                            The Tao of IETF
      A Guide for New Attendees of the Internet Engineering Task Force

Status of this Memo

   This memo provides information for the Internet community. It does
   not specify an Internet standard. Distribution of this memo is
   unlimited.

Abstract

   Over the last two years, the attendance at Internet Engineering Task
   Force (IETF) Plenary meetings has grown phenomenally. Approximately
   38% of the attendees are new to the IETF at each meeting. About 33%
   of those go on to become regular attendees. When the meetings were
   smaller, it wasn't very difficult for a newcomer to get to know
   people and get into the swing of things. Today, however, a newcomer
   meets many more new people, some previously known only as the authors
   of Request For Comments (RFC) documents or thought provoking email
   messages.

   The purpose of this For Your Information (FYI) RFC is to explain to
   the newcomers how the IETF works. This will give them a warm, fuzzy
   feeling and enable them to make the meeting more productive for
   everyone. This FYI will also provide the mundane bits of information
   which everyone who attends an IETF meeting should know.

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What is the IETF?

   The IETF is the protocol engineering, development, and
   standardization arm of the Internet Architecture Board (IAB). Its
   mission includes:

   o Identifying, and proposing solutions to, pressing operational and
      technical problems in the Internet;

   o Specifying the development or usage of protocols and the near-term
      architecture to solve such technical problems for the Internet;

   o Making recommendations to the IAB regarding standardization of
      protocols and protocol usage in the Internet;

   o Facilitating technology transfer from the Internet Research Task
      Force (IRTF) to the wider Internet community; and

   o Providing a forum for the exchange of information within the
      Internet community between vendors, users, researchers, agency
      contractors, and network managers.

   The IETF Plenary meeting is not a conference, although there are
   technical presentations. The IETF is not a traditional standards
   organization, although many standards are produced. The IETF is the
   volunteers who meet three times a year to fulfill the IETF mission.

   There is no membership in the IETF. Anyone may register for and
   attend any meeting. The closest thing there is to being an IETF
   member is being on the IETF mailing lists (see the IETF Mailing Lists
   section). This is where the best information about current IETF
   activities and focus can be found.

Humble Beginnings

   The first IETF meeting was held in January, 1986 at Linkabit in San
   Diego with 15 attendees. The 4th IETF, held at SRI in Menlo Park in
   October, 1986, was the first at which non-government vendors
   attended. The concept of Working Groups (WG) was introduced at the
   5th IETF meeting at the NASA Ames Research Center in California in
   February, 1987. The 7th IETF, held at MITRE in McLean, Virginia in
   July, 1987, was the first meeting with over 100 attendees.

   The 14th IETF meeting was held at Stanford University in July, 1989.
   It marked a major change in the structure of the IETF universe. The
   IAB (then, Internet Activities Board), which until that time oversaw
   many Task Forces, changed its structure to leave only two: the IETF
   and the IRTF. The IRTF is tasked to consider the long-term research
   problems in the Internet. The IETF also changed. Those changes are
   visible in today's hierarchy.

The Hierarchy

   To completely understand the structure of the IETF, it is useful to
   understand the overall structure in which the IETF resides. The
   Internet Society (ISOC), formed in January 1992, provides the
   official parent organization for the IETF. The ISOC Board of
   Trustees appoints the members of the IAB. The IETF and IRTF Chairs
   are also IAB members. The IAB provides the final technical review of
   Internet standards. They also provide leadership in the IETF, by
   virtue of their skills and years of experience.

The IETF is divided into nine functional Areas. They are:
Applications, Internet Services, Network Management, Operational
Requirements, OSI Integration, Routing, Security, Transport and
Services, and User Services. Each Area has at least one Area
Director. There is also an Area Director who oversees Standards
Management. The Area Directors, along with the IETF Chair, form the
Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG). Phillip Gross has been
the IETF Chair since the IETF's 7th meeting. He founded the IESG and
serves as its Chair as well. The IESG provides the first technical
review of Internet standards. They are also responsible for the
day-to-day "management" of the IETF.

