

RFC Format: Requirements

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Questioning Assumptions

- Assuming that some level of change to the RFC format is necessary
 - Hum, please

Existing Requirements to be kept

- While several publication formats must be allowed, the publication formats must include support for plain-text printing.
- RFCs must not change, regardless of format, once published.
- The Boilerplate and overall structure of the RFC must be in accordance with current RFC and Style Guide requirements (see [RFC5741]).
- *Issues such as overstriking, page justification, hyphenation, and spacing will be defined in the RFC Style Guide.*

New Requirements

- There must be support for Accessibility (this has significant implications) [WCAG20].
- The Submission and Publication formats need to permit extensible encoding, for the addition of labeled metadata.
- UTF-8/Unicode in the header and references and associated ASCII translations recorded in the metadata (that translation will be used in the ASCII text version of the RFC).
- If descriptive metadata within a document is allowed, defining the accepted set of metadata tags will become part of the RFC Style Guide.
- Graphics may include ASCII art and SVG line art. Color will not be accepted; RFCs must correctly display in monochrome.
- RFC must be readable self-contained (i.e. must not contain normative external links, figures, etc.).
- Fonts are restricted to fixed-width fonts.

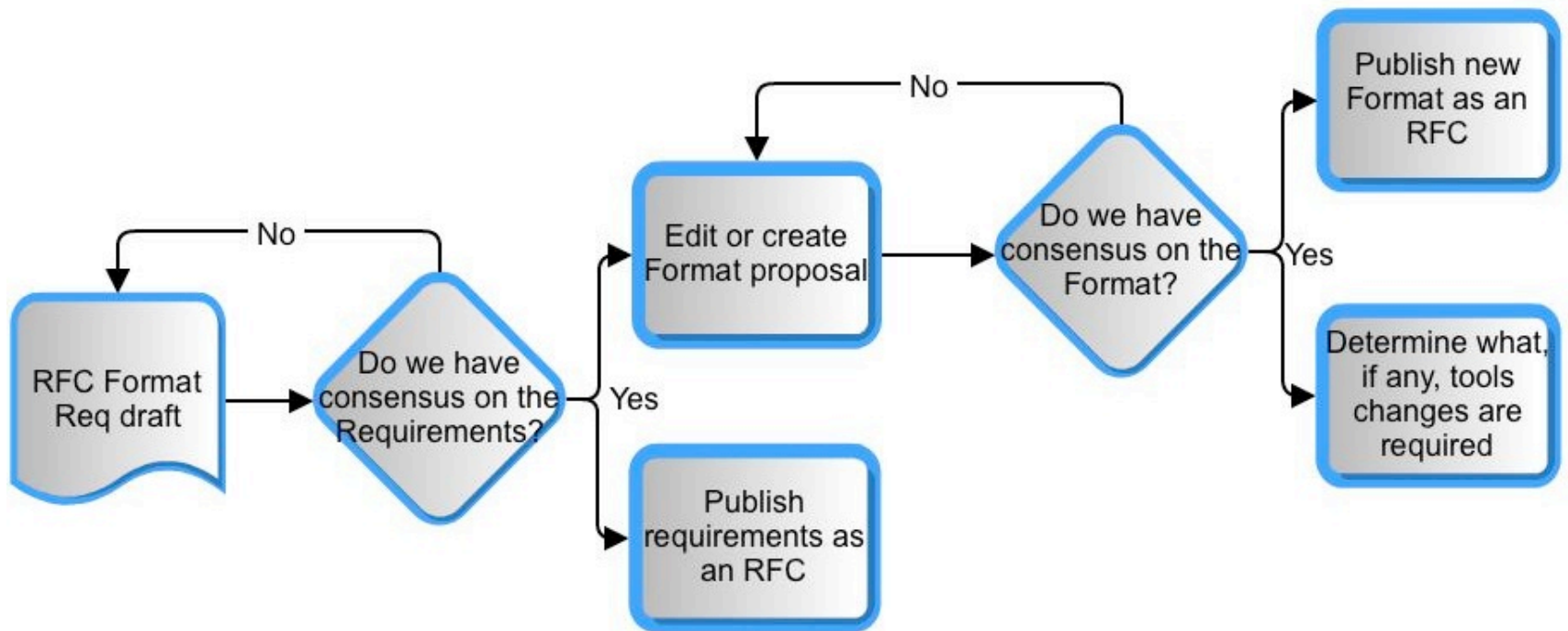
RFC Editor Requirements

- The final conversion of all submitted documents to nroff should be replaced by using an accepted revisable format throughout the process.
- Support for a limited set of submission and publication formats as opposed to supporting all formats possible.
- Some proposed solutions allow for multiple files to be submitted for later consolidation. The RFC Editor would prefer to work with the minimal number of files required for each submission (not a tar ball of several discrete components).
- Tools should support the submission and format error checking on the part of the authors of Submission Format documents.

Requirements to Retire

- Pagination (“Each page must be limited to 58 lines followed by a form feed on a line by itself.”)
- Maximum line length (“Each line must be limited to 72 characters followed by carriage return and line feed.”)
- Limitation to 100% ASCII text (“The character codes are ASCII.”)

Next Steps



Short term target dates and actions

- Nov 7 – finalize requirements
- Nov 8 – move to publish as RFC *or* publish revised I-D if necessary
- Dec 7 – complete analysis of requirements against existing proposals
- Dec 12 – make a determination and present analysis to RSOC; begin discussions with Stream Managers

Continue the discussion

- <https://www.rfc-editor.org/mailman/listinfo/rfc-interest>