



REFEDS and the RFC Series

REFEDS meeting
26 October 2014
Indianapolis, IN, US

What is the RFC Series?

- The RFC series is the publication vehicle for technical specifications and policy documents produced by the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force), the IAB (Internet Architecture Board), or the IRTF (Internet Research Task Force).
- The **independent submission** stream allows RFC publication for some documents that are outside the official IETF/IAB/IRTF process but are relevant to the Internet community and achieve reasonable levels of technical and editorial quality.
- REFEDS is using the Independent Submission stream to submit documents for publication in the RFC Series.

Status of REFEDS RFCs

- One document has been submitted through the ISE: “The Entity Category SAML Attribute Types” <draft-young-entity-category-02>
 - The ISE is going above and beyond his usual efforts to make sure this draft (and the REFEDS ‘boilerplate’) gets as much exposure as possible
- As more documents come through REFEDS last call, we will see more submitted to the ISE
 - If REFEDS ever wants a document to be more than just an Informational RFC, we need to request a working group within the IETF. Members of the IESG would like that very much.

List of Documents To Be Submitted by/for/through REFEDS

- Metadata Query Protocol - <draft-young-md-query>
- SAML Profile for the Metadata Query Protocol - <draft-young-md-query-saml>
- And eventually...
 - F-ticks documentation
 - Additional entity category information
 - REEP documentation

Upcoming Changes to the RFC Series

- Moving away from ASCII-only, plain-text documents
- XML will be the canonical, immutable source
- PDF/A-3, HTML, TXT, and (eventually) EPUB will be the publication outputs
 - publication formats may be re-rendered after publication if a bug in the rendering code has introduced an error
- For a summary of the changes and the drafts that describe the requirements, see `<draft-flanagan-rfc-framework>`
- Expect the first documents to be published in the new formats towards the end of 2015

Ye Olde ASCII

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meow!

SVG Line Art



Other Items of Note

- Authors can submit plain-text drafts if they are unwilling to learn XML
 - but then they are limited to what can be published; no SVG line art, for example
- Don't expect the new RFCs to look like they do today
- The PDF/A-3 with the embedded source file will be the target for formal digital archiving
 - Note: looking for archive partners who will accept and store RFCs and associated metadata!
- Non-ASCII characters (e.g., in authors names) will be allowed