

Liaison Statement		
Title:	Modifications to IETF technologies: RFC 4775	
To:	Mr Malcolm Johnson Director, TSB ITU-T	TSAG, Study Group 13, Study Group 15 ITU-T
From:	IETF	Date: 2007-02-14
Contact:	Leslie Daigle Chair, Internet Architecture Board Brian Carpenter, Chair, IETF	
For:	Information	

This complements and updates our liaison statement of 2005-09-01.

The IETF and the ITU-T have a well-developed working relationship, honed over a number of years. In addition, the 2005 NGN-related workshop in Geneva provided the opportunity for the IETF and ITU-T communities to improve their understanding of the work each organization is currently undertaking.

We recently noted that there are a number of contributions being submitted to the ITU-T that propose changes or extensions to IETF protocols. We would like to draw your attention to the recently published IETF Best Current Practice document “Procedures for Protocol Extensions and Variations” (RFC 4775, BCP 125) which describes the general procedures to be followed in extending or modifying IETF specifications. This RFC is consistent with the discussions previously held between IETF and ITU-T and with our earlier liaison statement.

As was discussed in the wrap-up session following the 2005 meeting, we feel that requirements for extensions or modifications to IETF technologies must be discussed with the IETF before any are worked on in other SDOs including the ITU-T.

We agreed it is a matter of common sense that it is best to standardize and extend a technology where there is the experience and expertise relating to that technology. Where further extensions require codepoint assignment, there often exist formal processes within the originating body to secure that assignment. It would create confusion for the larger Internet and ITU-T communities if overlapping portions of the same technologies were standardized by different organizations in a haphazard manner.

We request that the ITU-T encourage people in the ITU-T community who want to propose changes or extensions to IETF technologies to bring their requirements or proposals to the IETF and that the ITU-T not accept such proposals before the IETF gets a chance to discuss them. The IETF will do the same for requirements or proposals to extend ITU-T technologies.

We do understand that the ITU-T does not police the submission of contributions any more than the IETF polices the submission of Internet Drafts (the IETF form of contribution) so that proposals may show up and should not be taken to represent acceptance by either organization of the proposals.

We trust that this issue can be resolved as we wish to continue the good working relationship that exists between the ITU-T and the IETF as it is the best for the much larger community of people around the world who use the technical standards that we both develop.

Brian Carpenter, Chair, Internet Engineering Task Force
Leslie Daigle, Chair, Internet Architecture Board

URL for RFC 4775: <ftp://ftp.rfc-editor.org/in-notes/rfc4775.txt>