

Overview

- The Internet operates unlike almost any system that you can manage
 - No organization “owns” it
 - No single person manages it
 - Almost all decisions are made by the research community
- Several different groups have control

Internet Architecture Board (IAB)

- Originally a forum for exchange among researchers
- Reorganized in 1989
- Merged into the Internet Society in 1992
- Formerly the *Internet Activities Board*

Components Of The IAB Organization

- IAB (Internet Architecture Board)
 - Board that oversees and arbitrates
- IRTF (Internet Research Task Force)
 - Coordinates research on TCP/IP and internetworking
 - Headed by Internet Research Steering Group (IRSG)
 - Composed of research groups
- IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force)
 - Coordinates protocol and Internet engineering
 - Headed by Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG)
 - Divided into seven areas
 - Each area has a manager
 - Composed of working groups

- Almost all of the information that you want to find out about the Internet can be found in the archives of the IETF:
 - <http://ietf.org/>

Internet Society

- International organization to promote the use of the Internet for research, scholarly communication, and collaboration
- Formed in 1992
- Uses The National Geographic Society as a model
- Not-for-profit
- Governed by a Board Of Trustees
- <http://www.isoc.org>

Request For Comments (RFCs)

- Series of reports about TCP/IP protocols, the Internet, and related technologies
- Edited, not refereed
- Contain surveys, proposals, measurements, and protocol standards
- Numbered in chronological order
- Always evolving (revised document is reissued under new number)
- Available on-line
 - WWW
 - FTP
 - Email

Requirements RFCs

- Host Requirements Documents
 - Major revision/clarification of most TCP/IP protocols
 - RFC 1122 (Communication Layers)
 - RFC 1123 (Application & Support)
 - RFC 1127 (Perspective on 1122-3)
- Gateway Requirement
 - Major specification of protocols used in gateways
 - RFC 1009

For Your Information Notes (FYIs)

- Subset of RFCs
- Provide general information related to TCP/IP and Internet
- Intended for beginners
- Not protocol standards
- Example is RFC 1177: *FYI On Questions and Answers to Commonly Asked “New Internet User” Questions*

TCP/IP Standards

- Currently set by vote of Internet Activities Board (IAB)
- Found in *IAB Official Protocol Standards* RFC
 - Issued semi-regularly
 - Lists status of all TCP/IP protocols
 - Cites RFC in which defined

Internet Drafts

- Preliminary RFC documents
- Often used by IETF working groups
- Available on-line from several repositories
- Either become RFCs within six months or disappear

Obtaining RFCs And Internet Drafts

- Some useful links

`http://ietf.org/rfc.html`

`http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfcsearch.html`

`http://www.rfc-editor.org/`

`http://ietf.org/ID.html`