Each Area has several Working Groups. A Working Group is a group of
people who work under a charter to achieve a certain goal. That goal
may be the creation of an informational document, the creation of a
protocol standard, or the resolution of problems in the Internet.
Most Working Groups have a finite lifetime. That is, once a Working
Group has achieved its goal, it disbands. As in the IETF, there is
no official membership for a Working Group. Unofficially, a Working
Group member is somebody who's on that Working Group's mailing list.
Anyone may attend a Working Group meeting (see the Be Prepared
section below).

Areas may also have Birds of a Feather (BOF) groups. They generally
have the same goals as Working Groups, except that they have no
charter and usually only meet once or twice. BOFs are often held to
determine if there is enough interest to form a Working Group.

IETF Mailing Lists

Anyone who plans to attend an IETF meeting should join the IETF
announcements mailing list. This is where all of the meeting
information, new and revised Internet-Draft and RFC announcements,
IESG Recommendations, and Last Calls are posted. People who'd like
to "get technical" may also join the IETF discussion list,
"ietf@cnri.reston.va.us". This was the only list before the
announcement list was created and is where discussions of cosmic
significance are held (most Working Groups have their own mailing
lists for discussions relating to their work). To join the IETF
announcement list, send a request to:

        ietf-announce-request@cnri.reston.va.us

To join the IETF discussion list, send a request to:

        ietf-request@cnri.reston.va.us

To join both of the lists, simply send a single message, to either
"-request" address, and indicate that you'd like to join both mailing
lists.

Do not, ever, under any circumstances, for any reason, send a request
to join a list to the list itself! The thousands of people on the
list don't need, or want, to know when a new person joins.
Similarly, when changing email addresses or leaving a list, send your
request only to the "-request" address, not to the main list. This
means you!!

The IETF discussion list is unmoderated. This means that anyone can
express their opinions about issues affecting the Internet. However,
it is not a place for companies or individuals to solicit or
advertise. Only the Secretariat can send a message to the
announcement list.

Even though the IETF mailing lists "represent" the IETF membership at
large, it is important to note that attending an IETF meeting does
not automatically include addition to either mailing list.

Registration

As previously mentioned, all meeting announcements are sent to the
IETF announcement list. Within the IETF meeting announcement is a
Registration Form and complete instructions for registering,
including, of course, the cost. The Secretariat highly recommends
that attendees preregister. Early registration, which ends about one
month before the meeting, carries a lower registration fee. As the
size of the meetings has grown, so has the length of the lines at the
registration desk. Fortunately, there are three lines: the
"preregistered and prepaid" line (which moves very quickly); the
"preregistered and on-site payment" line (which moves a little more
slowly); and the "registration and on-site payment" line (take a
guess).

Registration is open all week. However, the Secretariat highly
recommends that attendees arrive for early registration, beginning at
6:00 P.M. (meeting local time), on the Sunday before the opening
plenary. Not only will there be fewer people, but there will also be
a reception at which people can get a byte to eat. If the
registration lines are long, one can eat first and try again when the
lines are shorter. Newcomers are encouraged to attend the IETF
Orientation on Sunday at 4:30 P.M.

Registered attendees (and there isn't any other kind) receive a
Registration Packet. It contains a general orientation sheet, the

At-A-Glance sheet, a list of Working Group acronyms, the most recent
Agenda, and a name tag. The At-A-Glance is a very important
reference and is used throughout the week. It contains Working
Group/BOF room assignments and a map of room locations. Attendees
who prepaid will also find their receipt in their packet.

Dress Code

   Since attendees must wear their name tags, they must also wear shirts
   or blouses. Pants or skirts are also highly recommended. Seriously
   though, many newcomers are often embarrassed when they show up Monday
   morning in suits, to discover that everybody else is wearing T-
   shirts, jeans (shorts, if weather permits) and sandals. There are
   those in the IETF who refuse to wear anything other than suits.
   Fortunately, they are well known (for other reasons) so they are
   forgiven this particular idiosyncrasy.

   The general rule is: "dress for the weather."

Seeing Spots Before Your Eyes

   Some of the people at the IETF will have a little colored dot on
   their name tags. A few people have more than one. These dots
   identify people who are silly enough to volunteer to do a lot of
   extra work. The colors have the following meanings:

       red   - IAB member
       yellow - IESG member
       blue   - Working Group/BOF chair
       green - Local host

   Local hosts are the people who can answer questions about the
   terminal room, and restaurants and points of interest in the area.

