RFC Format BoF

IETF 88

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Homework

Please read the following before the BoF

https://www.rfc-editor.org/rse/wiki/doku.php?id=design:start

This is a public read-only wiki space

Agenda

- Background
- The RFC Format Design Team
- Current Status
- Next Steps
- Expected questions

Background

- The format announcement in May indicated several things:
  - the canonical format we are exploring for RFCs is XML
  - four publication formats will be created from that XML: HTML, EPUB, text and PDF
  - non-ASCII characters would be allowed in a controlled fashion

http://www.rfc-editor.org/pipermail/rfc-interest/2013-May/005584.html

RFC Format Design Team

- An RFC format design team was put together during IETF 87 in Berlin to clear up the details implied by those statements

https://www.rfc-editor.org/rse/wiki/doku.php?id=design:design-team

Many thanks to Nevil Brownlee (ISE), Tony Hansen, Joe Hildebrand, Paul Hoffman, Julian Reschke, Adam Roach, Alice Russo, Robert Sparks (Tools Team liaison), and Dave Thaler for their active participation

Current Status (1)

- In-progress: documenting the current vocabulary and description of the current xml2rfc DTD up to date and drafting the proposed changes going forward
  - http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-reschke-xml2rfc
- In Progress: requirements for the HTML and text formats
  - EPUB should be derived from HTML, and PDF from text
  - acceptance of draft-hildebrand-html-rfc as a solid starting place for the HTML details
  - http://cursive.net/draft-hildebrand-html-rfc.html

Current Status (2)

- Agreement in principle to include non-ASCII characters in RFCs
  - details being worked out in conjunction with the i18n program of the IAB
- A high level work flow for how the tool will be used in production by authors and the RFC Editor
  - https://www.rfc-editor.org/rse/wiki/doku.php?id=design:producing-output
- In progress: details around the use of images
  - https://www.rfc-editor.org/rse/wiki/doku.php?id=design:image-requirements
  - RFCs will be able to have embedded SVG art for figures, at the discretion of the authors

Next Steps

- Finish the xml2rfc v2 and v3 descriptions and requirements
- Finish draft-hildebrand-html-rfc
- Create the RFP to start on the specs, followed by the development phase
- Discuss what, if any, changes should be phased in versus a formal cut-over
- Discuss how this affects the submission process and I-D format

Expected Question #1

- What about things like look-and-feel?
  - across the board, images and tables will be restricted to no more than 80 characters
  - for HTML and EPUB, we are expecting reflow able text, which will change the look to an RFC viewed in those tools
  - for HTML, HTML-savvy people will be able to control how an RFC looks, the fonts used, size of fonts, layout of headers
    - The RFC Editor will have a layout they publish

Expected Question #2

- How will non-ASCII characters be handled?
  - still under discussion with the i18n program
  - Non-ASCII should be consistent across all publication formats (text, PDF, HTML, and EPUB).

Non-ASCII examples

(color and boldface highlight examples – their use is not part of the proposal for non-ASCII text)

- CURRENT (draft-ietf-precis-framework) :
  However, the problem is made more serious by introducing the full range of Unicode code points into protocol strings. For example, the characters U +13DA U+13A2 U+13B5 U+13AC U+13A2 U+13AC U+13D2 from the Cherokee block look similar to the ASCII characters "STPETER" as they might look when presented using a "creative" font family.

- PROPOSED/NEW:
  However, the problem is made more serious by introducing the full range of Unicode code points into protocol strings. For example, the characters U +13DA U+13A2 U+13B5 U+13AC U+13A2 U+13AC U+13D2 **(STᎵETER)** from the Cherokee block look similar to the ASCII characters "STPETER" as they might look when presented using a "creative" font family.

- ALSO ACCEPTABLE:
  However, the problem is made more serious by introducing the full range of Unicode code points into protocol strings. For example, the characters **"STᎵETER" (U+13DA U+13A2 U+13B5 U+13AC U+13A2 U+13AC U +13D2)** from the Cherokee block look similar to the ASCII characters "STPETER" as they might look when presented using a "creative" font family.