

Working Group Repository Process

The Decentralized Identity Foundation (DIF) sets guidelines for Repository Process that each Working Group can ratify during their meetings. The process is designed to simplify and consolidate GitHub status tracking of work items managed by the Working Group.

1. Repository Process

1.1. Repository Maintainer

Maintainers are expected to handle the repository management as described in the Repository Process (below)

1.2. Repository Maintainer selection

Maintainers must be Working Group Participants selected by Working Group Participants via consensus. At least 3 maintainers to be active at any given time operating the Repository Process for the Working Group. Maintainers must have different company affiliations to represent the diversity of the Working Group.

1.3. Repository process

The Repository process is an extension of the Deliverable Development Process – Draft section detailed in DIF’s Charter with a goal to introduce a repository management processes for the work section developed by the Working Group. The process also enables better alignment with the original work carried out within the Aries community.

Following the Pre-Draft proposal submission stage described in DIF’s Charter, the Draft Development Process goes through a three-state lightweight lifecycle tracked on GitHub by the Maintainers to signal the current status of each section.

The three stages of the lifecycle are:

- PROPOSED
- REFINING
- STABLE

The status of a section is given in a one-line statement “status: PROPOSED” on GitHub. A section moves from one status to the next when a PR is merged that changes this statement.

Merging section content in the PROPOSED state:

Maintainers should accept it as long as it is syntactically clean and passes a smell test for compatibility with the scope and intent of the Working Group’s scope. Changes that aren’t substantive (improved wording, clearer diagrams, updated hyperlinks, better spelling and punctuation) should be merged by the Maintainers without a need for consensus or voting. Changes that materially change the meaning of the section should

be associated with GitHub issues that have to be resolved in the community. A section should be at a PROPOSED status for at least 2 weeks.

Assigning section content in the REFINING state:

When the Working Group Participants come to a consensus about the amount and type of content that's appropriate. While in this state, all substantive changes to the section must be associated with a GitHub issue and must either be approved by a maintainer different from the person who raised the issue, or by consensus among Working Group Participants during a Working Group call. During the REFINING state, the Working Group will request feedback from other decentralized identity-related communities. Further validation and improvement of the section can/expected to be done via (code) implementations and testing.

Assigning section content in the STABLE state:

when all of the following conditions are met

- There is quality code demonstrates the concepts it describes.
- There are no outstanding issues related to that section that the Working Group Participants consider substantive.
- The Working Group has at least X conformant implementations originated outside of the Working Group
- A 2-week final comment period has elapsed without any substantive objections to the STABLE status. The start of the comment period should be announced on the Working Group mailing list.

Once a section reaches STABLE status non-substantive changes can be merged at maintainer discretion, however, substantive changes must be discussed on a Working Group call or asynchronously via GitHub issues.

Once all expected sections of the Scope reach the STABLE stage the Working Group commences the work carried out during the Draft stage to Working Group Approved stage as described in DIF's Charter.