

BIP: 132  
Title: Committee-based BIP Acceptance Process  
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## Abstract

The current process for accepting a BIP is not clearly defined. While BIP-0001 defines the process for writing and submitting a Bitcoin Improvement Proposal to the community it does not specify the precise method for which BIPs are considered accepted or rejected.

This proposal sets up a method for determining BIP acceptance.

This BIP has two parts:

- It sets up a **process** which a BIP goes through for comments and acceptance. The Process is:
  - BIP Draft
  - Submitted for comments (2 weeks)
  - Waiting on opinion (2 weeks)
  - BIP becomes either Accepted or Deferred
- It sets up **committees** for reviewing comments and indicating acceptance under precise conditions.
  - Committees are authorized groups that represent client authors, miners, merchants, and users (each as a segment). Each one must represent at least 1% stake in the Bitcoin ecosystem.

BIP acceptance is defined as at least 70% of the represented percentage stake in 3 out of the 4 Bitcoin segments.

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## Motivation

BIPs represent important improvements to Bitcoin infrastructure, and in order to foster continued innovation, the BIP process must have clearly defined stages and acceptance acknowledgement.

## Rationale

A committee system is used to organize the essential concerns of each segment of the Bitcoin ecosystem. Although each segment may have many different viewpoints on each BIP, in order to seek a decisive yes/no on a BIP, a representational authoritative structure is sought. This structure should be fluid, allowing people to move away from committees that do not reflect their views and should be re-validated on each BIP evaluation.

## Weaknesses

Each committee submits a declaration including their claim to represent a certain percentage of the Bitcoin ecosystem in some way. Though guidelines are given, it's up to each committee to prove their stake, and it's up to the reader of the opinions to decide if a BIP was truly accepted or rejected.

The author doesn't believe this is a problem because a BIP cannot be forced on client authors, miners, merchants, or users. Ultimately this BIP is a tool for determining whether a BIP is overwhelmingly accepted. If one committee's validity claim becomes the factor that decides whether the BIP will succeed or fail, this process simply didn't return a clear answer and the BIP should be considered deferred.

## Process

- **Submit for Comments.** The first BIP champion named in the proposal can call a "submit for comments" at any time by posting to the Dev Mailing List mailing with the BIP number and a statement that the champion intends to immediately submit the BIP for comments.
  - The BIP must have been assigned BIP-number (i.e. been approved by the BIP editor) to be submitted for comments.
- **Comments.**
  - After a BIP has been submitted for comments, a two-week waiting period begins in which the community should transition from making suggestions about a proposal to publishing their opinions or concerns on the proposal.
- **Reported Opinions.**
  - After the waiting period has past, committees must submit a summary of the comments which they have received from their represented communities.
  - The deadline for this opinion is four weeks after the BIP was submitted for comments.
  - Committees cannot reverse their decision after the deadline, but at their request may flag their decision as "likely to change if another submit for comments is called". Committees can change their decision if a resubmit is called.
  - Opinions must include:

- \* One of the following statements: "Intend to accept", "Intent to implement", "Decline to accept", "Intend to accept, but decline to implement".
  - \* If rejected, the opinion must cite clear and specific reasons for rejecting including a checklist for what must happen or be change for their committee to accept the proposal.
  - \* If accepted, the committee must list why they accepted the proposal and also include concerns they have or what about the BIP that, if things changed, would cause the committee to likely reverse their decision if another submit for comments was called.
- **Accepted.**
    - If at least 70% of the represented percentage stake in 3 out of 4 segments accept a proposal, the BIP is considered accepted.
    - If a committee fails to submit an opinion, consider the opinion "Decline to accept".
    - The BIP cannot be substantially changed at this point, but can be replaced. Minor changes or clarifications are allowed but must be recorded in the document.
  - **Deferred.**
    - If the acceptance test above is not met, the BIP is sent back into suggestions.
    - BIP can be modified and re-submitted for a comments no sooner than two months after the date of the previous submit for comments is called.
    - The BIP is marked rejected after two failed submission attempts. A rejected BIP can still be modified and re-submitted.

## Committees

### BIP Committees.

- BIP Committees are representational structures that represent critical segments of the Bitcoin ecosystem.
- Each committee must prove and maintain a clear claim that they represent at least 1% of the Bitcoin ecosystem in some form.
- If an organization or community does not meet that requirement, it should conglomerate itself with other communities and organizations so that it does.
- The segments that committees can be based around are:
  - Bitcoin software
  - Exchanges/Merchants/services/payment processors
  - Mining operators
  - User communities
- A person may be represented by any number of segments, but a committee cannot re-use the same resource as another committee in the same segment.

### Committee Declarations.

- At any point, a Committee Declaration can be posted.
- This Declaration must contain details about:
  - The segment the Committee is representing
  - Who the committee claim to represent and it's compositional makeup (if made up of multiple miner orgs, user orgs, companies, clients, etc).
  - Proof of claim and minimum 1% stake via:
    - \* Software: proof of ownership and user base (Min 1% of Bitcoin userbase)
    - \* Merchant: proof of economic activity (Min 1% of Bitcoin economic activity)
    - \* Mining: proof of work (Min 1% of Hashpower)
    - \* For a user organization, auditable signatures qualifies for a valid committee (Min 1% of Bitcoin userbase)
  - Who is running the committee, their names and roles
  - How represented members can submit comments to the committee
  - A code of conduct and code of ethics which the committee promises to abide by
- A committee declaration is accepted if:
  - The declaration includes all of the required elements
  - The stake is considered valid
  - Committee validation is considered when considering the results of opinions submitted by committee on a BIP. A committee must have met the required stake percentage before a BIP is submitted for comments, and have maintained that stake until a valid opinion is submitted.
- Committees can dissolve at any time or submit a declaration at any time
- Declaration must have been submitted no later than the third day following a BIP's request for comments to be eligible for inclusion in a BIP

## BIP Process Management Role

BIPs, Opinions, and Committee Declaration must be public at all times.

A BIP Process Manager should be chosen who is in charge of:

- Declaring where and how BIPs, Opinions, and Committee Declaration should be posted and updated officially.
- Maintaining the security and authenticity of BIPs, Opinions, and Committee Declarations
- Publishing advisory documents about what kinds of proof of stakes are valid and what kinds should be rejected.
- Naming a series of successors for the roles of the BIP Process Manager and BIP Editor (BIP-001) as needed.

## **Conditions for activation**

In order for this process BIP to become active, it must succeed by its own rules. At least a 4% sample of the Bitcoin community must be represented, with at least one committee in each segment included. Once at least one committee has submitted a declaration, a request for comments will be called and the process should be completed from there.