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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 3668, 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 [RFC 2026] 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 [RFC 2026]. 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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- 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

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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

- [RFC 2026] Bradner, S., Ed, "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3", BCP 9, RFC 2026, October 1996.
- [RFC 3668] Bradner, S., Ed., "Intellectual Property Rights in IETF Technology", BCP 79, RFC 3668, February 2004.

### 10.2. Informative References

- [Berne] "Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Work",  
<http://www.wipo.int/treaties/ip/berne/index.html>

## 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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