                    Procedures for Rights Handling in
                  the RFC Independent Submission Stream

Abstract

   This document specifies the procedures by which authors of RFC
   Independent Submission documents grant the community "incoming"
   rights for copying and using the text. It also specifies the
   "outgoing" rights the community grants to readers and users of those
   documents, and it requests that the IETF Trust manage the outgoing
   rights to effect this result.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

   As the IETF has grown, the process and the community have gotten more
   careful about defining the rights relating to copying documents that
   are granted by authors to the community, and the corresponding rights
   that are granted by the community to readers and users of these
   documents.

   This document defines the copyright procedures for RFC Independent
   Submission documents. It parallels the procedures for IETF-produced
   documents defined in [RFC5377] and [RFC5378].

   In summary, submissions in the Independent Submission stream use the
   same submission procedures and mechanisms that are defined in RFC
   5378, and hence require the same "incoming rights" as IETF-stream
   documents. This document provides advice to the Trustees of the IETF
   Trust on "outgoing" rights to be granted to readers and users of
   Independent Submission documents, and it explicitly requests the IETF
   Trust to manage the rights in accordance with this advice.

   This document also specifies the policies regarding the disclosure of
   Patents and Trademarks that may be relevant to a submission intended
   for the Independent Submission stream.

2. Background

   The concept of RFC streams in general, and the Independent Submission
   stream in particular, are described in Section 5 of [RFC4844] and in
   RFC 4846 [RFC4846]. In general terms, the Independent Submission
   stream continues the long-established tradition in the Internet
   community of allowing and encouraging the RFC Editor to publish
   documents that are relevant to the community but are not products of,
   and do not conflict with, the IETF process. These may be comments on

IETF documents or they may be other work relevant to the Internet
that, historically, the RFC Editor has chosen to publish.

With the publication of [RFC5620], the IETF began a process shift in
which the responsibility for Independent Submission stream
publication will move to an individual designated by the IAB as the
Independent Submission Editor (ISE).

Section 8 of RFC 4846 presented the copyright rules for the
Independent Submission stream. The present document is intended to
be fully consistent with that section and to update it by clarifying
the formal procedures that the IETF Trust will use to effect those
rules.

3. Goals

The goal of the RFC Independent Submission stream is to publish
information that is intended to advance the state of the art and the
interoperability of solutions for use in conjunction with the
Internet. As specified in Section 8 of RFC 4846, the community has
determined that this objective will best be met with a liberal
copyright policy on Independent Submission documents. Therefore, the
Independent Submission policy is to allow any individual reading such
documents to use the content thereof in any manner. The only
restriction is that proper credit ("attribution") must be given.
Lawyers describe this liberal policy by saying that this stream
normally permits "unlimited derivative works". (It should be noted
that this liberal policy was always followed by the original RFC
Editor, Jon Postel; in a sense, the present document is a
formalization of a 30-year-old policy on RFC copyrights.)

However, for a small subset of documents published as Independent
Submissions, it is not reasonable to permit unlimited derivative
works. Examples are proprietary protocols and output from other
standards bodies. In such cases, authors are permitted to request
that the published Independent Submission documents permit no
derivative works.

Note also that this unlimited derivative works policy applies to all
parts of an Independent Submission document, including any code.
Therefore, no separate licensing procedure is required for extracting
and adapting code that is contained in an Independent Submission
document submitted under the (preferred) unlimited derivative works
terms. On the other hand, code may not be extracted and adapted from
Independent Submission documents submitted under the no derivative
works terms.

4. Rules for Submission and Use of Material

   Independent Submission authors will submit their material as
   Internet-Drafts. These drafts will be submitted to, and stored in,
   the IETF Internet-Drafts repository in the same fashion as IETF
   Internet-Drafts.

   During Internet-Draft submission, authors who intend to submit their
   document for publication in the Independent Submission stream will
   grant rights as described in [RFC5378]. To request that the
   contribution be published as an RFC that permits no derivative works,
   an author may use the form specified for use with RFC 5378.

   The IETF Trust will indicate that, in cooperation with the
   Independent Submission Editor, the Trust grants to readers and users
   of material from Independent Submission documents the right to make
   unlimited derivative works, unless the document specifies that no
   derivative works are permitted. This will permit anyone to copy,
   extract, modify, or otherwise use material from Independent
   Submission documents as long as suitable attribution is given.

