



Protecting the Internet of Today and Tomorrow

IETF Endowment Case for Support

The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) is the premier standards-setting body for the Internet. It creates open protocols based on technical excellence that ensure the Internet is able to evolve at a global scale. IETF standards, shaped by rough consensus and informed by running code, are developed by individuals across the Internet ecosystem—technologists, operators, researchers, and vendors—ensuring the standards meet the needs of those who use and implement them. The IETF provides a unique, neutral venue critical to advancing the technical foundation for the global Internet today and in the future.

Standards and protocols developed at the IETF provide a core framework for today's online world. Everything from video conferencing, to email, to cloud storage is built on standards developed in the IETF community. In short, the IETF's work makes the Internet work better. Bringing together approximately 7000 individuals from around the world, the IETF publishes over 250 technical specifications each year developed through open processes and made freely available.



TLS 1.3

Improved Web security

Published in 2021, TLS 1.3 is today used by more than three-quarters of the top 1,000 websites in just two years of existence,



WebRTC

Seamless videoconferencing

WebRTC has been adopted by videoconferencing providers to enable high-fidelity real-time voice and video at Web scale;



QUIC

Transport technology that improves performance and privacy

QUIC was reviewed, redesigned and improved with broad input from across the industry. The newly released transport protocol for the modern Internet handles more than 75% of traffic on major websites.

Threats to openness and innovation

As the Internet becomes further entwined in all facets of business and personal life, its core principles of openness are facing increasing threats.

Recently, we have seen attempts to restrict the Internet's open development by implementing closed, controlled systems, restricting grassroots content development, and imposing government control and unwarranted regulation. Legislation has been proposed that would undermine Internet privacy and security, balkanize the Internet, and impair legitimate online speech. Such actions work against the Internet as a universally accessible platform, and undermine the integrity essential to its role as a reliable, independent, and open structure.

Even as the largest Internet companies continue to expand, innovative small and medium sized businesses are able to build on technologies defined by IETF specifications. However, restrictive regulations and closely-controlled technologies threaten open, permissionless innovation, limiting how new ideas can be developed, deployed, and used. These restrictions reduce the ability of anyone, anywhere, to apply fresh thinking to create solutions that address local desires or requirements. The IETF's structure and processes, as well as the standards developed through its work, are essential to mitigate these threats to an open, global Internet.

An opportunity for a stronger IETF

The IETF Endowment is the most direct way you can ensure the long-term success of the IETF. The IETF Endowment is a designated fund created to ensure the IETF's decades of demonstrated success endure, enabling continued innovation in the years to come. The Endowment's purpose is to deliver stable, substantial, and sustained financial support for the IETF. The idea is simple: start now to build a fund for the future from a diverse group of donors, which will accrue interest over time so that the IETF has the financial foundation to respond to emerging needs.

In 2018, the IETF community formed the IETF Administration LLC (IETF LLC) as a separate, disregarded entity of the Internet Society (ISOC), to be the administrative and legal home of the IETF community. This change in structure means, among other things, that the IETF LLC is now responsible for the financial health of the IETF rather than the Internet Society. While the IETF is currently in the middle of a 10-year funding commitment from the Internet Society, the IETF LLC recognizes the risk in having a single source of funding and limited reserve funding. The IETF Endowment is the vehicle by which the IETF intends to meet that challenge and thus ensure it will be there to support the Internet of the future.

A time-limited matching opportunity will allow donors to have \$30M of their contributions matched up to 2:1.

A well-funded IETF Endowment will provide a strengthened financial base for the IETF and will help it transition from a funding model focused on meeting year-to-year operational expenses, to one that can anticipate future challenges and opportunities.

It will avoid cyclical market fluctuations, economic downturns, and industry disruptions. This stability will allow the IETF to remain a trusted, stable, and neutral venue for ongoing collaboration and innovation.

A plan to build the IETF Endowment

IETF Endowment funds are held in a designated portfolio of medium-risk, socially responsible investments. The portfolio is reviewed quarterly by the IETF Administration LLC's Board of Directors with the investment strategies updated as needed to reflect market conditions. There are two distinct phases anticipated for the IETF Endowment.

Phase 1

The short-to-medium-term goal is to build the Endowment to US\$50M between now and 2027 with \$20M raised directly and \$30M provided by the Internet Society through matching funds. During this phase, all funds will be held for investment and any earnings re-invested to build a core fund to support future operations.

This phase is focused on:

- Identifying potential funding sources;
- Growing the Endowment by maximizing the 2:1 match on the first \$12M, and 1:1 match on the next \$6M;
- Building a culture of philanthropy within the IETF and the Internet ecosystem; and
- Raising awareness about the important work of the IETF to new audiences in industry, civil society, and beyond.



The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) is where core Internet standards are developed. Founded in 1986, its roots go much deeper to 1979 as the nascent Internet was taking shape. I was there. ...IETF participants work tirelessly to improve the safety, security and functionality of the Internet through elaboration of existing and new protocols

Vint Cerf
VP and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google



Phase 2

The long-term goal is to reach US\$150M in funds for the IETF Endowment. This is the calculated amount needed for the IETF to operate solely from annual earnings, ensuring the financial independence of the IETF. In addition to supporting the ongoing operational costs of the IETF, the Endowment may then enable initiatives such as:

- Lowering barriers to participation, such as providing grants for meeting attendees and developing tools to improve remote participation;
- Initiating outreach efforts to engage potential participants from underrepresented regions;
- Improving tools and technologies used by IETF participants; and
- Increasing the IETF's ability to respond to future emerging needs.

Should the IETF cease to function for any reason, the Endowment funds would be directed to maintain the global Internet through alternative standards work or other similar purposes.

Join us to make the IETF a priority

A gift to the IETF Endowment today will help ensure that a strong global Internet, and the community that sets its technical foundations, thrive tomorrow. Your support will help provide the tools and the resources IETF participants around the world need to convene and collaborate to meet the Internet's future opportunities and challenges. The success of the Internet and those who use it rely on technologies developed in the IETF. Support the IETF with a leadership gift today, and be a part of the Internet's next success story

For more information

Visit: <https://www.ietf.org/endowment>

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