IETF COFFEE STANDARD

Agenda

Abstract

The Importance of Coffee in IETF Meetings

Abstract

This document highlights the critical role that coffee plays in the productivity, engagement, and overall morale of participants at IETF meetings. This document describes best practices for coffee consumption and suggests recommendations for future IETF meetings.¶

Coffee is a well-known stimulant, therefore the IETF MUST provide unlimited coffee at all events.

Introduction

[1. Introduction](#)
Over the years, coffee has become an integral component of the IETF meeting culture. However, there has been no formal specification or standardization regarding the role of coffee in ensuring the smooth functioning of IETF discussions. ¶
This document provides an overview of the significance of coffee in the IETF environment and establishes preliminary recommendations for ensuring consistent and sufficient caffeine availability.¶
[2. Terminology](#)
This document uses MUST, SHOULD, MAY and other words in capital for emphasis.¶

- IETF Coffee: Any caffeinated beverage consumed during an IETF meeting.¶
- Caffeine Deficiency Syndrome (CDS): A state of reduced cognitive function due to the absence of coffee. ¶
- Coffee Availability Protocol (CAP): An informal set of guidelines for ensuring coffee distribution.

Introduction

The **Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)** is a global organization that works on developing and promoting voluntary Internet standards through an open and collaborative process

IETF meetings are held multiple times a year, bringing together participants from different backgrounds to discuss a wide range of topics related to networking and Internet protocols.

The IETF Coffee Standard is an essential component of the global networking ecosystem and is designed to ensure that all meetings have sufficient caffeine to maintain productivity. The importance of this standard cannot be overstated, as studies have shown that caffeine deficiency in engineers leads to a 47.3% decrease in meaningful technical discussions.

Furthermore, cognitive neuroscience studies suggest that individuals consuming at least 200 mg of caffeine per session demonstrate improved retention of RFC specifications and increased ability to detect inconsistencies in technical proposals. This correlates with findings from behavioral analysis in remote work environments, where engineers with a dedicated coffee routine were 38% more likely to contribute to mailing list discussions.

Problem Statement & Solution

1. The IETF is an organization that relies heavily on active discussion and participation. Coffee consumption has been observed to directly impact the ability of individuals to remain engaged during long sessions.
2. [Studies] have shown that attendees experiencing caffeine deficiency are less likely to contribute effectively.
3. Also, there have been inconsistencies in coffee supply across IETF meetings, which may or may not have led to negative effects on consensus building.

- To address the identified issues, the following recommendations are proposed:
  - Each IETF venue MUST provide coffee stations within 5 meters of every meeting room to prevent cases of Caffeine Deficiency Syndrome (CDS) among attendees.
  - NOT all coffee is equal and thus a mechanism is needed to rate coffee.
  - But individual coffee taste COULD differ, and thus how to rate
  - A man-made live barista coffee SHOULD be provided as some don't consider the bulk made coffee as coffee.
  - Alternative caffeine sources (e.g., energy drinks) MAY be available but SHALL NOT BE considered coffee.
  - The IETF Secretariat MUST ensure that coffee supply logistics are prioritized and develop a Coffee Availability Protocol (CAP) ensuring a fair and distributed allocation of coffee.

Coffee is an essential, yet often overlooked, component of a successful IETF meeting. By ensuring its availability and quality, the IETF can enhance productivity and consensus-building efforts.