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NTP BCP Progress – IETF 102

July 18, 2018

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Safety, Security and Reliability

BCP PROGRESS

INTDIR review has been completed. One “DISCUSS/ABSTAIN” item was included:

This draft heavily relies on the behavior and features of a particular implementation developed by ntp.org. It seemed to me to be quite awkward for an IETF document, especially for a BCP RFC. Personally, I would generally expect a BCP to provide generic, implementation-independent information. Some implementation-specific information such as how to configure ntpd to meet particular recommendations would be a nice addition, but I would like it to be clearly separated from the main content, either as a different section or as an appendix.

We talked about this at previous meetings, and identified it as an area that might have to change.
Dieter and I have moved most of the implementation-specific information to an appendix.
We are comfortable with the content itself, as it reflects the submissions we have received.
The remaining INTDIR comments were minor and easily satisfied.

BCP PROGRESS CONTINUED

- Most of the document has been rewritten to be implementation agnostic.
- The implementation-specific parts of Section 4 (Configuration Best Practices") and Section 5 "NTP Security Mechanisms" are now in an appendix.
- We did not separate the text of the Section 6 "Security Best Practices" section, even though it does have some ntpd-specific parts, because we felt that text was more proper in-line, but we can certainly discuss that moving forward.
- We also added a reference to the Control Message document.

The changes are available on https://github.com/denisreilly/ntp-bcp , but we did not complete them in time to be submitted before the June 2 deadline.

Now that there is an implementation-specific part of the appendix, it is easier for people familiar with other implementations to contribute. Any volunteers?

I will upload the new draft sometime soon so we have time to review it and discuss.