

# Focus on Inclusion

Have everyone's opinions been heard?

Alvaro + Russ  
IESG/IAB Retreat 2021

**Diversity  
Asks**



WHO  
is in  
the room?

**Inclusion  
Asks**



Have everyone's  
opinions been  
HEARD?

# The Internet is for End Users (rfc8890)

This document explains why the IAB believes that, when there is a conflict between the interests of end users of the Internet and other parties, **IETF decisions should favor end users...**

## Who Are "End Users"?

In this document, "end users" means human users whose activities IETF standards support, sometimes indirectly. Thus, the end user of a protocol to manage routers is not a router administrator; it is the **people using the network** that the router operates within...

Likewise, an individual end user might have many interests (e.g., privacy, security, flexibility, reachability) that are sometimes in tension.

# Engaging End Users (from rfc8890)

A promising approach to help fill these gaps is to identify and engage with specifically affected communities when making decisions that might affect them, for example, one or more **industry associations, user groups, or ...**

In doing so, we **should not require them to "come to us"**; unless a stakeholder community is already engaged in the IETF process effectively, the IETF community should explore how to meet with them on their terms—take the initiative to contact them, explain our work, and solicit their feedback....

Instead, an event like a workshop may be more effective if co-located with—and ideally hosted or co-hosted by—a forum that's familiar to that stakeholder community. We should also raise the visibility of IETF work (or potential IETF work) in such fora through conference talks, panels, newsletter articles, etc.

*What can we do to start and maintain this conversation?*

# Operators and the IETF (draft-opsawg-operators-ietf)

The objective of this project is ultimately to facilitate **communications between the operator community and the IETF** to help ensure that operational realities inform the development of key standards...

Most of these ideas focus on alternative methods of communication between the IETF and its constituents and specifically on **new ways to provide condensed information** to IETF participants and potential participants...

The next theme we heard is one of **outreach to the operators, primarily through existing network operator groups and forums...**

**More liaisons between the IETF and Operator forums**

*Operator forums are just one possibility, however ...*

# Proposal

## Current Situation

- Interactions with communities outside the IETF depend on individuals

- Communities in geographic regions

- Efforts to interact at NOGs, etc.

## Main Objective

- Engage to solicit feedback on specific IETF work of interest to the external community.

## Proposal

- Formalize the interactions with potential IETF participants

- Create an engagement framework to interact with external communities

# Examples of External Communities/Groups

Network Operator Groups

User Groups

Open Source Communities

Focused on a specific population set

Government actors/regulators

Civil Society (Article 19, etc.)

Regional Groups: ietf-lac, IIESoc, etc.

Systemers (and other IETF-centric resource groups)

Types of interactions: focused presentation, workshop, joint WG meeting, etc.

# Implementation

## IAB Managed Program

- Engagement Managers (EM) handle the specific interaction

- Input from IESG/IAB on topics of interest

- Invitation to Comment (\*in\* the IETF)

- EM may need to act as ally<sup>1</sup> and represent the interests of others

[1] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/shereeatcheson/2018/11/30/allyship-the-key-to-unlocking-the-power-of-diversity/>