

IETF Trust Report

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ISOC Board of Trustees Meeting, August 2013



No Changes

- The IETF Trust Agreement has not been modified since its execution on December 15, 2005

License & Rights Requests

- Request for derivative work permission related to IETF IPR Policy
 - (Received 7/25/2013 - Resolved 7/31/2013)
- Request to quote from RFC 2702 in a book
 - (Received 7/11/2013 - Resolved 7/25/2013)
- Request to license Tao under Creative Commons
 - (Received 6/18/2013 - Not Resolved)
- Copyright Question related to publishing RFC 6933
 - (Received 5/20/2013 - Resolved 5/22/2013)

Subpoenas & Legal Requests

- Apple and International Trade Commission (January 2013; Required a Deposition)
- Details: <http://iaoc.ietf.org/subpoenas.html>

Requesting Feedback

- We are currently requesting feedback from the IETF community on several items that may need to be addressed with updated language in the trust agreement document
 - We have received requests that we can not accommodate and consulted legal counsel on this matter
 - The trust agreement does not allow the trustees to effectively manage some trust assets

Issue #1

- We have recently been asked permission to republish the TAO with a creative commons license, but unfortunately the current trust agreement does not give the trustees the rights to do this
 - Without specific language being added to the trust agreement, we cannot grant these types of requests
 - The current open request for a creative commons license from 6/18/2013 cannot be completed

Issue #2

- We cannot currently accept physical assets like hardware donations into the trust
 - Once accepted into the trust, we would be unable to dispose of these items in the future if they are identified as no longer being needed
 - This removes flexibility in managing assets in the trust, and we currently use alternative methods of accepting donations outside of the trust

Issue #3

- Once a domain name or trademark is registered by the trust, it cannot be abandoned even if it is no longer needed
 - We must maintain these in perpetuity

Requesting Feedback

- We will pose these questions to the IETF community to see if they feel these are reasonable reasons to update the trust agreement
- Next Steps:
 - Email to community soliciting input

Thank You!



Backup Slides



What is the IETF Trust ?

- The IETF Trust was founded by CNRI and the Internet Society (AKA the Settlers).
 - <http://iaoc.ietf.org/docs/IETF-Trust-Agreement-Executed-12-15-05.pdf>
 - Also see BCP 78 / RFC 5378.
- It exists to hold intellectual and other property of the IETF “for the advancement of the science and technology associated with the Internet and related technology.”
- It has a legal existence as a Trust in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- There are 9 Trustees, the members of the IAOC.
- The Trustees have a fiduciary duty to protect the IETF’s property!

The IETF Trust Legal Provisions

- The IETF Trust is currently operating under Trust Legal Provisions (TLP) 4.0.
 - Effective Date: December 15, 2009
- These can be found at
<http://trustee.ietf.org/docs/IETF-Trust-License-Policy.pdf>