

Lightning proposal: One Canonical, Many Display

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What

- The canonical RFC is plain text with the current restrictions except that non-ASCII characters can be used for limited purposes
- Art may be given as stable URLs that point to rfc-editor.org; art is also canonical
- The RFC Editor will make non-canonical representations in HTML and so on; these files can change over time

Why

- A canonical copy is important
- ASCII art limitations can be easily overcome with “look for real art here”
 - Format of art will be specified by RFC Editor
- Display formats will change over time
 - The RFC Editor of the moment is the best person to decide what is needed

How: Non-ASCII

- Author information (but only if desired by the author)
- Examples that require non-ASCII to make sense
- RFC Editor will sign off on every use of non-ASCII in each RFC

How: Art

- Likely start is GIF/JPEG plus SVG
- URLs are related to the RFC, such as <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7890/fig1.svg>
- Art is canonical and never changes

How: Other files

- Community asks RFC Editor for additional files to offer
- Possibilities include PDF, XML of various flavors, even “just ASCII”
- RFC Editor can keep up with the latest HTML and other standards without affecting canonical format
- Non-canonical versions can have different format for art, if desired