   Contributors of Internet-Drafts intended for the Independent
   Submission stream will include suitable boilerplate defined by the
   IETF Trust. This boilerplate shall indicate compliance with RFC 5378
   and shall explicitly indicate either that no derivative works can be
   based on the contribution or, as is preferred, that unlimited
   derivative works may be crafted from the contribution.

   It should be understood that the final publication decision for the
   Independent Submission stream rests with the Independent Submission
   Editor (ISE). Compliance with these terms is not a guarantee of
   publication. In particular, the ISE may question the appropriateness
   of a "no derivative works" restriction requested by an author. The
   appropriateness of such usage must be negotiated among the authors
   and the ISE.

5. Procedures Requested of the IETF Trust

   The Independent Submission Editor requests that the IETF Trust and
   its Trustees assist in meeting the goals and procedures set forth in
   this document.

   The Trustees are requested to publicly confirm their willingness and
   ability to accept responsibility for the Intellectual Property Rights
   for the Independent Submission stream. They are also requested to
   indicate their willingness and intent to work according to the
   procedures and goals defined by the ISE.

   Specifically, the Trustees are asked to develop the necessary
   boilerplate to enable the suitable marking of documents so that the
   IETF Trust receives the rights as specified in RFC 5378. These
   procedures need to also allow documents to grant either no rights to
   make derivative works or, preferentially, the right to make unlimited
   derivative works from the documents. It is left to the Trust to
   specify exactly how this shall be clearly indicated in each document.

6. Patent and Trademark Rules for the Independent Submission Stream

   As specified above, contributors of documents for the Independent
   Submission stream are expected to use the IETF Internet-Draft
   process, complying therein with the rules specified in the latest
   version of BCP 9, whose version at the time of writing was [RFC2026].
   This includes the disclosure of Patent and Trademark issues that are
   known, or can be reasonably expected to be known, by the contributor.

   Disclosure of license terms for patents is also requested, as
   specified in the most recent version of BCP 79. The version of BCP
   79 at the time of this writing was [RFC3979], updated by [RFC4879].
   The Independent Submission stream has chosen to use the IETF's IPR
   disclosure mechanism, www.ietf.org/ipr/, for this purpose. The
   Independent Submission Editor would prefer the most liberal terms
   possible be made available for specifications published as
   Independent Submission documents. Terms that do not require fees or
   licensing are preferable. Non-discriminatory terms are strongly
   preferred over those that discriminate among users. However,
   although disclosure is required, there are no specific requirements
   on the licensing terms for intellectual property related to
   Independent Submission publication.

7. Security Considerations

   The integrity and quality of the Independent Submission stream are
   the responsibility of the Independent Submission Editor. This
   document does not change those responsibilities.

8. References

8.1. Normative References

   [RFC2026] Bradner, S., "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision
              3", BCP 9, RFC 2026, October 1996.

   [RFC3979] Bradner, S., "Intellectual Property Rights in IETF
              Technology", BCP 79, RFC 3979, March 2005.

   [RFC4844] Daigle, L. and Internet Architecture Board, "The RFC
              Series and RFC Editor", RFC 4844, July 2007.

   [RFC4846] Klensin, J. and D. Thaler, "Independent Submissions to the
              RFC Editor", RFC 4846, July 2007.

   [RFC4879] Narten, T., "Clarification of the Third Party Disclosure
              Procedure in RFC 3979", BCP 79, RFC 4879, April 2007.

   [RFC5378] Bradner, S. and J. Contreras, "Rights Contributors Provide
              to the IETF Trust", BCP 78, RFC 5378, November 2008.

   [RFC5620] Kolkman, O. and IAB, "RFC Editor Model (Version 1)",
              RFC 5620, August 2009.

8.2. Informative References

   [RFC5377] Halpern, J., "Advice to the Trustees of the IETF Trust on
              Rights to Be Granted in IETF Documents", RFC 5377,
              November 2008.

Authors' Addresses

   Robert Braden
   USC Information Sciences Institute
   4676 Admiralty Way
   Marina del Rey, CA 90292
   US

   EMail: braden@isi.edu

   Joel M. Halpern
   Ericsson
   P. O. Box 6049
   Leesburg, VA 20178
   US

   EMail: jhalpern@redback.com