Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Website Revamp Requirements

version 2014-05-02

1. Project Overview
The website revamp project will update the IETF’s public-facing website (www.ietf.org), providing a “front door” for the IETF, including access to all the information that IETF participants need to accomplish their work.

The IETF website needs to reflect and advance the position of the IETF as the premiere Internet standards organization that gathers a large open international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Internet architecture and the smooth operation of the Internet.

The website must embody the excellent implementation of open standards as it supports the requirements of active IETF participants, as well as the efforts of those who seek to implement them.

2. Project Goals
The IETF website redesign will:

a. Improve ease of navigation,
b. Modernize and improve the simplicity of the website's visual design,
c. Make the website work better for all classes of devices, including smart phones and tablets,
d. Ensure the website works well for visitors using low-bandwidth and high-latency connections,
e. Adopt responsive design,
f. Improve accessibility, and

g. Improve the content maintenance processes.

3. Audiences
The website will be redesigned with these groups and aims in mind:

a. Active IETF Participants
Individuals who are already actively participating in the IETF; The redesigned IETF website should be a more effective tool for “getting the work of the IETF done”.

b. New or Potential IETF Participants
Individuals who could participate in and contribute to the IETF; The revamped IETF website should help candidate participants become active contributors.

c. Non-participants looking to find out more about the IETF
These individuals include policy makers, managers of current or potential IETF participants, and C-level executives from the organizations of IETF participants; The revamped website should provide members of this audience a better understanding of the IETF’s role as the Internet’s premier standards organization.
The website redesign project will collect information to provide a better understanding of how each of these audiences currently use the site, and how proposed changes will make the site more effective for all of them. Design decisions should prefer approaches that support IETF participants’ work to produce excellent technical standards for the Internet.

4. Process

The redesign project must be informed by input and review from groups that represent key audiences (identified in section 3). Part of the plan for, and a key first step of, the project will be to understand how these audiences use the current IETF web presence. This understanding will inform the proposed design approaches for the www.ietf.org site. The project plan will also include, via mechanisms such as focus groups and task testing, a process to test and validate proposed changes before they are implemented.

Key milestones and deliverables during the redesign process (e.g. site architecture, technology, wireframes, page design, content updates) should be identified in the proposal. These items will be reviewed and approved by a committee chosen from IETF community volunteers.

5. Project Scope

This project is limited to www.ietf.org only. For example, the project scope does not include datatracker.ietf.org or tools.ietf.org, though these resources will need to be reachable and available via www.ietf.org in serving the goals of the project and the needs of the key audiences.

The project is expected to consist primarily of developing and implementing an updated website design using a Content Management System. As part of the project, up to 10 key web pages, including likely entry points for website visitors, in the redesigned website will be identified, updated as necessary, and implemented. Further content development beyond the 10 key web pages is outside the scope of this redesign project and will be handled separately.

The following aspects are included in the scope of the web redesign project:

a. Search
b. Navigation
c. Accessibility
d. Responsive Design
e. Workflow
f. Blog
g. Commenting
h. Events calendar
i. RSS/Atom feeds
j. URL continuity

Each item is described in more detail below.

6. Content Management System

There is a preference to implement the revamped website using an established open-source Content Management System (CMS) which can provide the required functionality natively or via supported (not abandoned) plugins. The CMS should have an active community of developers and implementers. Any CMS with a
history of more than average security vulnerabilities should be avoided. The proposed CMS should have APIs that allow using credentials that are managed elsewhere, such as an interface to LDAP.

7. Standards and Security

a. HTML 5 and Open Standards
The website front end must be built with HTML5 and other open web standards. The resulting website will be accessible via both HTTP and HTTPS, and will encourage the use of HTTPS. Functions requiring a user login will only be available over HTTPS.

b. Authentication
Login will be required for access to any function requiring a role other than "Anonymous" (see the Workflow section). When this system requires credentials, it will use the datatracker's (datatracker.ietf.org) authentication system.

c. Plug-ins and Javascript
The redesigned website will not use browser plug-ins. All information should be accessible to visitors with or without javascript. If javascript is used, it should be self-contained (i.e. loaded from the IETF website) and implemented so that the website is responsive.

8. Functional Requirements

a. Search
Users will be able to use the site search for content on the IETF web presence at www.ietf.org. Users will be able to easily find search functions for other parts of the IETF web presence, including datatracker.ietf.org and the web-accessible email list archives, as well as rfc-editor.org.