   It is important that newcomers to the IETF not be afraid to strike up
   conversations with people who wear these dots. If the IAB and IESG
   members, and Working Group and BOF chairs, didn't want to talk to
   anybody, they wouldn't be wearing the dots in the first place.

   To make life simpler for the Secretariat, Registration Packets are
   also coded with little colored dots. These are only for Secretariat
   use, so the nobody else needs to worry about them.

Terminal Room

   One of the most important (depending on your point of view) things
   the local host does is provide Internet access to the meeting
   attendees. In general, the connectivity is excellent. This is
   entirely due to the Olympian efforts of the local hosts, and their
   ability to beg, borrow and steal. The people and companies who
   donate their equipment, services, and time are to be heartily
   congratulated and thanked.

   While preparation far in advance of the meeting is encouraged, there
   may be some unavoidable "last minute" things which can be
   accomplished in the terminal room. It may also be useful to people
   who need to make trip reports or status reports while things are
   still fresh in their minds.

Social Event

   Another of the most important things organized and managed by the
   local hosts is the IETF social event. The social event has become
   something of a tradition at the IETF meetings. It has been
   immortalized by Marshal Rose with his reference to "many fine lunches
   and dinners" [ROSE], and by Claudio and Julia Topolcic with their
   rendition of "Nerds in Paradise" on a pink T-shirt.

   Newcomers to the IETF are encouraged to attend the social event.
   Everyone is encouraged to wear their name tags. The social event is
   designed to give people a chance to meet on a social, rather than
   technical, level.

   Sometimes, the social event is a computer or high-tech related event.
   At the Boston IETF, for example, the social was dinner at the
   Computer Museum. Other times, the social might be a dinner cruise or
   a trip to an art gallery.

Agenda

   The Agenda for the IETF meetings is a very fluid thing. It is sent,
   in various forms, to the IETF announcement list three times prior to
   the meeting. The final Agenda is included in the Registration
   Packets. Of course, "final" in the IETF doesn't mean the same thing
   as it does elsewhere in the world. The final Agenda is simply the
   version that went to the printers.

   The Secretariat will announce Agenda changes during the morning
   plenary sessions. Changes will also be posted on the bulletin board

near the IETF Registration Table (not the hotel registration desk).

Assignments for breakout rooms (that's where the Working Groups and
BOFs meet) and a map showing the room locations make up the At-A-
Glance sheet (included in the Registration Packets). Room
assignments are as flexible as the Agenda. Some Working Groups meet
multiple times during a meeting and every attempt is made to have a
Working Group meet in the same room each session. Room assignment
changes are not necessarily permanent for the week. Always check the
At-A-Glance first, then the bulletin board. When in doubt, check
with a member of the Secretariat at the Registration Table.

Other General Things

The opening Plenary on Monday morning is the most heavily attended
session. It is where important introductory remarks are made, so
people are encouraged to attend.

The guy wearing the suit is probably Vint Cerf, the President of the
Internet Society and an IAB member. If you see a guy doing a strip
tease out of a suit, it's definitely Vint (but don't come just to see
him do it again; he's only done it once in the Internet's 20 year
history).

The IETF Secretariat, and IETFers in general, are very approachable.
Never be afraid to approach someone and introduce yourself. Also,
don't be afraid to ask questions, especially when it comes to jargon
and acronyms!

Hallway conversations are very important. A lot of very good work
gets done by people who talk together between meetings and over
lunches and dinners. Every minute of the IETF can be considered work
time (much to some people's dismay).

"Bar BOFs" are unofficial get-togethers, usually in the late evening,
during which a lot of work gets done over drinks.

It's unwise to get between a hungry IETFer (and there isn't any other
kind) and coffee break brownies and cookies, no matter how
interesting a hallway conversation is.

IETFers are fiercely independent. It's always safe to question an
opinion and offer alternatives, but don't expect an IETFer to follow
an order.

