



**I E T F**®

# IETF Trust

July 2021

# IETF Trustees



Glenn Deen  
Chair



Kathleen Moriarty  
Treasurer



Joel Halpern



John Levine



Stephan Wenger

# IETF Trust Purpose

Enable usage of IP Assets while protecting ownership

Hold & Manage IP Assets for IETF (and ICANN)

- 2016 NTIA-IANA Transition added IANA to the Trust's care

Domain ownership

IETF.ORG, IESG.ORG, IRTF.ORG, IAB.ORG, IANA.ORG,...

Copyrights

IETF RFC's, Logos, Photos, Videos

Contributions to the IETF: Internet Drafts, discussions, etc.

Trademarks

IETF, IANA Marks, additional IETF marks (logo's etc.)

Software

IETF Tools, IETF YANG Catalog



**IETF TRUST**

**Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents**

Effective Date: March 25, 2015

## 1. Background

The IETF Trust was formed on December 15, 2005, for, among other things, the purpose of acquiring, holding, maintaining and licensing certain existing and future intellectual property used in connection with the Internet standards process and its administration, for the advancement of science and technology associated with the Internet and related technology. Accordingly, pursuant to RFC 5378, Contributors grant the IETF Trust certain licenses with respect to their IETF Contributions. In RFC 5377, the IETF Community has provided the IETF Trust with guidance regarding licenses that the IETF Trust should grant to others with respect to such IETF Contributions and IETF Documents. These Legal Provisions describe the rights and licenses that the IETF Trust grants to others with respect to such IETF Contributions and IETF Documents; as well as certain restrictions, limitations and notices relating to IETF Documents. These Legal Provisions also apply to other document streams that have requested that the IETF Trust act as licensing administrator, as described in Section 8 below. Capitalized terms used in these Legal Provisions that are not otherwise defined have the meanings set forth in RFC 5378.

# Trust Structure

- Commonwealth of Virginia Trust
- IRS 501c3 Non-Profit
- Independent from ISOC and IETC LLC
- Website: [trustee.ietf.org](http://trustee.ietf.org)
- 5 Trustees
  - IETF Nomcom 3, IESG 1, ISOC BoT 1 = 5 Trustees
  - No financial support (travel or compensation)
  - Knowledge of IP law useful
  - Trustees are personally legally responsible/owners
- Annual budget ~100K
  - Legal & Administration Services, TM Registrations,
  - Document Storage (IETF bluesheets, other materials)
  - Domain Registrations, Trustee Insurance
  - Seeks diverse funding sources:
    - IETF LLC
    - Past contributions from Google, NBCUniversal, Tencent and others

## Recent & On-Going Activities

- Transfer of IETF LLC IPR over to Trust management
  - Licensed back to IETF LLC for their use
  - Permits IETF LLC to sublicense as appropriate
- IANA Parameters Registry usage rules
  - Consultation with IETF community (2020)
  - Consultation with ICANN & IANA on implementation
- Licensing requests & questions of IETF copyrights
- Requests for use of IETF logos, trademarks
- On going monitoring for infringements
- IETF Trust also handles IETF fashion consultation
  - IETF Trust reviews and approves IETF meeting t-shirts
  - IETF meeting shirts license the IETF logo from the IETF Trust

## 2021 activities

- Considering a legal restructuring from a Trust to an LLC
  - Current Trust structure is outdated from a legal best practice view
  - Can't Buy increased insurance for Trustees
    - Insurers won't write larger policies to the Trust for the trustees
  - An LLC would be able to own and register trademarks
    - Trusts can't register Trademarks in some territories
    - Trademarks are currently registered/owned by the Trustees directly
- Complete the IANA Protocol Registry use rights clarification
  - Working in conjunction with ICANN/IANA
- Clean up & publish IETF Trust asset inventory
  - Including assigned rights related to PKI RFCs
- Usage guidance on IETF web content, session videos, photographs, blogs etc.
  - Do for these assets what IETF Trust provides for I-Ds and RFCs

# Contact us



EMAIL:  
[TRUSTEES@IETF.ORG](mailto:TRUSTEES@IETF.ORG)



WEB:  
[TRUSTEE.IETF.ORG](http://TRUSTEE.IETF.ORG)