Community and Diversity

Session Chair: Wes Hardaker

Summary presentations:

1. Priyanka Sinha
2. Mallory Knodel
3. Lars Eggert

Why study inclusion in the IETF

- IETF is a voluntary global organization with its communication, activities recorded and available for analysis and study
- Diversity, Inclusion and Representation make the consensus process robust.
- Do consensus mechanisms depend on offline meeting, side talks and in person advocacy?
  - This puts participants who engage in remote-only mode (perhaps due to geographical, personal constraints) at a disadvantage
- People are multi-dimensional and their sense of community may not be appropriated by their observable demographic indicators
  - Data driven identification of influence that some members may have on consensus building

Big Outstanding Questions

- Has the move to virtual only interactions increased diversity, inclusion?
- Quantify the diversity in the consensus mechanism of proposing new internet drafts to rfcs to internet standards.
  - How much opinion diversity is present in working groups?
    - Are certain issues or communities regularly not being heard
- For new comers - automatically identify advocates
- Computationally understand the evolving organizational structure and norms of the IETF

Approaches to obtain answers

- Quantifying Diversity:
  - Collect mailing list, meeting minutes participation data using ietfdata tool and run statistical tests for relevant hypothesis - before covid19 versus during covid19.
    - Use the ietfdata tool built by workshop participants and contribute to its examples
  - Use naive bayes sentiment classifier to understand opinion diversity.
- Mining for advocates:
  - Use time series clustering algorithm to group members on their behavioral, topical and influence similarity
    - Workshop participants would have insights on which set of members need to be studied
- Understanding the organizational structure and norms of IETF
  - Use a graph mining approach to uncover structure from the communication on mailing lists.
    - What features of communication between members are relevant? Workshop participants have done work on this.
    - Workshop participants are also interested in temporal aspect, and that may motivate development of novel temporal graph mining algorithms
  - Statistically test relevant hypothesis related to norms from available data
    - Multiple workshop participants have tested some norms such as those related to gender, also about who is the average IETF member

Relevant research

- PhD thesis in Mining Personality Traits and Homophilic Groups from Enterprise Social Networks
- Identifying leaders and fine grained communities with coherent topics - Priyanka Sinha, Lipika Dey, Pabitra Mitra, and Dilys Thomas. 2020. A Hierarchical Clustering Algorithm for Characterizing Social Media Users. In Companion Proceedings of the Web Conference 2020 (Taipei, Taiwan) (WWW '20). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 353–362. https://doi.org/10.1145/3366424.3383296 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OmQWp7vflg
- Mining peers and peer groups (under review) - Priyanka Sinha, Ritu Patel, Pabitra Mitra, Dilys Thomas, Lipika Dey. Mining Homophilic Groups of Users using Edge Attributed Node Embedding from Enterprise Social Networks
- Understanding individual behavior - Priyanka Sinha, Lipika Dey, Pabitra Mitra, and Anupam Basu. 2015. Mining HEXACO personality traits from Enterprise Social Media. In Proceedings of the 6th Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity, Sentiment and Social Media Analysis. Association for Computational Linguistics, Lisboa, Portugal, 140–147. http://aclweb.org/anthology/W15-2920
- Explaining dialogue outcomes - Priyanka Sinha, Pabitra Mitra, Antonio Anastasio Bruto da Costa, Nikolaos Kekatos. 2021. Explaining Outcomes of Multi-Party Dialogues using Causal Learning. https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.00944
- Social Sensing for Smart Enterprise Transformation - Lipika Dey, Tirthankar Dasgupta, and Priyanka Sinha. 2018. Social Sensing and Enterprise Intelligence: Towards a Smart Enterprise Transformation (SSEI 2018) Chairs' Welcome and Organization. In *Companion Proceedings of the The Web Conference 2018* (*WWW '18*). International World Wide Web Conferences Steering Committee, Republic and Canton of Geneva, CHE, 1685–1686. DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3184558.3192323

