

The Internet Society
on behalf of
The IETF Administrative Oversight Committee

Request for Proposal
Three Software Tools to Support the RFC Editor:
RFClint, SVGcheck, and XMLdiff

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Proposal Submission Deadline: November 20, 2017

IETF Request for Proposals

Three Software Tools to Support the RFC Editor

The Internet Society (“ISOC”) on behalf of the IETF Administrative Oversight Committee (IAOC) is soliciting this Request for Proposals ("RFP") to provide three software tools to support the RFC Editor: RFClint, SVGcheck, and XMLdiff. Those submitting a Proposal (“Vendor”) shall do so in accordance with this RFP.

I. Introduction & Overview

A. Introduction

The RFC Editor plans to produce a canonical RFC document in XML using the xm2rfc v3 grammar, and to publish the RFC in several publication formats as defined in RFC 6949. This new process requires three new software tools to support the RFC Editor: RFClint, SVGcheck, and XMLdiff.

B. Overview

1. RFClint

There are several tasks involved in authoring an Internet-Draft and in making an RFC ready for publication that can be automated or assisted programmatically. The current production process uses several programs to validate or manipulate the document content. These programs perform tasks like verifying conformance criteria, identifying duplicate words, locating dangling references, and checking spelling.

The RFC Editor wishes to unify and streamline this process to balance the expected complexity involved in producing documents in the upcoming xml2rfc v3 format. This project will create a command-line program that can be used to incrementally process an xml2rfc v3 formatted document towards being publication ready. This program will also be useful to authors preparing Internet-Drafts.

The RFC Editor requires a tool that takes an xml2rfc v3 formatted XML document and a set of command line arguments, and produces diagnostic output and, when appropriate, an output xml2rfc v3 formatted XML document. The operations must not modify the input file.

Deliverables/Tasks

- An application that provides the following for a given input document:
 - Identify and optionally remove duplicate words;
 - Identify and optionally correct misspelled words;
 - Verify that imbedded XML stanzas are well formed; and
 - Verify that imbedded ABNF is complete and well formed.
- A test suite for the application.

- Documentation and training for the RFC Production Center staff.

2. SVGcheck

The upcoming RFC format will allow line drawings in RFC documents using a specialized profile of the SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) language. That profile is specified in RFC 7996, and it is a restricted subset of the SVG 1.2 Tiny profile.

The RFC Editor requires a tool to verify that submitted SVG is valid and conforms to this specialized profile. This tool must also be usable by authors to identify and correct any issues before document submission.

Deliverables/Tasks

- An application that reads one or more SVG documents and provides diagnostics regarding well-formedness and conformance to the profile specified in RFC 7996.
- A test suite for the application.
- Documentation and training for the RFC Production Center staff.

3. XMLdiff

The existing rfcdiff utility has been very useful for inspecting the changes in versions of Internet-Draft and RFC documents during the creation process. The rfcdiff utility will continue to be useful with the upcoming text publication format. Other tools may evolve for comparing versions of the remaining publication formats.

The RFC Editor requires a tool to compare the XML source of different versions of a document, particularly to rapidly identify changes in document structure or attributes within tags. These changes may or may not have a simple corresponding change amenable to representation through differences of one of the publication formats. This project will create a differencing tool for the XML source documents.

Deliverables/Tasks

- An application that takes two xml2rfc v3 source documents, producing a visual presentation of the meaningful differences in the source documents.
- A test suite for the application.
- Documentation and training for the RFC Production Center staff.

II. Instructions and Procedures

A. Submissions

Proposals must be received via email at iaoc-tmc@ietf.org no later than November 20, 2017.

The Vendor assumes all risk and responsibility for submission of its Proposal by the above deadline. ISOC shall have no responsibility for non-receipt of Proposals due to network or system failures, outages, delays or other events beyond its reasonable control.

All Proposals shall become the property of the Internet Society.

B. Questions and Inquiries

Any inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to iaoc-tmc@ietf.org. Vendors are prohibited from otherwise contacting any person or institution involved in the selection process concerning this RFP.

Questions may be submitted at any time; however, all questions/inquiries must be submitted in writing and must be received no later November 3, 2017.

Responses to questions and inquiries shall be posted on the IAOC website, <https://iaoc.ietf.org/rfps.html>, no later than November 13, 2017.

C. Addenda and Updates

Any addenda and updates to this RFP shall be posted on the IAOC website, <https://iaoc.ietf.org/rfps.html>. Any RFP addenda and updates will be posted no later than November 13, 2017. Each Vendor is responsible for checking the IAOC website prior to submission of any Proposal to ensure that it has complied with all addenda and updates to this RFP.

