Speech at the opening ceremonies at ICANN 52, Singapore, February 2015 by Jari Arkko, IETF Chair

Introduction

Thank you, Steve. Good morning all. I am very glad to be here, in Singapore, and at the ICANN meeting. My name is Jari Arkko, and as Steve noted, I am the chair of the Internet Engineering Task Force or IETF. I am based near Helsinki, Finland, and like all IETF contributors, I am a volunteer, and I have a day job developing Internet technology at Ericsson Research.

Why am I here today?

I wanted to begin by talking about the Internet ecosystem, and why someone from the IETF is on the podium today. The ecosystem includes many, many independent organizations, but also many common projects. Both the IETF and ICANN share a vision of a global and growing Internet, each taking care of its own, well-defined responsibilities towards that larger goal.

The ecosystem also has people who participle the work across organizations. Starting with Steve, of course: you were there when the IETF began, you were there when RFC #1 was published.

I wanted to point out a few areas where we work very closely. The obvious first example is IANA – The IETF relies on IANA holding a database of protocol parameters, such as port numbers. Every year about 8000 parameters get added or modified. Our partnership on IANA has been very fruitful for both organizations. I wanted to thank Elise Gerich and others at the IANA department for their hard work.

I also wanted to highlight the many connections in our leadership. For instance, Jonne Soininen is IETF's liaison to the ICANN board. Terry Manderson, who is ICANN staff, has a long history of doing volunteer work at the IETF, and is now starting in our steering group next month.

And, of course, we and several other organizations are working together on the IANA transition project. You may have seen some of us IETFers in the ICG, but I wanted to point out a few additional people: Andrew Sullivan, the chair of the IANA program for the Internet Architecture Board, and Marc Blanchet, chair of our IANAPLAN working group.

I want to thank these people, and others who I didn't have time to mention. The real co-operation happens at the grass roots level, when the relevant people join the working groups they care about. We need that, perhaps even more than we have now.

What does the IETF do?

I wanted to speak a briefly about what the IETF does and how it works. The IETF of course is developing core technology for the Internet.

Our mission is to make the Internet work better by producing relevant technical documents that influence the way people design, use, and manage the Internet. The set of standards used to define the DNS is just one example.

We are an international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers. The IETF is open to any interested individual. Although we also do have three meetings a year, most of our work is conducted over the Internet.

Our standards are openly developed and freely available, and we measure success by the extent to which they are deployed and used.

Permissionless Innovation and Our Key Development Efforts

When anyone is developing Internet technology, what they usually try to achieve is something we call permissionless innovation. That is, technology that allows others to create new innovations, without limits and without having to come back to anybody when a new application is enabled. So far, it seems to be working pretty well for the Internet — just think of the millions of applications the web has enabled.

The IETF has over 120 working groups. The most active and exciting work, I think, is happening in three areas:

- Internet of things, enabling devices around us to speak IP and become more useful to us, for instance, to save energy or provide new functions.
- As you know, improving security and privacy in the Internet has been always an issue, but particularly so in the last couple of years. We are doing everything we can from a technical perspective, so that we have the tools for better privacy in the Internet.
- We are also developing further the Web protocols that we are responsible for. Such as HTTP. A new version this protocol we all know will be out soon, with significant efficiency improvements. And we are making it possible for you to make phone and video calls directly from Web browsers—no plug-ins required.

I am sure that the work of the IETF in these areas will enable many new applications, for instance, making it possible for anyone with a web server to become a voice call provider. Not just the Skypes of the world.

Where are with the IANA transition?

Finally, I wanted to return to the IANA transition topic.

The IETF is responsible for protocol parameters, and I want to talk about how we work with IANA on that topic. These arrangements are the result of long-term evolution on this matter; the communities have grown to have the

processes and agreements to be able to deal with protocol parameters and their IANA registries in the right manner. The transition is another step in that process.

The IETF has an agreement with ICANN for IANA services relating to protocol parameters. IETF is the body responsible for setting all policies in this area, documented in RFCs. IANA's responsibility is to implement those policies and publish a database of the parameters. Oversight and resolution in dispute cases is provided by the Internet Architecture Board.

Together with the other communities, we have been working to produce a transition proposal since last March. For the protocol parameters part, we used the normal IETF process, created a working group, made a proposal, and brought that proposal forward through an open community process. Our proposal is ready, and we are now taking the next steps, readying ourselves for the transition.

If issues arise, the IETF resolves them with other organizations. For example, we are now working directly with RIRs, on an issue where some further alignment is needed.

Summary

With that, I want to thank you and close. I know we will continue the work together on these and other areas, starting from the next session from 10:30 where the ICG will discuss IETF and other proposals for the transition. Please join the session!