IAB Programs

IAB virtual retreat June 1-5, 2020

From the IAB charter (RFC2850)

A major role of the IAB is long range *planning and coordination between different areas* of IETF activity. The IAB, both collectively and on an individual basis, is expected to pay attention to *important long-term issues in the Internet*, and to make sure that these issues are brought to the attention of the group(s) that are in a position to address them. It is also expected to play a role in assuring that the people responsible for evolving the Internet and its technology are *aware of the essential elements of the Internet architecture*.

Current Programs

- RFC Oversight Committee (RSOC)

- RFC Editor Future Development Program

- Plenary Planning Program

- Liaison Oversight Program

- IANA Program

- Internet Threat Model (model-t) Program

Concluded Programs

- IP Stack Evolution Program

- Privacy and Security Program

- Security Program

- Privacy Program

- Names and Identifiers Program

- ITU-T Coordination Program

- IP Evolution

- Internationalization Program

- IETF Protocol Registries Oversight Committee (IPROC)

- IAB Tools and Processes Program

- Emergency Services

IAB programs today (from IAB webpage)

- long-term perspective on the Internet informed by technical and architectural considerations

- Objectives:
  - minimise dependency on the current IAB composition and specific expertise and competencies of its members;
  - minimise dependency on the tenure of IAB members;
  - increase bandwidth by shifting responsibilities of IAB members from doing the actual work to organising and delegating work, and providing guidance;
  - shift the IAB focus from the specifics of an activity to the development of the vision and maintenance of the big picture, to selecting priority areas and carrying out respective efforts.
  - **improve visibility of the activities the IAB is busy with and provide an opportunity to the community to provide feedback on the content and priority of specific activities.**

- Programs can be thought of as IAB directorates, small task forces, or ad-hoc bodies of (independent) technical experts.

- **The program lead will usually be an IAB member**. The objective of the program lead is to facilitate activities within the program, provide an oversight and ensure continuity.

- The subject areas and related programs are periodically reviewed by the IAB. **Selected programs and initiatives form an activity plan. This plan is communicated to the community and feedback is solicited.**

Expectations about confidentiality

- Program members should assume that any materials or discussions within the program may be shared with the IAB, although the IAB may request that specific materials NOT be shared (for example, the IAB chose not to see the materials that the RFC Series Oversight Committee gathered during its search for an RFC Editor).

- Some programs may produce minutes and may make these minutes public, but programs are not required to produce minutes. What is more important, is that the program should share its results with the IAB. These results may be made public as part of IAB meeting minutes, depending upon the purpose of the program activities and the nature of the results.

Problems

- Missing oversight?

  - How are members selected/changed?

- Missing community interactions?

  - Little visibility of program work in the community and therefore little to no engagement e.g. on public program lists (<program>-discuss@iab.org)

- Missing activity plans?

  - How are outcomes better communicated to the outside? Or is that not needed? Are workshop and published RFCs enough…

- Are programs too diverse to apply same set of rules?

New proposal

- **Goal:** Programmes to be more open
  - In the past programmes were (mostly) by-invitation closed groups that often used closed mailing lists to do the meat of their work.

- **Proposed changes**
  - Programmes will in future be **open by default** - with a mailing list to which anyone can subscribe. The IAB may still, but exceptionally, create non-open programmes.
  - Programmes can start after discussion by the IAB (no formal voting) **on prohibition for 6 month** to develop a charter and scope the work (see next slide)
  - Decisions to **close or formalise IAB programmes are voted on by the IAB.**
  - Programmes that are formalised (no longer on probation) should be **reviewed every 2 years** by the IAB and closed or continued.
  - The **IAB selects programme chairs** (sometimes before, sometimes during, the probation period). The IAB may simply select chairs, or may run a call for volunteers/comment cycle as for other appointments. Programme chairs may or may not be current IAB members.

Programme-on-probation

- Programmes can start informally, as a programme-on-probation, with a mailing list, perhaps a few virtual or f2f meetings and can develop charter-text as they go. This state has been compared to an ongoing/standing workshop.

- The IAB need to agree to start each programme-on-probation, but a formal vote is not required - agreement of those at an IAB meeting confirmed on the IAB mailing list without objection (e.g. in minutes) is sufficient. (Is that right/good?)

- A programme-on-probation should be reviewed every 6 months by the IAB and either closed, formalised or given another 6 months to try make progress.

- The criteria for IAB review of a programme-on-probation may or may not be written down, and will vary from case to case. It is desirable, but not necessary, to have the criteria written and agreed by the IAB and programme participants.

Further proposal

- The IAB or programme chairs may designate (e.g. on a programme web page) some participants as longer-term contributors in order to provide recognition and encouragement for participants whose input is expected to be particularly valuable or where that would help a participant in engaging with the programme.

Discussion/open issues

- If we did the above, how we do characterise the distinction between a programme, a WG and an RG?

- Who can propose a new IAB programs?

- What are criteria to not establish or close an IAB program?

- When and how are meeting organised (during IETF week within session slots)?

- How do programs need to report back to the IAB and the community?

- If programs are more open, what the oversight role of the IAB?

- What the relations between IAB workshops and open program meetings?