

IETF Trust Chair Report

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IETF Trust Chair

IETF 90 Toronto - July 2014



IETF Trust Issues: Subpoenas and legal requests



- Datascape, Inc v. Sprint Spectrum LP and Sprint Solutions Inc (received April 2014)
- Samsung inter partes review of U.S. Patent Nos. 7,953,390 and 8,359,007 (received June 2014)
- Details: <http://iaoc.ietf.org/subpoenas.html>

Decision to abandon Trademark "IETF Secretariat"



- Decision to Abandon "IETF Secretariat" Trademark
 - Following legal counsel and careful review of all community feedback prior to the vote, the trustees have decided to abandon the trademark.
 - Decision rationale: we hold the trademark "IETF" which is superior to this and continue to do so, so we do not need the trademark "IETF Secretariat" and can save the renewal fees.)

Misc.



- Trust received a couple of IPR-related questions, mostly for clarification:
 - Clarification on question when WGs are using github and what constitutes an "IETF Contribution" in this case
 - Clarification on granting copyright for copy/modify of an RFC.

Backup Information

Background on Decision to abandon Trademark "IETF Secretariat"



- FYI: with the modified IETF Trust Agreement from 20 February 2014, the trust can dispose of no longer useful physical assets and trademarks
 - “The Trustees may, after due consultation with the Beneficiary, dispose of, assign, sell, transfer, renounce, convey or terminate Trust Assets that are of no current or foreseeable future value to the Beneficiary and which require the expenditure of funds to retain. This exception does not include RFCs.”

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>