The search function for www.ietf.org will allow users to search for words and/or topics, including content and metadata, as well as comments.

c. Navigation
The current availability of resources, in terms of the number of clicks needed to reach often used resources, should be maintained or improved. IETF content editors must be able to add/edit/delete/reorder menu items from Main, Header, and Footer Navigation. New items can be added or changed in the menus through the content creation/edit screens or through the menu management utilities. Existing items can be reordered by dragging and dropping them in the correct location or hierarchy, or temporarily disabled (instead of deleting).

d. Accessibility

i. The site will be coded in compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0:

ii. Text equivalent will be available for all non-text content. This will involve providing alternative description in the alt attribute for image tags or in-element content.
iii. The redesigned website will allow the possibility of adding text-based transcripts of any dialogue that takes place in video or audio content.

iv. All information displayed in color will also be accessible without color. Pages will be readable without a style sheet.

v. Row and column headers will be identified on pages with tabular data.

vi. Pages with forms that require a timed response will display a message making users aware of this.

vii. For browsers that do not display PDF natively, pages with links to PDF files or other non-HTML files will include a link to download appropriate reader software.

e. Responsive Design

The IETF website will adapt itself to provide the best user experience based on the device being used. Responsive design can make content truly accessible, not only in terms of assistive devices, but also serving content to the widest cross section of devices and connection speeds. Responsive design consists of three elements:

i. Different layouts for different devices (Adaptive layout) - the site display is based on what device is requesting the site

ii. Fluid grid - the site uses percentages to define layout, so that the content scales. This is another way to ensure that the content presentation does not interfere with accessibility.

iii. Flexible media/images - images and other media display based on adaptive layout. For accessibility purposes, we can easily display alt text, links to transcripts, and lower resolution for slower connections.

An adaptive layout ensures that presentation will be completely separate from content. Responsive design’s approach ensures additional flexibility to meet any new challenges with browsers, devices, or connection speed.

f. Workflow

The site will have roles and permissions, and will include a structured workflow for all content. All content on the site will have the following roles and workflow:

i. Administrator: administrators maintain and configure the website; and edit, delete, and publish content.

iv. Anonymous: general users of the website that are not logged in or assigned any role. Anonymous users will be able to view all public parts of the site.

v. Authenticated: any users that are logged in to the website and will include editable profiles.

vi. Author: writes and updates content. Can save draft for further work or send to editor for review.
vii. Editor: approves and publishes content. Can send back to author to be reworked or publishes content.

viii. Blogger: can create, edit and post only to the blog section of the site.

**g. Blog**

The site will have a blog. IETF authors will be able to post blog articles and tag the articles. Anonymous users will be able to comment on articles, and administrators can moderate the comments. Each article on the blog will feature the following:

i. Title of Article

ii. Author

iii. Posted Date

iv. Body

v. Image

**h. Commenting**

Visitors to the site need to have the ability to leave comments on specific pages. Non-authenticated (Anonymous, as described above) users will need to provide their name and/or email address to leave comments on the site. Site Administrators need to have the ability to moderate comments before they appear on the live site.

Commenting will not be turned on by default, but the system must provide a capability to allow commenting on any individual page via datatracker.ietf.org login OR anonymous commenting with moderation; the operator should be able to configure this capability through a straightforward process.

i. Event Calendar

The Calendar of Events will be created for events with title, date/time (from and to), organizer, location, and body (description) and published events will appear in an agenda list (can be filtered by time period if needed).

j. RSS/Atom Feeds

RSS and Atom feeds will be generated for lists of content that will be updated regularly (meeting updates, news, etc.).

k. URL Continuity

In general, all URLs should be short, readable and understandable by people visiting the website. A list of current URLs will be provided that must remain unchanged after the redesign. Where ever possible, and especially for highly-visited webpages, current URLs should continue to work. A more complete description and lists are provided in the Appendix.

**9. Appendix: URL Continuity**

The system resulting from this project must be able to maintain the stability of many legacy URLs in the www.ietf.org namespace, i.e. these URLs should point to the same content (or an updated edition thereof, if applicable) that exists at the URL now.
a. Highly visited URLs

The following URLs have been verified to have been recently visited and are candidates for the set of URLs that should remain stable during and after this project. Any part of the project that would change what is retrieved when these URLs are accessed should be specifically vetted and approved before the change takes place. This list is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather to seed the effort towards building the comprehensive list.

