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Harvard University
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IETF Rights in Contributions

Status of this Memo

This document specifies an Internet Best Current Practices for the Internet Community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

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Abstract

The IETF policies about rights in Contributions to the IETF are designed to ensure that such Contributions can be made available to the IETF and Internet communities while permitting the authors to retain as many rights as possible. This memo details the IETF policies on rights in Contributions to the IETF. It also describes the objectives that the policies are designed to meet. This memo updates [RFC 2026](#), and, with [RFC 3979](#), replaces Section 10 of [RFC 2026](#).

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1. Definitions

The following definitions are for terms used in the context of this document. Other terms, including "IESG," "ISOC," "IAB," and "RFC Editor," are defined in [RFC2028].

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[Section 1](#) gives definitions used in describing these policies. Sections [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), and [6](#) of this document address the rights in Contributions previously covered by [Section 10 of \[RFC2026\]](#) and the "Note Well" explanatory text presented at many IETF activities.

Sections 7 and 8 then explain the rationale for these provisions, including some of the clarifications that have become understood since the adoption of [RFC2026]. The rules and procedures set out in this document are not intended to substantially modify or alter the IETF's current policy toward Contributions.

A companion document [RFC3979] deals with rights in technologies developed or specified as part of the IETF Standards Process. This document is not intended to address those issues.

The rights addressed in this document fall into the following categories:

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- d. except where explicitly excluded (see [Section 5.2](#)), the right to make derivative works within the IETF process.
- e. the right to let third parties extract some logical parts, for example MIB modules

The authors retain all other rights, but cannot withdraw the above rights from the IETF/ISOC.

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9. Security Considerations

This memo relates to IETF process, not any particular technology. There are security considerations when adopting any technology, but there are no known issues of security with IETF Contribution rights policies.

10. References

10.1. Normative References

- [RFC2026] Bradner, S., "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3", [BCP 9](#), [RFC 2026](#), October 1996.
- [RFC2028] Hovey, R. and S. Bradner, "The Organizations Involved in the IETF Standards Process", [BCP 11](#), [RFC 2028](#), October 1996.
- [RFC3979] Bradner, S., Ed, "Intellectual Property Rights in IETF Technology", [BCP 79](#), [RFC 3979](#), March 2005.

10.2. Informative References

- [Berne] "Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Work",
<http://www.wipo.int/edocs/trtdocs/en/wo/wo001en.htm>

11. Acknowledgements

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