

## Learning from the IETF to build better governance of the BGIN

### 1. Project Management

#### a. Website

##### Insights

- All versions of documents since the beginning of the WG's project are recorded with schedules on the datatracker. RFCs (Requests for Comments) are formatted and easy for everyone to read.

Example: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-satp-architecture/>

- The WG's objectives, personnels, and mailing list information are all detailed in the data tracker.

Example: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/satp/about/>

- WG chairs and/or their assistants update and maintain the website.

##### Analyses

- Transparency of document versioning and scheduling, even from beginners, lowers the barrier to entry for new participants.
- If the fundamental purpose is to create documents, it is always necessary to publish even a short paper before starting any discussion.
- The Secretary's Office does not need to centrally manage the website., But the WG Chairs manage it independently according to the rules of the entire organization once the rules are established.

#### b. Workshop facilitation

##### i. Agenda

##### Insights

- Each working group has several projects to create documents, for which 10-20 minutes are allocated for a presentation.
- Research groups do not generally have documents, but time is allocated for a presentation to make proposals for new projects and improvements.
- To keep discussions focused, most presentations start with an overview of the project schedule, current document status, and specific discussion points.

- Documents to be discussed are uploaded on the website two weeks before the meeting, and most speakers have read the documents in advance.

#### Analyses

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agenda is very clear, so discussions are focused and less likely to be not focused</li> <li>• Discussions lead to efficient decision-making because there is a common understanding among participants regarding the purpose of the discussion</li> <li>• Meetings serve as a sort of milestone for the projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to read the document in advance is required of participants.</li> <li>• If there are no comments, it is more of a debriefing than a discussion forum – Is it suitable for multi-stakeholder type discussions?</li> </ul>

#### ii. Discussion

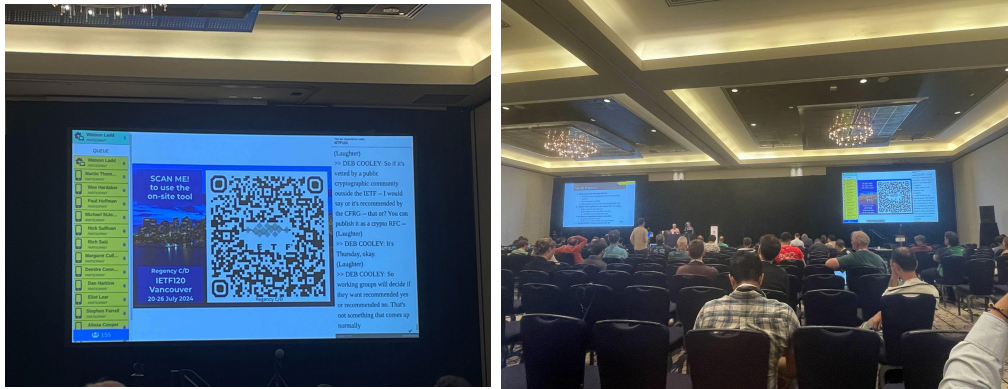
#### Insights

- Anyone can access the WebRTC app called Meetecho with a browser without installing an app and line up to the queue for remarks (<https://www.meetecho.com/en/>)
- The names in the queue are displayed on the screen, and WG chairs check the queue and call out the names each by each to speak in turn.
- Speakers need to use microphones placed in the middle of the room. They are supposed to state their name and affiliations.
- There are processes to carefully make sure that there is a common understanding of the definition of terminology to be used, both in documentation and in discussion.

#### Analyses

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The queuing system prevents one person from continuing to talk and the discussion from going off the rails.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most discussions are between WG chairs/presenters and participants, which isn't great for interactive dialogues.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a very effective system for documentation purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ability to steer the discussion well depends largely on the WG Chairs</li> </ul>
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c. Decision Making

Insights

- For issues that come up in participants' comments that require new work, people who are willing to help with that new work tend to raise their hands, and the next step is decided during the meeting.
- People trusted by the community in terms of industry experience and maintaining neutrality are selected for WG Chairs, and they are committed to running the WG in a neutral manner that balances politics and diversity.
- For all decision-making in WGs, there are no formal rules but rather a rough consensus. While some may present objections to the direction of any decision-making, the final discretion rests with the WG Chairs.

