

Routing Area Chair Training: Interim Meetings

2015-Jan-21

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"Interim" and "Virtual Interim"

in·ter·im /'in(t)ərəm/

(noun) the intervening time. (adj) in or for the intervening period; provisional or temporary

vir·tu·al /'vərCH(əw)əl/

(adj) almost or nearly as described, but not completely or according to strict definition. COMPUTING

- (adj) 1. not physically existing as such but made by software to appear to do so.
 - 2. carried out, accessed, or stored by means of a computer, especially over a network.

Sources:

https://www.google.com/search?q=define%20interim https://www.google.com/search?q=define%20virtual

Principle Purpose

Interim Meetings, in general, provide more time

- I.e. more than just regular meetings 3x per year
- "high-bandwidth discussions on specific issues"¹

In-Person Interim Meetings have highest bandwidth

- Require AD approval
- F2F time reminds us we're all human (sometimes results in better list behavior later)

Virtual Interim Meetings have lower cost (vs In-Person)

- Require WG Chair approval
- Can be exercised more often
- Release Valve and/or Filter for presentations that may not belong in face-to-face meetings²
- 1 https://www.ietf.org/iesg/statement/interim-meetings.html
- 2 But still not an excuse to really waste people's time

Motivation for Interims

More Time Needed

— Do you lack time at IETFs for in-depth discussions because of too many presentations?

More Action Needed

- Is your WG having sufficient active discussion on the mailing list that engages and comes to resolution?
- Do you have lots of participants who are deadline driven?

Motivation: Virtual Interim?

Higher Bandwidth Needed

- Are there topics where a good voice conversation among the interested set would resolve issues that have dragged on?
- Do you need to go through a long list of technical details - where voice would really help?
- Do you want a way of having a focused conversation to resolve an issue where everyone participating is up to speed?

Motivation: In-Person Interim?

More Community Needed

— Are there other communities that you'd like to pull in for specific topics and think that co-locating with would be useful?

More Collaboration Needed

- Do your contributors need to be reminded that they're part of the same community, be encouraged to respect each other?
- Do you need to inspire people to self-organize on various needed drafts?

In Practice

- Chairs should decide on the best meeting mechanism(s) for the WG's purpose(s)
 - In-person
 - Phone conference
 - IM session (IRC, Jabber, whatever)
 - **—** ...

- IETF can provide WebEx accounts
 - Audio + Screen / Presentation Sharing
 - Useful for both in-person and virtual meetings

Scheduling

- Decide how often, how long, etc.
 - It seems helpful to have a regular cadence (i.e. not just random meetings)
- Avoid conflicts
 - https://www.ietf.org/meeting/interim.html
- Pick some target dates and refine
 - You will disappoint some set of constituents!
 - Chairs, secretary, ADs, et al, are keystone attendees
 - Email potential presenters / discussion leaders
 - Doodle polls, etc, for broader availability
 - Be fair and open to all contributors

Announcing

- Announcement Timeframes
 - In-person Interim Meetings require 4 week notice
 - Virtual Interim Meetings require 2 week notice
- Announcement Process
 - Send a message to the WG mailing list
 - Ask the Secretariat to send to ietf-announce

(iesg-secretary@ietf.org)

Meeting Logistics: Tool Setup

- Create the meeting in Material Manager
- Create the WebEx meeting

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See screenshots in Appendix

Meeting Space

- Physical space issues:
 - Be sure to get adequate space from a Host
 - Build in a buffer / margin to your headcount
 - Plan ahead for building security coordination
 - Consider needs of handicapped participants
- Human Needs
 - Make sure to include bio-breaks in long meetings
 - Consider how people will get food etc
 - Bring in food if possible! (Funding, logistics, etc)
 - Be aware that some people have dietary constraints...
- Travel Assistance
 - Choose Host and location carefully, to be fair to all
 - Provide details, like airport IATA codes and local hotels
- If you require signup in advance, be clear
 - Use a tool like Eventbrite to make life easier

Meeting Mechanics

- Run the meeting
 - Pay attention, ask questions, encourage discussion
 - But don't dominate
- Manage noise
 - On phone bridges, WebEx, etc, put people on mute and disable entry/exit beeps
 - Decide whether to force queues or allow people to unmute themselves
 - Communicate about this and set expectations
- Make sure participants are heard
 - Watch chat sessions, raised hands in WebEx, etc.
- Remote participation for In-person meetings
 - Is good to enable, but sometimes difficult
 - Don't ruin the in-person value for a speakerphone

Agenda: Focus!

- Keep in mind:
 - "high-bandwidth discussions on specific issues" 1
- Focus: pick a topic, center the agenda on it
 - Reject presentations / discussions that don't fit
- Leave ample time for open discussion on topic
 - It's better to return unused time, versus missing the opportunity to have meaningful discussion

Proceedings

- Treat Interims just like Regular meetings:
 - Take minutes
 - Collect "Blue Sheets"¹
- Post slides and Minutes to Material Manager
 - Minutes, including a list of attendees, must be sent to <u>proceedings@ietf.org</u> within 10 days
 - They'll be available to the public²

^{1 - &}lt;a href="https://www.ietf.org/documents/interim-meeting-blue-sheet-f2f.pdf">https://www.ietf.org/documents/interim-meeting-blue-sheet-f2f.pdf

^{2 - &}lt;a href="https://www.ietf.org/meeting/interim/proceedings.html">https://www.ietf.org/meeting/interim/proceedings.html

APPENDIX

