1id-abstracts.html -> download/id-abstract.txt
all-id.html -> download/id-all.txt
contactform.html -> secretariat.html
content -> content.html
copyrights -> old/2009/copyrights/
html_charters -> dyn/wg/charter
home.html ->
ial_chairs_year.html -> http://www.iab.org
ID-Checklist.html -> id-info/checklist.html
ID-Nits.html -> id-info/checklist.html
ids -> https://datatracker.ietf.org/submit ( Might be matching ids* ?)
idsubmit_instructions.html -> https://datatracker.ietf.org/submit
iesg/agenda.html -> https://datatracker.ietf.org/iesg/agenda
iesg/liaison -> https://datatracker.ietf.org/iesg/liaison
iesg/liaison.html -> https://datatracker.ietf.org/iesg/liaison
iesg/content/Doc-Writeup.html -> iesg/template/doc-writeup.html
iesg/statements -> iesg/statement
iesg_mem.html -> iesg/
ietf -> ietf-ftp
ietf-sites.html -> old/2009/ietf-sites.html (which is very stale)
IETF-Standards-Process.html -> about/standards-process.html
info -> old/2009/info
instructions -> old/2009/instructions
internet-draft -> id
internet-drafts -> id
intro -> old/2009/intro
ipr-instructions -> ipr
join -> newcomers.html
lists -> list
mail-archive -> old/2009/mail-archive/
mailbouncerules.html -> old/2009/mailbouncerules.html
maillist-new2.html -> old/2009/maillist-new2.html
meetings -> meeting
nomcom/* -> https://datatracker.ietf.org/nomcom/*
overview.html -> old/2009/overview.html
PASTMEETINGS -> old/2009/PASTMEETINGS
Sec10.txt -> old/2009/Sec10.txt
tools.html -> old/2009/tools.html (which we do not want)
trust -> https://trustee.ietf.org
u -> old/2009/u
webstats -> old/2009/webstats
WG-email-lists.html -> old/2009/WG-email-lists.html

b. Significant directories:
These directories have large amounts of content under them.

/about/
/archive/id/
/assignments/
/audio/
/blog/
/charter/ (which should be reconciled with the datatracker view)
/cr/
/diskimages/ (isos for ietf 68 through 80)
/documents/
/download/
/dyn/wg/charter/ - (should this redirect to the datatracker now?)
/edu/
/id/
/id-info/
/iesg/appeals/
/iesg/archive/
/iesg/bio/
/iesg/directorate/
/iesg/implementation/
/iesg/internal/
/iesg/minutes/
/iesg/pr-action/
/iesg/statement/
/iesg/template/
/ietf-ftp/
/ietf25/
/ion/ (not sure we need to keep this?)
/jabber/logs/
/media/
/meeting/
/old/2009/ - (this needs to be cleaned up, but that kind of cleanup is not what we're specifying now is it?)
/opsawg/ - (ask the ops ad if this should still be here)
/pdf/
/proceedings/
/rfc/
/tao-archive/
/timezones/
/wg-descriptions/ (should be replaced with a redirect to the datatracker)

c. URLs referenced in RFCs:
Based on a search, these URLs are found to be referenced in RFCs and should remain stable.
www.ietf.org/iesg/implementation/report-smtp-pipelining.txt
www.ietf.org/ID-Checklist.html
www.ietf.org/ID-nits.html
www.ietf.org/ID.html
www.ietf.org/IESG
www.ietf.org/IESG/Implementations
www.ietf.org/IESG/Implementations/http1.1-implementations.txt
www.ietf.org/IESG/LIAISON/ITU-OIF.html
www.ietf.org/IESG/LIAISON/L-ieee-80211.txt
www.ietf.org/IESG/LIAISON/L/file41.pdf
www.ietf.org/IESG/LIAISON/IEEE802.11a.txt
www.ietf.org/IESG/LIAISON/STATEMENTS/IDNstatement.txt
www.ietf.org/IESG/LIAISON/STATEMENTS/moderated-lists.txt
www.ietf.org/IESG/LIAISON/STATEMENTS/pseudo-code-in-specs.txt
www.ietf.org/IESG/LIAISON/STATEMENTS/statement-disruptive-posting.txt
www.ietf.org/IESG/liaison.html
www.ietf.org/Sec10.txt
www.ietf.org/about/note-well.html
www.ietf.org/copyrights/ianamib.html
www.ietf.org/dyn/wg/charter.html
www.ietf.org/group/nomcom/2012
www.ietf.org/group/nomcom/2012/private
www.ietf.org/html-charters/ldapbis-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/OLD
www.ietf.org/html-charters/OLD/hubmib-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/agentx-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/applmib-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/atommib-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/autoconf-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/calsch-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/capwap-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/disman-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/dnsext-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/ecrit-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/entmib-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/forces-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/hubmib-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/hubmib-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/ppm-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/pv6-charter.html
www.ietf.org/html-charters/isis-charter.html
e. Existing namespace
The project should know that it will need to co-exist with other applications taking a bite out of the www.ietf.org namespace:

/ams
/bin/
/mailman/
/playground/
/proceedings-beta/
/registration/
/rt/
/staging/
/status-report
/tools/
/usagestats