

Report from IASA 2.0 Virtual Workshops

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Outline

- We'll assume you are familiar with the terminology.
- Issues Raised:
 - Structural and Organizational Issues
 - Funding Issues
 - Transparency and Communication Issues
 - Staff and Volunteer Resource Issues
 - Internal IAOC Organizational Issues

Structural and Organizational Issues

Workshop chairs identified structural and organizational issues:

- The **line between the IETF and ISOC is not organizationally clear-cut**, which has led to issues around transparency, allocation of staff time and priorities, budgeting, and clarity of who is responsible for what.
- The **respective roles of ISOC, the IETF chair, the IAOC, and the secretariat** in representing the IETF to sponsors and donors and communicating with them **are not clear**.
- Having ISOC represent the IETF to sponsors and donors:
 - **creates confusion** about why the IETF does not represent itself,
 - yields questions about why ISOC does not instead increase its IETF support and **how donations can be guaranteed to be dedicated to the IETF**, and
 - can result in **those soliciting sponsorships and donations having a lack of familiarity with IETF work**.

Structural and Organizational Issues

Issues raised in the IASA virtual workshops:

- blah

Funding Issues

Workshop chairs identified funding issues:

- **Meeting fees are currently an important source of revenue**, but remote participation and other factors may be responsible for **declining in-person meeting attendance going forward**. Even if fees were charged for remote participation, charging the same for remote and in-person attendance is unlikely to be a viable way to make up the difference.
- While there has been a lot of **sponsor support** for, e.g., meeting hosting, getting support for the full sponsorship program is not easy. The value to sponsors is not always obvious, the IETF community is sometimes critical or unappreciative, and the same sponsors get tapped again and again for many related but different opportunities.
- **Relying heavily on meeting-based revenue is somewhat at odds** with the fact that much of the IETF's work takes place outside of in-person meetings.
- The **IETF is increasingly relying on professional services** to support its activities, causing expenses to grow.

Funding Issues

Issues raised in the IASA virtual workshops:

- blah

Transparency and Communication Issues

Workshop chairs identified transparency/communication issues:

- **IAOC has typically been perceived to operate less transparently** than what is the norm for IETF processes and other IETF leadership bodies.
- **Lack of transparency has some roots** in concerns about confidentiality of contract terms and business relationships, and fear of community reaction to administrative decisions.
- **Requirements** from the community about IAOC transparency expectations **are not clear**.

Transparency and Communication Issues

Issues raised in the IASA virtual workshops:

- blah

Staff and Volunteer Resource Issues

Workshop chairs identified staff/volunteer resource issues:

- **IAD workload is (much) more than a full-time job**, but we have one staff person allocated to it.
- IASA tasks touch on a wider variety of topics and **require more different kinds of expertise than 10 years ago** (visa issues, local social/political/health issues, new modes of fundraising, etc.), but the job descriptions and skill sets of staff and volunteers do not always match these needs.
- **Very few community members have the time, support, and interest to stand for the IAOC** (or even participate in administrative discussions, unless something goes astray), and many who do are self-funding their work.

Staff and Volunteer Resource Issues

Issues raised in the IASA virtual workshops:

- blah

Internal IAOC Organizational Issues

Workshop chairs identified internal IAOC organizational issues:

- **IAOC has constrained membership:** The IAOC has 4 ex officio members (IETF Chair, IAB Chair, ISOC CEO, IAD (non-voting)), and 5 appointed members. One of 5 members is appointed by the ISOC Board of Trustees, and is traditionally expected not to stand for IAOC Chair. This yields:
 - A small pool from which to select the IAOC Chair/IETF Trust Chair
 - Two "worker bees" for IAOC (after appointing IAOC/IETF Trust Chairs)
- **Requiring that the IAOC and the IETF Trust be constituted by the same group of people overloads the job responsibilities of both roles,** narrows the pool of individuals willing and able to serve on the IAOC, and creates the potential for conflicts in cases where the creation of Trust policies requires IAOC oversight.
- **Requiring that the IAB chair serve on the IAOC overloads the IAB Chair's job responsibilities** and narrows the pool of people willing and able to serve as IAB Chair. The same may be true for the IETF Chair.

Internal IAOC Organizational Issues

Issues raised in the IASA virtual workshops:

- blah