

RFC PDF FONTS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

**RFC PDF FONTS
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

General information:

Sources Sought Notice

Posted: 14 January 2015

Response Date: 25 February 2015

Deadline for Questions: 26 January 2015

Answers to Questions Posted: 2 February 2015

Contracting Office: Internet Society, on behalf of the RFC Series Editor

RFI responses to: iaoc-tmc@ietf-bids.org

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only, it is not a Request for Proposals (RFP). Solicitations are not available at this time. This notice does not constitute a commitment to issue an RFP.

The RFC Editor currently publishes RFCs using ASCII. In the future RFCs will also be published online in a PDF/3-A format. The RFC Series Editor is seeking information about the availability and licensing of fonts that meet these requirements: (i) Serif and Sans-Serif; (ii) fixed-width; (iii) Unicode support; and (iv) liberal or low-cost licensing terms. See Attachment for more background and detailed requirements.

Administrative Matters:

- (1) Responders shall not be obligated to develop the fonts and it is understood that any cost estimates provided as a result of this request, are estimates only.
- (2) All information submitted in response to this announcement must be in English, is voluntary, and may be used in the development of an RFP.
- (3) Information received will be made public in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - a. Comments and suggestions received from any party may be made public without attribution.
 - b. Expressions of interest will be kept confidential. Vendors expressing interest will not be identified publicly, nor will any cost estimates received from such vendors.
- (4) The failure to respond to this RFI will not bar an organization from responding to an RFP, if any. The Internet Society and the IAOC will not pay for information requested, nor will they compensate any respondent for any cost incurred in developing information provided.
- (5) Questions shall be directed to iaoc-tmc@ietf-bids.org no later than 26 January 2015. Responses to these questions shall be posted by 2 February 2015. The identity of the questioner will not be posted.

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(6) The response date is 23 February 2015. Responses to this RFI should be submitted to iaoc-tmc@ietf-bids.org.

(7) Point of Contact

Ray Pelletier, IETF Administrative Director
iaoc-tmc@ietf-bids.org

Attachment RFC PDF Fonts Description and Requirements

Embedded Fonts for the PDF Publication Format for RFCs
Request for Information

Description:

The RFC Editor provides editing, publishing and archiving services for the RFC series on behalf of the Internet Engineering Task Force and the broader Internet community. The documents published--Internet standards, best common practices, experimental, and informational RFCs--need to reflect the expectations of a global community of authors, implementors, policy makers, academics, and more (see RFC 6949 <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc6949.txt>>).

As part of the changes required to meet current expectations, the RFC Series Editor announced to the IETF community in 2013 the intent to change the format for RFCs from a single, plain-text, ASCII-only format to a format based on a canonical XML file with multiple publication outputs. The following draft documents or their successors describe the new format requirements:

- Brownlee, N., "SVG Drawings for RFCs: SVG 1.2 RFC", Work in Progress, [draft-brownlee-svg-rfc-07](#), July 2014.
- Flanagan, H., "RFC Format Framework", Work in Progress, [draft-flanagan-rfc-framework-01](#), September 2014.
- Flanagan, H., "Requirements for Plain Text RFCs", Work in Progress, [draft-flanagan-plaintext-01](#), July 2014.
- Flanagan, H., "The Use of Non-ASCII Characters in RFCs", Work in Progress, [draft-flanagan-nonascii-02](#), July 2014.
- Hansen, T., Masinter, L., and M. Hardy, "PDF for an RFC Series Output Document Format", Work in Progress, [draft-hansen-rfc-use-of-pdf-02](#), July 2014.
- Hildebrand, J. and H. Flanagan, Ed., "HyperText Markup Language Request For Comments Format", Work in Progress, [draft-hildebrand-html-rfc-03](#), June 2014.
- Hoffman, P., "The 'XML2RFC' version 3 Vocabulary", Work in Progress, [draft-hoffman-xml2rfc-10](#), September 2014.
- Reschke, J., "The 'XML2RFC' version 2 Vocabulary", Work in Progress, [draft-reschke-xml2rfc-09](#), June 2014.

One of those outputs will be PDF/A-3 (see [draft-hansen-rfc-use-of-pdf](#) <<http://www.ietf.org/id/draft-hansen-rfc-use-of-pdf-03.txt>>).

One particular area of concern for the project is around the question of what fonts may be used in the PDF/A-3 format. A requirement for the PDF/A-3 format is that the font information for any and all fonts used for that document be embedded within the file. The purpose here is to make the file as self-contained and stable as possible. Given the combination of needing to embed font information and allowing the use of non-ASCII characters to meet the expectations of our authors, we have a challenge with finding the right fonts for our use.

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Requirements for the fonts themselves include:

- Serif and sans-serif fonts should be available (to meet the requirement in <draft-hansen-rfc-use-of-pdf> for main text and headings).
- A fixed-width font must be available for code, BNF, and any other text that requires such a font as an aid in insuring alignment.
- Wide support for Unicode (which may require multiple fonts) is necessary to support the change that allows non-ASCII characters in RFCs, such as person names in native languages.
- Liberal or low-cost license terms.

This RFI is seeking information on what is available, where gaps exist such that a font might need to be acquired with a for-fee license, and where a font might need to be designed.