Analyses

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no firm consensus rules, so projects can proceed quickly at the discretion of the WG Chairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate decision-making depends on the ability of WG Chairs</li> <li>It is necessary to be careful in selecting WG Chairs</li> </ul>

d. Incentives

Insights

- All participants, including the WG Chairs, join the projects on a volunteer basis and are not paid. The IETF strongly emphasizes that the participants are participating on an individual basis only.
- Many people are dispatched by companies to participate in the project, but some of the more experienced participants, especially those in WG Chairs, are “standardization professionals” and are independent.
- While some of the people dispatched by companies have their own day jobs, others are allowed by the company to work almost full-time in standardized activities.
- Although standardization professionals may be paid by companies involved in the IETF, they are disincentivized from neutrality in maintaining their positions in the IETF.
- A big reason for phd students to attend IETF would be the opportunity for networking and recruiting with companies

#### Analyses

- There is no incentive for companies in the Blockchain industry to pay salaries for personnel who commit to BGIN/standardization activities.
- While PhD students are candidates as people who can make a hands-on contribution to the documentation, WG Chairs need to have the experience to be able to steer multi-stakeholder type discussions in consideration of neutrality.
- Candidates for WG Chairs would be those whose personal or corporate objectives are aligned with the ultimate objectives of the WG and who has a high level of experience and understanding of the industry (academia, government, non-profit?)
- In any case, the inclusion of PhD students is important, and for this reason, the BGIN needs to provide networking opportunities.

## 2. Sponsors

### a. Incentives

#### Insights

- Sponsors are rewarded with free tickets, but they do not directly influence standardization activities just by becoming a sponsor.
- Early access to information about the process of creating industry standards creates an incentive through the fear of missing out.

- Sponsors can demonstrate commitment to standardization activities to achieve the interoperability needed for market expansion.

#### Analyses

- Standardization to achieve social acceptance and interoperability of blockchain is not a good incentive for crypto-asset related companies.
- It may be easier to explain that standardization is for objectives such as AML/CFT and Security, which urgently need to be achieved at a minimum level to be accepted by the public.
- Creating an incentive for them through the fear of missing out may be a priority. For example, not participating in standardization activities may make it difficult to maintain industry credibility, may expose them to regulatory risk, etc.

#### b. Neutrality

##### Insights

- They never decline sponsorship o
- ffers from companies for the purpose of maintaining the neutrality of the IETF, whatever companies they are.
- The IETF strongly emphasizes that all of the participants are joining on an individual basis only. Sponsorship does not make it possible to achieve standardization that serves only the interests of that company. The community as a whole and the WG Chairs objectively evaluated the quality of the proposal and work, not in the consideration of sponsorship.
- It is almost impossible to standardize on a plan that allows only one sponsor to win and get away with it. But there is an aspect of competing to promote standardization in a direction that is a win-win for all companies involved, but also a big win for one's own company.

#### Analyses

- BGIN should be cautious in its choice of sponsors until the BGIN is on track to acquire diverse sponsors.
- If any sponsor is accepted, the governance of the BGIN should also be reviewed. The items to be reviewed include:
  - Process for sponsors to make any proposals
  - Role of the Industry Advisory Board

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Participation as an individual vs. as a representative of a company</li><li>- Consensus Mechanism</li></ul> |
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### 3. Other learnings

#### a. The Internet community's view on the blockchain industry

- Steady efforts to create standardized documents and build consensus have made possible the security and interoperable specifications of the current Internet.
- The blockchain industry, on the other hand, has skipped this process, and products created through "Agile development" have been quickly commercialized, and fragile interoperability and security measures have begun to be implemented later on.
- The "uncontrolled" nature of the blockchain community is viewed by the Internet community and many dislike it, which is why blockchain engineers do not tend to be accepted in the IETF. (And they don't even know that the IETF exists either.)

#### b. The roles of BGIN to bridge with the IETF

- There are only a limited number of people in the blockchain industry who have an understanding of how to conduct such standardization activities. Therefore, it is imperative to enlist the help of people in communities such as the IETF.
- BGIN can serve as a bridge between those in the Blockchain industry who are willing to have their understanding and the communication between these communities.
- If BGIN cannot become a standardization organization like the IETF due to lack of personnel or resources, then perhaps BGIN could organize an interest group of people in the blockchain industry and bring standardization proposals to the IETF.

#### c. Multi-stakeholder discussion

- In conducting a multi-stakeholder discussion, if different stakeholders gather in one place and discuss a matter suddenly, the discussion will not be focused.
- It is a prerequisite to clarify the purpose of multi-stakeholder discussion and to create a document that assists in a common understanding of the definition of the terminology to be used for the discussion.
- It is necessary to adopt a communication mechanism that allows different stakeholders to easily comment on each other's documents.
- Only after such preparations can multi-stakeholder discussions work.