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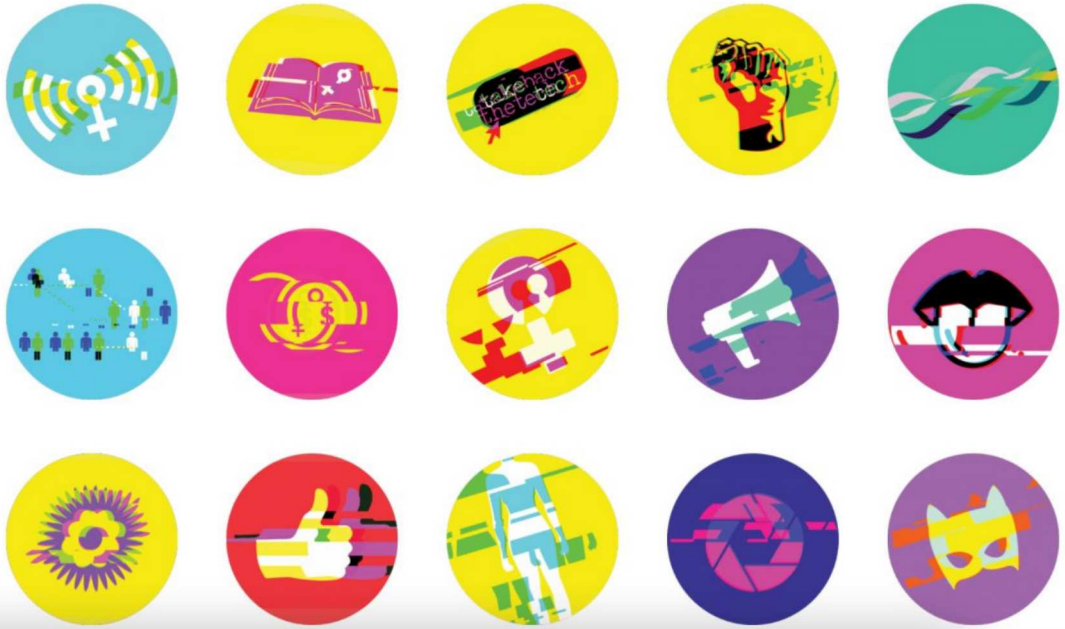


Do we include data-driven research?

The use of Big Bang on the open data sources of the IETF may be a useful tool in the exploration and publication of relevant trends in internet governance, so as to better understand key research sub-questions, such as:

- Diversity of participation in internet governance,
- Influence and marginalization in internet governance,
- Alignment between expressed governance values and feminist principles, and potentially many more.

Open discussion question #1

Can Big Bang measure diversity of participation in internet governance?

If so, how?

And how often?

Open discussion question #2

Can Big Bang measure influence and marginalization in internet governance?

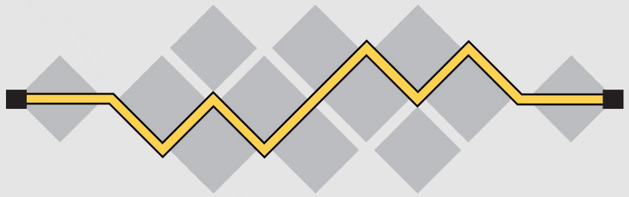
If so, how?

And how often?

To what end? (eg will data make a difference?)

Show me the Numbers

Workshop on Analyzing IETF Data (AID)