The IETF, and the plenary sessions in particular, are not places for
vendors to try to sell their wares. People can certainly answer

questions about their company and its products, but bear in mind that
the IETF is not a trade show. This does not preclude people from
recouping costs for IETF related T-shirts, buttons and pocket
protectors.

Registration Bullets

   Registration is such an important topic, that it's in this RFC twice!
   This is the "very important registration bullets" section.

   o To attend an IETF meeting: you have to register and you have to
      pay the registration fee.

   o All you need to do to be registered is to send in a completed
      Registration Form.

   o You may register by mail, email or fax. Email and fax
      registration forms will be accepted until 1:00 P.M. ET on the
      Friday before the meeting.

   o You may preregister and pay, preregister and pay later,
      preregister and pay on-site, or register and pay on-site.

   o To get the lower registration fee, you must register by the early
      registration deadline (about one month before the meeting). You
      can still pay later or on-site.

   o If you don't register by the early registration deadline, a late
      fee is added.

   o Everyone pays the same fees. There are no education or group
      discounts. There are no discounts for attending only part of the
      week.

   o Register only ONE person per registration form. Substitutions are
      NOT allowed.

   o You may register then pay later, but you may not pay then register
      later. Payment MUST be accompanied by a completed registration
      form.

   o Purchase orders are NOT accepted. DD Form 1556 IS accepted.

   o Refunds are subject to a $20 service charge. Late fees will not
      be refunded.

   o The registration fee covers a copy of the meeting's Proceedings,

        Sunday evening reception (cash bar), a daily continental
        breakfast, and two daily coffee breaks.

Mailing Lists and Archives

    As previously mentioned, the IETF announcement and discussion mailing
    lists are the central mailing lists for IETF activities. However,
    there are many other mailing lists related to IETF work. For
    example, every Working Group has its own discussion list. In
    addition, there are some long-term technical debates which have been
    moved off of the IETF list onto lists created specifically for those
    topics. It is highly recommended that everybody follow the
    discussions on the mailing lists of the Working Groups which they
    wish to attend. The more work that is done on the mailing lists, the
    less work that will need to be done at the meeting, leaving time for
    cross pollination (i.e., attending Working Groups outside one's
    primary area of interest in order to broaden one's perspective).

    The mailing lists also provide a forum for those who wish to follow,
    or contribute to, the Working Groups' efforts, but cannot attend the
    IETF meetings.

    All IETF discussion lists have a "-request" address which handles the
    administrative details of joining and leaving the list. It is
    generally frowned upon when such administrivia appears on the
    discussion mailing list.

    Most IETF discussion lists are archived. That is, all of the
    messages sent to the list are automatically stored on a host for
    anonymous FTP access. To find out where a particular list is
    archived, send a message to the list's "-request" address, NOT to the
    list itself.

Important Email Addresses

    There are some important IETF email addresses with which everyone
    should be familiar. They are all located at "cnri.reston.va.us"
    (e.g., "ietf-info@cnri.reston.va.us"). To personalize things, the
    names of the Secretariat staff who handle the lists are given.

    o ietf-info   general queries about the IETF-
                        Greg Vaudreuil, Megan Davies and Cynthia Clark

    o ietf-rsvp   queries about meeting locations and fees,
                        emailed Registration Forms-
                        Debra Legare

    o   proceedings   queries about previous Proceedings availability,
                              orders for copies of the Proceedings-
                              Debra Legare

    o ietf-announce-request
                              requests to join/leave IETF announcement list-
                              Cynthia Clark

    o ietf-request   requests to join/leave IETF discussion list-
                              Cynthia Clark

    o internet-drafts   Internet-Draft submissions-
                              Cynthia Clark

    o iesg-secretary   Greg Vaudreuil

IETF Proceedings

    The IETF Proceedings are compiled in the two months following each
    IETF meeting. The Proceedings usually start with a message from
    Phill Gross, the Chair of the IETF. Each contains the final
    (hindsight) Agenda, an IETF overview, a report from the IESG, Area
    and Working Group reports, network status briefings, slides from the
    protocol and technical presentations, and the attendees list. The
    attendees list includes an attendee's name, affiliation, work phone
    number, work fax number, and email address, as provided on the
    Registration Form.

