memo has no security implications for the Internet.

7. IANA Considerations

This document has no IANA actions.

8. References

8.1. Normative References

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8.2. Informative References

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            the IETF Administrative Support Activity, Version 2.0",
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[RFC8714]   Arkko, J. and T. Hardie, "Update to the Process for
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[Trust-FD] IETF Trust, "Founding Documents",
            <https://trustee.ietf.org/founding-documents.html>.

Acknowledgements

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