RFC Editor

New RFC Format: What to expect

https://www.rfc-editor.org/rse/format-faq/

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What documents will be affected?
   A: Only new RFCs will adopt the new format. Authors will continue to be able to submit their final drafts (those already approved by the streams) as a text or XML file. No changes will be made to already-published RFCs.

2. What does this mean for RFC publication formatting?
   A: HTML, TXT, and PDF will be the final publication formats available. EPUB is also expected, and will be offered at a later date. Pagination is no longer a requirement; some formats such as PDF are naturally paginated, other file formats like HTML are net.

3. What encodings will the RFC Editor accept?
   A: The RFC Editor will only accept files encoded as UTF-8.

4. What are the implications for art in RFCs?
   A: The RFC Editor will accept both ASCII art and SVG. If only ASCII art is provided, it will be included in all publication formats. If ASCII art and SVG are both provided, ASCII art will be included in the plain text, and SVG in all other outputs. If only SVG is provided, a URI will be included in the plain text publication format.

   Here’s an example of how art previously represented using ASCII could be represented using SVG in the new format:

   ![ASCII vs SVG](image)

5. How will the editorial process be affected?
   The overall RFC editorial process remains largely the same.

   **CURRENT RFC EDITORIAL PROCESS**

   ![Diagram of the current RFC editorial process]

   There will be changes in the AUTH 48 process:

   **AUTH 48 PROCESS CHANGES**

   ![Diagram of the changes in the AUTH 48 process]

   What tools are available for Authors?

   The tools needed to create the publication outputs, to update Indexes, to check the SVG, and more are being created through the usual IETF tool process. The RFCs are expected to be shared for bots shortly. They will be published at: [https://tools.ietf.org/rfc/](https://tools.ietf.org/rfc/)

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