    A copy of the Proceedings will be sent to everyone who registered for
    the IETF. The cost is included in the registration fee. The
    Proceedings are sent to the mailing addresses provided on the
    Registration Forms.

    For those who could not attend a meeting but would like a copy of the
    Proceedings send a check for $35 (made payable to CNRI) to:

        Corporation for National Research Initiatives
        Attn: Accounting Department - IETF Proceedings
        1895 Preston White Drive, Suite 100
        Reston, VA   22091

    Please indicate which meeting Proceedings you would like to receive
    by specifying the meeting date (e.g., July 1992) or meeting number
    and location (e.g., 24th meeting in Boston). Availability of
    previous meeting Proceedings is limited, so check BEFORE sending
    payment.

Be Prepared

   This topic cannot be stressed enough. As the IETF grows, it becomes
   more and more important for attendees to arrive prepared for the
   Working Groups meetings they plan to attend. This doesn't apply only
   to newcomers; everybody should come prepared.

   Being prepared means having read the documents which the Working
   Group or BOF Chair has distributed. It means having followed the
   discussions on the Working Group's mailing list or having reviewed
   the archives. For the Working Group/BOF Chairs, it means getting all
   of the documents out early enough (i.e., several weeks) to give
   everybody time to read them. It also means announcing an agenda and
   sticking with it.

   At the Chair's discretion, some time may be devoted to bringing new
   Working Group attendees up to speed. In fact, long lived Working
   Groups have occasionally held entire sessions which were introductory
   in nature. As a rule, however, a Working Group is not the place to
   go for training. Observers are always welcome, but they must realize
   that the work effort cannot be delayed for education. Anyone wishing
   to attend a Working Group for the first time might seek out the Chair
   prior to the meeting and ask for some introduction.

   Another thing, for everybody, to consider is that Working Groups go
   through phases. In the initial phase (say, the first two meetings),
   all ideas are welcome. The idea is to gather all the possible
   solutions together for consideration. In the development phase, a
   solution is chosen and developed. Trying to reopen issues which were
   decided more than a couple of meetings back is considered bad form.
   The final phase (the last two meetings) is where the "spit and
   polish" are applied to the architected solution. This is not the
   time to suggest architectural changes or open design issues already
   resolved. It's a bad idea to wait until the last minute to speak out
   if a problem is discovered. This is especially true for people whose
   excuse is that they hadn't read the documents until the day before a
   comments period ended.

   Time at the IETF meetings is a precious thing. Working Groups are
   encouraged to meet between IETF meetings, either in person or by
   video or telephone conference. Doing as much work as possible over
   the mailing lists would also reduce the amount of work which must be
   done at the meeting.

RFCs and Internet-Drafts

   Originally, RFCs were just what the name implies; they were requests
   for comments. The early RFCs were messages between the ARPANET

architects about how to resolve certain problems. Over the years,
RFCs became more formal. It reached the point that they were being
cited as standards, even when they weren't.

Internet Experiment Notes (IEN) were created to become a new informal
document series about the early experimental work on TCP and IP. It
was thought that having "Notes" as part of the name would prevent
them from being cited as standards. As the work matured, the
documentation was done as RFCs.

RFCs continue to be the important documents about the Internet; there
are now two special sub-series within the RFCs: FYIs and STDs. The
For Your Information RFC sub-series was created to document overviews
and things which are introductory. Frequently, FYIs are created by
the IETF User Services Area. The STD RFC sub-series is new. It was
created to identify those RFCs which do specify full Internet
Standards. RFCs of every type have an RFC number by which they are
indexed and by which they can be retrieved. FYIs and STDs have FYI
numbers and STD numbers, respectively, in addition to RFC numbers.
This makes it easier for a new Internet user, for example, to find
all of the helpful, informational documents, by looking in the FYI
index. In addition, FYI and STD numbers never change across a
document revision, while the RFC number does.

Internet-Drafts (I-D) are working documents of the IETF. Any group
(e.g., Working Group, BOF) or individual may submit a document for
distribution as an I-D. An I-D is valid for six months. Recent
guidelines require that an expiration date appear on every page of an
I-D. An I-D may be updated, replaced or obsoleted at any time. It
is not appropriate to use I-Ds as reference material or to cite them,
other than as a "working draft" or "work in progress".

