IETF Administration LLC Risk Register

Understanding this register

The purpose and use of this register, as well as the criteria used to assess likelihood and consequence and the resultant level of risk are defined in the [IETF LLC Risk Management Policy](#).

Risks in this register, if realized, may have consequences that come within one or more of the following categories that are fully described in the associated policy: IETF Work, Finances, Services, Meetings, Reputation, Legal, Community, Suppliers, Staff.

Only those risks where the mitigation is still being implemented show a timeframe for the implementation and a target rating for the risk when the mitigation work is complete.

Risks that are sufficiently mitigated may still show additional action under consideration.

Strategic Alignment

This register should be read in conjunction with the [IETF Administrative Strategic Plan (2024)](#).

Updating of this register

This register is updated annually with the following tasks:

- Each individual risk is checked to see if the likelihood or consequence has changed.
- Progress on mitigating risks that has led to a change in the risk is recorded.
- The whole register is checked for alignment with the IETF Administrative Strategic Plan and any new risks added or unneeded risks removed.

Risks below rare

There are risks identified that do not appear on this register because their gross likelihood is assessed as below rare, but nonetheless are important enough to be tracked. These are listed after the table below.

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#	Risk	Impact Categories	Risk Owner	Gross L'hood	Gross Impact	Gross Risk Rating	Controls / Risk Mitigation / Management Strategies	Time frame	Target L'hood	Target Impact	Target Risk Rating	Additional controls to consider
X	**Example Risk**. Details an event, and if needed the specific trigger and/or clear outcome.	IETF Work Finances Services Meetings Reputation Legal Community Suppliers Staff	Board ED	Rare Unlikely Possible Likely Almost certain	Insignificant Minor Moderate Major Extreme	Low Medium High Critical **Rating is coloured**	• Completed mitigations in black • *Incomplete mitigations in red italic.*	As left	As left	As left	As left	Anything under consideration but not yet decided on.
							~ OR ~ Mitigated as much as required					
1	SOURCE: **IT SERVICES**											
1.1	Serious and hard to recover problem during upgrade of core system(s)	IETF Work Services Community Staff	ED	Unlikely	Major	**High**	• Continuous build and test • *Isolated installations* • *Fully automated provisioning*	Q2 2024	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	"Safe", rolling deployment methodology
1.2	Successful attack on IT systems	IETF Work Services Reputation Legal Community	ED	Unlikely	Major	**High**	• Excellent secrets management • Strong security-aware culture • *Regular, comprehensive security audits* • *Isolated services* • *Extensive secure logging*	Q4 2024	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	None
1.3	Sustained failure of infrastructure provider	IETF Work Services Legal Suppliers	ED	Unlikely	Moderate	**Medium**	• *Migrate to multi-region cloud services* • *Design provisioning for inter-cloud migration*	Q3 2024	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	None
1.4	Meeting participation services fail repeatedly	IETF Work Services Meetings Legal Community Suppliers	ED	Unlikely	Moderate	**Medium**	• Onsite management and support • Thorough, out-of-cycle, planning and testing • *Reliable connected IETF infrastructure*	Q3 2024	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	None

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1.5	Meeting network fails repeatedly	IETF Work Services Meetings Community Suppliers	ED	Rare	Major	**High**	• Well functioning NOC • High quality networking equipment • Thorough, out-of-cycle, planning and testing. • *Venue technical staff fully prepared for IETF network changes* • *Well documented recovery plans*	Q4 2024	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	None
2	SOURCE: **COMMUNITY**										
2.1	Industry downturn leads to many sponsors greatly reducing their sponsorships	IETF Work Finances Meetings	ED	Possible	Moderate	**High**	• Increase number of sponsors • *Diversify sponsors among multiple industries.* • *Secure long-term contracts with sponsors*	Q3 2025	Unlikely	Moderate	**Medium**	None
2.2	Sustained fall in meeting registration income	IETF Work Finances Meetings	ED	Rare	Major	**High**	• Ensure registration fees remain competitive • Comprehensive event insurance • *Plan in place for venue downsizing* • *Ongoing in-depth analysis of key metrics*	Q4 2024	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	None
2.3	Meeting participant or staff member is a victim of serious assault by another participant	Meetings Reputation Legal Community Staff	ED	Unlikely	Major	**High**	• Clear behavioral expectations • Strong staff presence and visibility • *Policy on participant safety* • *Reduce risk from alcohol consumption*	Q4 2024	*Target is to reduce the likelihood to below rare so that this risk no longer needs to be tracked in this table.*			None
2.4	Meeting participant or staff member is a victim of serious crime by non-participant	Meetings Reputation Legal Community Staff	ED	Rare	Major	**High**	• Security of venue and local area considered thoroughly in meeting planning. • *Safety guidance provided to all onsite.* • *Response plan.*	Q3 2024	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	None

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				Likelihood	Impact	Rating	Mitigations	Target	Likelihood	Impact	Rating	Notes
2.5	Meeting registration misused for illegal entry to a country	Meetings Reputation Legal	ED	Unlikely	Moderate	**Medium**	• Letters of invitation only available to registered participants. • *Track usage of letters of invitation* • *Plan for self-reporting misuses*	Q2 2024	Rare	Minor	**Low**	None
3	**SOURCE: THIRD PARTIES**											
3.1	Internet Society fails public support test and is no longer donative charity	Finances Reputation Legal	Board	Possible	Major	**High**	• Thorough and ongoing analysis of alternative financial models • *Financial independence through a large endowment*	2034	Possible	Insignifi-cant	**Low**	None
3.2	Key supplier collapses	IETF Work Finances Services Legal Community Suppliers	ED	Rare	Major	**High**	• Thorough and fair supplier contracts. • Regular supplier review • *Reduced supplier concentration* • *Recovery plan*	2026	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	None
3.3	IETF sued for process failure	IETF Work Finances Reputation Legal Community	Board	Unlikely	Major	**High**	• Legal advice readily available to community leadership and used when needed. • Ongoing engagement with specialist litigation lawyers with good understanding of IETF • *Visible, dedicated antitrust guidance* • *Policies reviewed in light of latest case law*	Q3 2024	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	None
3.4	Sustained campaign to discredit IETF	IETF Work Finances Reputation Legal Community	Board	Rare	Major	**High**	• Dedicated in-house communications expertise • *Visible processes underway to tackle major reputational vulnerabilities.*	Q3 2024	Rare	Minor	**Low**	None
4	**SOURCE: MANAGEMENT**											

4.1	Non-compliance with employment or business legislation	Financial Reputation Legal Staff	ED	Rare	Minor	**Low**	• Specialist legal and financial advice • Compliance reviews from legal counsel • Appropriate policies	Mitigated as much as required	None
4.2	Failure to manage expenditure within budget / Errors in budget assumptions	Financial Services Community Suppliers Staff	ED	Rare	Minor	**Low**	• Open budget approval process • Financial reporting • Regular audit • Regular strategic planning • Delegation policy	Mitigated as much as required	None
4.3	Internal fraud	Financial Services Reputation Community Staff	ED	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	• Delegation policy • Annual financial Audit • Access controls • Bank consolidation	Mitigated as much as required	None
4.4	Money paid out in external fraud	Financial Services Reputation Community Staff	ED	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	• Delegation policy • Access controls • Security aware culture	Mitigated as much as required	None
	Abrupt, unplanned exit of key executive	Financial Reputation Legal Community Staff	Board	Rare	Moderate	**Medium**	• Code of Conduct policy • Conflict of Interest policy • Whistleblower policy	Mitigated as much as required	360° review of ED

Risks below Rare:

- Long-term or unrecoverable failure of an administrative SaaS system.