

The IETF "PACT"

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1. The IETF's "Core" Values

Standards-making that is open and incremental.

Historically, many of our "competitors" haven't shared these values (fill-in the blanks yourself...)

If these are our "core" values, then we need to optimize for some organizing principles...

2. The Organizing Principles

Predictability: IETF efforts must not waste time and energy, e.g., so raising arbitrary criticisms late in the process (by ADs or others) isn't reasonable.

Accountability: Those holding IETF management positions necessarily wield considerable power and the IETF community needs to be able to know who has wielded it and when.

2. The Organizing Principles (continued)

Competency: The process must encourage the production of technically competent output; otherwise, we are left with a fair, expeditious, but useless process.

Timeliness: Timeliness relates to relevance and quality and, as such, the IETF's work is sensitive to real-world needs.

3. The Bad News

Optimizing for these organizing principles is hard to do.

Things like making the IESG state machine visible is good, but...

it doesn't make the output more predictable or timely;

it doesn't make individual ADs more accountable; and,

it doesn't make the process more competent.

In other words, the tracker is helpful, but neither necessary nor sufficient in terms of the organizing principles.

4. For Further Reading

draft-huston-ietf-pact-00 uses the organizing principles as a starting point and makes several proposals.

Ultimately, each proposal "tweaks" the internal rules of the IESG.

You may not like any/some/all of these proposals:
that's OK—discussing them is quite enlightening...