For additional information, read the following documents:

o Request for Comments on Request for Comments [RFC1111]
o F.Y.I. on F.Y.I: Introduction to the F.Y.I notes [RFC1150]
o Introduction to the STD Notes [RFC1311]
o Guidelines to Authors of Internet Drafts [GAID]
o The Internet Activities Board [RFC1160]
o The Internet Standards Process [RFC1310]
o IAB Official Protocol Standards [STD1]

Frequently Asked Questions (and Their Answers)

Q: My Working Group moved this morning. Where is it now?
A: Not all room assignment changes are permanent. Check the At-A-
   Glance sheet and the message board for announcements.

   Q: Where is Room A?
   A: Check the map on the At-A-Glance sheet. An enlarged version is on
      the bulletin board.

   Q: Where can I get a copy of the Proceedings?
   A: The Proceedings are automatically sent to each attendee about two
      months after the meeting.

   Q: When is on-site registration?
   A: The IETF registration table is set up Sunday night from 6:00 p.m.
      - 8:00 p.m. and Monday - Thursday from about 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
      Starting time in the mornings and Friday's hours may vary
      depending on the meeting schedule.

   Q: Where is lunch served?
   A: The meeting does not include lunch or dinner. Ask a local host
      (somebody with a green dotted badge) for a recommendation.

   Q: Where are the receipts for the social event?
   A: The social is not managed by the IETF Secretariat. Ask a local
      host.

Pointers to Useful Documents and Files

   This is a list of documents and files that provide useful information
   about the IETF meetings, Working Groups, and documentation. These
   files reside in the "ietf" directory on the Anonymous FTP sites
   listed below. Files with names beginning with "0" (zero) pertain to
   IETF meetings. These may refer to a recently held meeting if the
   first announcement of the next meeting has not yet been sent to the
   IETF mailing list. Files with names beginning with "1" (one) contain
   general IETF information. This is only a partial list of the
   available files.

   o 0mtg-agenda.txt   Agenda for the meeting
   o 0mtg-at-a-glance.txt   Logistics information for the meeting
   o 0mtg-rsvp.txt   Meeting registration form
   o 0mtg-sites.txt   Future meeting sites and dates
   o 0mtg-traveldirections.txt   Directions to the meeting site

   o 1directories.txt   The IETF Shadow directory locations and
                                  contents.
   o 1id-guidelines.txt   Guidelines to Authors of Internet-Drafts
                                  Contains information on writing and
                                  submitting I-Ds.
   o 1ietf-description.txt   Short description of the IETF and IESG,
                                  including a list of Area Directors.

    o 1nonwg-discuss.txt   A list of mailing lists created to
                                discuss specific IETF issues.
    o 1proceedings-request.txt A Proceedings order form for the
                                current and previous meetings
    o 1wg-summary.txt   List of all Working Groups, by Area,
                                including the name and address of the
                                chairperson, and the mailing list
                                address.

    Additionally, the charters and minutes of the Working Groups and BOFs
    are archived in the "ietf" directory.

    All of these documents are available by anonymous FTP from the
    following sites:

    o DDN NIC   Address: nic.ddn.mil (192.112.36.5)
    o East Coast (US) Address: nnsc.nsf.net (128.89.1.178)
    o West Coast (US) Address: ftp.nisc.sri.com (192.33.33.22)
    o Pacific Rim   Address: munnari.oz.au (128.250.1.21)
    o Europe   Address: nic.nordu.net (192.36.148.17)

    The files are also available via email from various mail servers. To
    to get the agenda and meeting summary from the mail server at SRI
    International, for example, you would send the following message:

       To: mail-server@nisc.sri.com   Message header
       Subject: anything you want

       send 0mtg-agenda.txt   Body of the message
       send 0mtg-at-a-glance.txt

    Residing on the same archive sites are the RFCs and Internet-Drafts.
    They are in the "rfc" and "internet-drafts" directories,
    respectively. The file "rfc-index.txt" contains the latest
    information about the RFCs (e.g., which have been obsoleted by
    which). In general, only the newest version of an Internet-Draft is
    available.

