

Public Executive Director Report

For the IETF Administration LLC Board meeting on 8 April 2026

This report is provided by the IETF Executive Director and is taken as read. This report is public.

1. Strategic Matters

Nothing to report

2. Policies

Antitrust

The ED presented the new Antitrust training course to the WG Chairs Forum at IETF 125 Shenzhen. This was well received and some complex questions were asked that required legal advice to answer correctly. The presentation will shortly be made available to all IETF participants.

3. Finance

Audit

The audit is complete and the auditors will be presenting at this meeting. The ED has met with the auditors to discuss the contents of the management letter.

4. RFPs and contracts

Secretariat EOR

The negotiations for the Secretariat EOR contract have been completed and [announced](#). As a result, no RFPs will be issued as the sourcing of the Secretariat is locked in for the next 5+ years. So far there has been no public discussion regarding this announcement and one private clarification on how EOR contracts work.

Considerable work is underway to switch accounts, set people up on internal systems and train in IETF LLC processes and policies.

5. Meetings

Remote room at IETF 125 Shenzhen

One remote room was requested for IETF 125 Shenzhen. This was operated by Google from their Tokyo office and had approximately 50 people onsite. A full report is being prepared on this experiment, but in the meantime a number data points and questions have emerged, that will require further discussion once the report is ready:

- Multiple people have expressed disquiet about the whole concept of a remote room and what impact that has on the value of IETF meetings. Concerns were also raised about the IETF LLC funding remote rooms given their exclusive nature. The IESG is likely to discuss the impact on the meeting experience at its upcoming strategy meeting.
- Questions have been asked as to why this room was exclusive and not an open invite. The explanation, that these are not hosted by the IETF and the IETF cannot insist that a third party allows anyone onto their premises, seems contentious with some.
- The remote room organiser has reported that there were significant costs in operating the room, well in excess of any potential fee that we might have charged.
- There were some technical difficulties despite the work put in, in advance.

Given these questions, the ED is planning not to make a decision on offering remote rooms for IETF 126 Vienna, until the board has had time to consider the full report.

IETF Network at IETF 125 Shenzhen

As a reminder, this was an unusual network for three reasons:

1. The wireless side was operated by local partners as regulatory requirements made it impossible for the normal equipment to be exported to China.
2. The NOC used disposable equipment to meet IETF LLC security requirements.
3. User authentication was required with logs provided to the connectivity operator after the meeting.

There were two significant incidents during the week and plans have been put in place to prevent a reoccurrence:

- a. Meetecho failed in some sessions during the first session on Monday morning.
- b. The wireless network overloaded later in the week.

In both cases, better testing could have caught these issues before they affected the meeting experience. Consequently, the ED has entered into discussions with the NOC

contractor Linespeed for an independent physical testing setup (e.g. 500 Raspberry Pis) that can perform full scale tests before sessions begin.

Security requirements at IETF 125 Shenzhen

The staff team at IETF 125 Shenzhen followed the IETF LLC security requirements carefully, taking only disposable equipment, using VPNs at all times, and not leaving devices out of sight. While this was workable, it was challenging and could not be repeated at more than one meeting a year.

IETF 127 San Francisco

Registrations for IETF 127 San Francisco will have opened by the time of the board meeting.

Restructure of meeting team

A restructuring of the meetings team is being planned by the ED, driven by the key objectives of:

- Introducing more strategic leadership around IETF Meetings
- Replacing the key role who did not transition as part of this agreement
- Reducing the number of direct reports to the ED

It is expected that this restructure will complete by the end of April.

Future meetings

The current status is:

- IETF 128 (Asia): Negotiations are well underway and proceeding without complication.
- IETF 129 (Europe): This is close to booking with the final contracts being reviewed.
- IETF 130 (Vancouver): This is booked and announced.
- IETF 131 (Asia): The site visit is in mid-April
- IETF 132 (Europe): Initial discussions are underway with five European venues, up from three as previously reported.
- IETF 133 (Possible exploratory). A site visit for has been completed and negotiations are beginning. A site report will be provided to the Board in due course.

6. Tools/RPC/RSWG/RSCE

Tools team

The tools retreat is now locked in for June in order to provide sufficient time to finish the RFC 10k work. This retreat will focus primarily on the internal working practices of the team, including planning.

The Tools Update for April 2026 has not yet been published. An update will be sent to the board when that is ready.

Abuse mitigation

A significant amount of team resources has gone into abuse mitigation over the last two years, to the detriment of other priorities. Recently two new patterns of abuse have emerged:

- Fake Datatracker accounts that are likely being created by people using AI to bypass traditional bot detection mechanisms. This is again requiring an unplanned transfer of resources to investigate and assess the scale of the problem and what these accounts are being used for.
- People hitting Datatracker APIs very hard to support a commercial product they sell that consolidates or adds value to standards from multiple SDOs. These episodes directly correlate with database failovers in our cloud databases, though these are generally transparent to the end user. Analysis is underway on implementing access control for these APIs.

RPC

The RPC retreat is locked in for April. This will focus on assessing progress against the strategy agreed last year, reviewing and updating the strategy for this year and a day of staff training on the new tools, GitHub and Markdown..

The RPC Update for April 2026 has not yet been published. An update will be sent to the board when that is ready.

RFC site work funded by an ICANN Grant

The work on the site funded by the ICANN grant is due to complete by the end of April but that deadline will be missed. We are in the process of updating ICANN about this and requesting an extension.

7. IESG/IAB/IRTF/Trust

IETF Trust/IETF IPMC

The IETF Trust/IPMC has appointed Wendy Selzer as their new chair after Glenn Deen rotated off at the end of his term. The ED has met with the new chair and they have agreed to regular meetings.

8. Communications/Outreach

Research and Insights position

Our new Insights and Research Analyst, Akanksha Gohil, has started and is taking over the in-progress survey work from the ED, as well as learning our data and internal processes.

9. Fundraising

Nothing to report

10. Miscellaneous

Nothing to report