IETF®

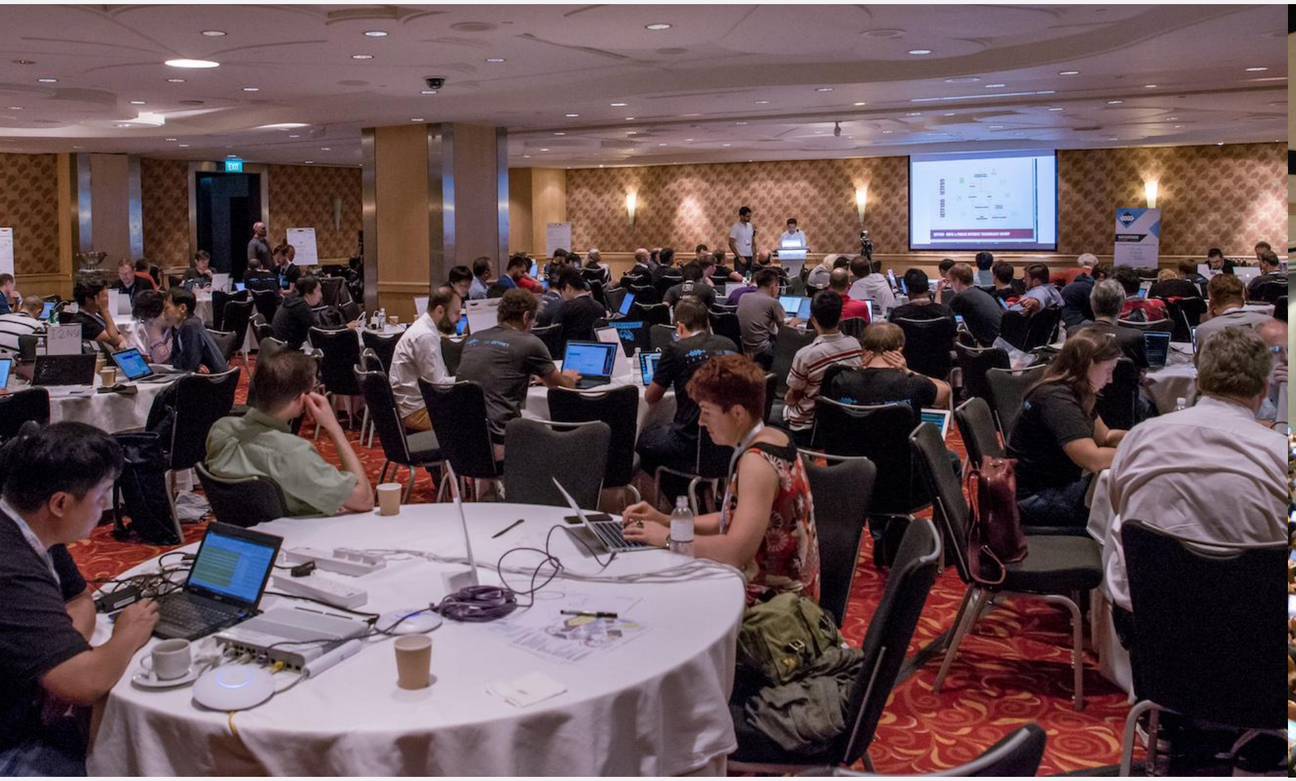
Making the Internet work better

Thanks for working on this
It matters!

Contact me if the IETF could provide or collect additional data that would help your efforts – we're happy to discuss proposals!

Lars Eggert, lars@eggert.org

Community and diversity
Who are we?



33%

Time spent on IETF is personal time

[2021 Community Survey]

Into the Future with the Internet Vendor Task Force
A Very Curmudgeonly View
or
Testing Spaghetti — A Wall's Point of View

Randy Bush
Internet Initiative Japan

It is said that many researchers think the Internet Vendor Task Force (IVTF, nee IETF) has become irrelevant. They are either measuring the real internet as a behavioral phenomenon, which is a bit scary if you think about it, or they are wanting to do research 'beyond' the internet. Neither involves the IETF.

This is partly because of the research community's inability to get deployment traction via the IETF path. The '90s poster children, QOS, DiffServ, IntServ, Self-Serv have a long history of attempts at relevance and deployment via the IETF, none successful in the face of a bandwidth glut and lack of end-to-end signaling in their designs. Whether economics will change sufficiently to give them legs is not clear; I would not bet on it.

But do not think that the direct researcher/operator interface is in the best of shape. For example, as it is widely believed that the majority of congestion is on customer access links, why is WRED not enabled on these links? Why have operators not asked the vendors to make it the default for some types of interfaces?

