

Network Working Group
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Category: Best Current Practice

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IETF Discussion List Charter

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 Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) discussion mailing list furthers the development and specification of Internet technology through discussion of technical issues, and hosts discussions of IETF direction, policy, meetings, and procedures. As this is the most general IETF mailing list, considerable latitude is allowed. Advertising, whether to solicit business or promote employment opportunities, falls well outside the range of acceptable topics, as do discussions of a personal nature.

Charter for the IETF Discussion List

The IETF discussion list, ietf@ietf.org, serves two purposes. It furthers the development and specification of Internet technology through discussion of technical issues. It also hosts discussions of IETF direction, policy, meetings, and procedures. As this is the most general IETF mailing list, considerable latitude is allowed. Advertising, whether to solicit business or promote employment opportunities, falls well outside the range of acceptable topics, as do discussions of a personal nature.

This list is meant for initial discussion only. Discussions that fall within the area of any working group or well established list should be moved to such more specific forum as soon as this is pointed out, unless the issue is one for which the working group needs wider input or direction.

In addition to the topics noted above, appropriate postings include:

- Last Call discussions of proposed protocol actions
- Discussion of technical issues that are candidates for IETF work, but do not yet have an appropriate e-mail venue
- Discussion of IETF administrative policies
- Questions and clarifications concerning IETF meetings
- Announcements of conferences, events, or activities that are sponsored or endorsed by the Internet Society or IETF.

Inappropriate postings include:

- Unsolicited bulk e-mail
- Discussion of subjects unrelated to IETF policy, meetings, activities, or technical concerns
- Unprofessional commentary, regardless of the general subject
- Announcements of conferences, events, or activities that are not sponsored or endorsed by the Internet Society or IETF.

The IETF Chair, the IETF Executive Director, or a sergeant-at-arms appointed by the Chair is empowered to restrict posting by a person, or of a thread, when the content is inappropriate and represents a pattern of abuse. They are encouraged to take into account the overall nature of the postings by an individual and whether particular postings are an aberration or typical. Complaints regarding their decisions should be referred to the IAB.

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