D. Selection Criteria

Each Proposal must specifically address each of the selection criteria listed in Section III.B, and each proposal must use the format provided in Section IV. Each Proposal may be accompanied by any technical or product literature that the Vendor wishes the IAOC and the Internet Society to consider.

The IAOC will seek to enter into a contract with one or more Vendors that the IAOC deems, in its sole discretion, to represent the best value combination of performance and cost, not necessarily the low bidder.

E. Cancellation; Rejection

The Internet Society reserves the right to cancel this RFP, in whole or in part, at any time. The IAOC may reject any or all Proposals received in response to this RFP in its sole discretion. The Internet Society makes no guarantee or commitment to purchase, license, or procure any goods or services resulting from this RFP.

F. Costs and Expenses

Each Vendor is responsible for its own costs and expenses involved in preparing and submitting its Proposal and any supplemental information requested by the IAOC. The Internet Society shall *not* reimburse any such costs or expenses.

G. Public Information

The IAOC is committed to transparency in the manner in which it conducts its operations. Accordingly, the following principles will apply to the Proposal and negotiations:

The names of all Vendors submitting Proposals may be announced publicly, but the Proposals and individual negotiations with Vendors will not be publicly announced or published.

Any Agreement negotiated with a Vendor, excluding cost and business confidential material as agreed to, will be made public after execution.

H. Intellectual Property Rights

All work performed, all software and other materials developed by the Vendor under the Agreement, shall be “works for hire” and shall be owned exclusively by the IETF Trust, and the Vendor shall not obtain or retain any rights or licenses from any work. Open source software is exempt from this requirement. Solutions based on existing vendor software are also exempt from this requirement as long as the IETF Trust is granted a non-revocable perpetual license to use the software. Additional conditions may apply.

I. Relationships

Describe any relationship between your company, or any parent, subsidiary or related company, or any director or officer of any of them, with the RFC Editor, Internet Society, IAOC, IETF, IETF Trust, or any employee, director, officer or consultant of any of them.

J. Process Modification

In the case where responses to this RFP fail to meet the basic requirements defined herein, the IAOC reserves the right to modify this RFP process.

The IAOC may choose to re-open the RFP or to enter into further negotiations with one or more of the Vendors if the situation warrants at the discretion of the IAOC.

III. Selection

A. Selection Procedure

The IAOC will use this procedure to select a Vendor to be awarded a contract:

1. The IAOC will or will cause review and evaluation of each proposal to determine if the Vendor is qualified.
2. The IAOC will contact references.
3. The IAOC may conduct interviews and may require oral presentations.
4. Requests for clarity may be made of the Vendor.
5. Qualified Vendor, if any, will be notified of their selection for advancement to the negotiation phase by December 8, 2017.

B. Selection Criteria as Judged by the IAOC

The IAOC must have confidence in the Vendor – its qualifications, experience, capabilities, personnel, timely performance, and professionalism. To that end the IAOC will evaluate the following to inform its decision:

1. Vendor qualifications and experience performing similar services.
2. Key personnel qualifications, if any.
3. Vendor ability to meet requirements.
4. Proposal as a reflection of the Vendor’s understanding of the IETF, their processes, culture, and the scope of work and methodologies.
5. Oral presentation, if conducted.
6. Cost to furnish the services in US Dollars (USD); note that the lowest cost offer will not necessarily be awarded a contract.

C. Schedule

The IAOC intends to process this RFP in accordance with the following schedule:

Projected Schedule of Events	
Date	Action
October 27, 2017	RFP Issued
November 3, 2017	Questions and Inquiries deadline
November 13, 2017	Answers to questions issued
November 13, 2017	RFP Addenda & Update issued
November 20, 2017	Proposals Due
December 8, 2017	Negotiations Begin
December 20, 2017	Contract Execution
January 2, 2018	Work Begins

IV. Proposal Format

Proposals shall be submitted using the following format:

1. Executive Summary
2. Project Approach & Plan
3. Schedule
4. Test Plan
5. Cost & Payment Schedule
6. Warranty & Late Delivery Consequence
7. Technical Support & Maintenance
8. Documentation
9. Experience, Qualifications and Accomplishments
10. Key Personnel Resumes, if any
11. References (Two references attesting to performance)
12. Subcontractor Information (if any)
13. Assumptions
14. Intellectual Property
15. Miscellaneous

V. Statements of Work

Vendor shall adhere to the software development instructions found here:

<https://trac.tools.ietf.org/tools/ietfdb/wiki/ContractorInstructions?version=11>

The SoW for each of the software tools can be found here:

1. RFClint <https://iaoc.ietf.org/documents/rfclint-SOW-04.pdf>
2. SVGcheck <https://iaoc.ietf.org/documents/svgcheck-SOW-02.pdf>
3. XMLdiff <https://iaoc.ietf.org/documents/xmlDiff-SOW-03.pdf>