- The IETF has grown so large and so enamored of complexity and featuritis [1] that it is a a full-time job to participate. Who can afford to spend full-time on the IETF? Vendors with more features to add to sell more baroque systems. It's not an evil conspiracy, but rather a consequence of being enamored of complexity and the vendors' need to keep selling 'new' 'better' products. This is the path the telcom industry took and we know how much radical technology it develops these decades and how profitable local and long distance minutes are.
- The IETF's vendor/market approach has engendered a 'let the market decide' culture. Instead of hard-thought, rigorous, and simple designs, every possible feature gets added and many competing proposals are approved. This last is like throwing spaghetti at the wall to see what sticks, an amusing tactic to everyone but the wall.

The operators are the wall. And they pay capital cost and operational expense to deploy complex features which

Randy Bush. Into the Future with the Internet Vendor Task Force – a Very Curmudgeonly View or Testing Spaghetti: a Wall's Point of View. *SIGCOMM Comput. Commun. Rev. 35*, 5 (October 2005), 67–68. https://doi.org/10.1145/1096536.1096544

So who *is* the IETF?
And why do we care?

our profile

"The IETF is a large, open, international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Internet architecture and the smooth operation of the Internet."

our mission

"The mission of the IETF is to make the Internet work better by producing high quality, relevant technical documents that influence the way people design, use, and manage the Internet."

our challenge

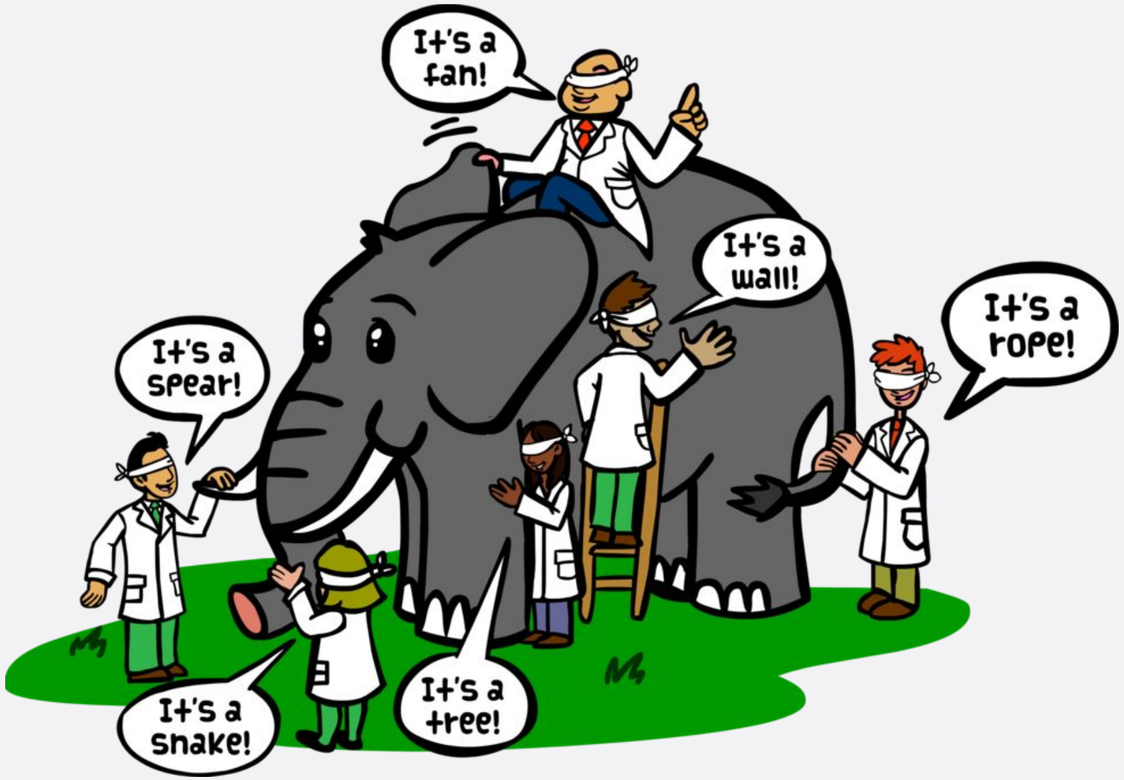
To enable the IETF to fulfill its self-given profile and mission as effectively as possible.

(And to enable evolution of those.)

“If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it.”

“Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.”

Peter Drucker



thank you.