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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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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.

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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

The editor would like to acknowledge the help of the IETF IPR Working Group and, in particular the help of Jorge Contreras of Hale and Dorr for his careful legal reviews of this and other IETF IPR-related and process documents. The editor would also like to acknowledge the extensive help John Klensin provided during the development of the document.

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