    Mail servers can also be used to retrieve RFCs and I-Ds. To use
    SRI's mail server to get an RFC, simply include a "send command" in
    the body of the message for the desired RFC. For example:

       send rfc1150

    or use a special RFC shorthand:

       rfc 1150

For Internet-Drafts, include the name (yes, they are very long) in a
"send" command line. For example:

    send draft-ietf-ripv2-mibext-03.txt

RFCs may also be retrieved, using email, from ISI's RFC-Info server
at "rfc-info@isi.edu". To get a specific RFC, include the following
in the body of the message:

    Retrieve: RFC
     Doc-ID: RFC0951

This example would cause a copy of RFC 951 (the leading zero in the
Doc-ID is required) to be emailed to the requestor.

To get a list of available RFCs which match certain criteria, include
the following in the body of the message:

    LIST: RFC
     Keywords: Gateway

This example would email a list of all RFCs with "Gateway" in the
title, or as an assigned keyword, to the requestor.

To get a copy of the RFC-Info manual:

    HELP: Manual

To get information on other ways to get RFCs:

    HELP: ways_to_get_rfcs

Tao

    Pronounced "Dow", Tao means "the Way." It is the basic principle
    behind the teachings of Lao-tse, a Chinese master. Its familiar
    symbol is the black and white Yin-Yang circle.

IETF Area Abbreviations

    APP   Applications
    INT   Internet Services
    MGT   Network Management
    OPS   Operational Requirements
    OSI   OSI Integration
    RTG   Routing
    SEC   Security
    TSV   Transport and Services
    USV   User Services

Acronyms

    :-)   Smiley face
    ANSI   American National Standards Institute
    ARPANET   Advanced Research Projects Agency Network
    AS   Autonomous System
    ATM   Asynchronous Transfer Mode
    BGP   Border Gateway Protocol
    BOF   Birds Of a Feather
    BSD   Berkeley Software Distribution
    BTW   By The Way
    CCIRN   Coordinating Committee for Intercontinental Research Networks
    CCITT   International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Comittee
    CNI   Coalition for Networked Information
    CREN   The Corporation for Research and Educational Networking
    DARPA   U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
    DDN   U.S. Defense Data Network
    DISA   U.S. Defense Information Systems Agency
    EGP   Exterior Gateway Protocol
    FAQ   Frequently Asked Question
    FARNET   Federation of American Research NETworks
    FIX   U.S. Federal Information Exchange
    FNC   U.S. Federal Networking Council
    FQDN   Fully Qualified Domain Name
    FYI   For Your Information (RFC)
    GOSIP   U.S. Government OSI Profile
    IAB   Internet Architecture Board
    IANA   Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
    I-D   Internet-Draft

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     IEN       Internet Experiment Note
     IESG      Internet Engineering Steering Group
     IETF      Internet Engineering Task Force
     IGP       Interior Gateway Protocol
     IMHO      In My Humble Opinion
     IMR       Internet Monthly Report
     IR        Internet Registry
     IRSG      Internet Research Steering Group
     IRTF      Internet Research Task Force
     ISO       International Organization for Standardization
     ISOC      Internet Society
     ISODE     ISO Development Environment
     ITU       International Telecommunication Union
     MIB       Management Information Base
     MIME      Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
     NIC       Network Information Center
     NIS       Network Information Services
     NIST      National Institute of Standards and Technology
     NOC       Network Operations Center
     NREN      National Research and Education Network
     NSF       National Science Foundation
     OSI       Open Systems Interconnection
     PEM       Privacy Enhanced Mail
     PTT       Postal, Telegraph and Telephone
     RARE      Reseaux Associes pour la Recherche Europeenne
     RFC       Request For Comments
     RIPE      Reseaux IP Europeenne
     SIG       Special Interest Group
     STD       Standard (RFC)
     TLA       Three Letter Acronym
     TTFN      Ta-Ta For Now
     UTC       Universal Time Coordinated
     WG        Working Group
     WRT       With Respect To
     WYSIWYG   What You See is What You Get
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Security Considerations

    Security issues are not discussed in this memo.

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