THOUGHTS ON RPC/XDR PROCESS APPEAL

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BACKGROUND

- Previously Employed by Sun Microsystems, Inc.
  - March 92 to January 95
- Responsible for RPC/XDR Negotiations at Sun during last year there
- No Current Relationship w/ Sun
  - Own small amount of Sun stock

WHY I THINK THIS IS IMPORTANT

- Important for IETF to be able to Adopt Outside Technology
- More and More Technology has Intellectual Property Constraints
  - Everyone is Patenting Everything
  - Legally Employers own work of Employees
- Don't Create an Official "Not Invented Here" Policy

ISSUES

- RFC 1602 Intellectual Property Procedures
- No Clear Owner in IETF to Negotiate and Sign an Agreement
- Reluctance of IESG to Sign an Agreement

RFC 1602

- Requirements Put too much Responsibility on Technology Donor
  - Requires Donor to provide Blanket Protection for ISOC
  - Unacceptable for Commercial Organizations
- RPC / XDR Agreement was First Implementation of these Procedures
  - We should fix the “specification” based on Implementation Experience

NO OWNER IN IETF

- Who Can / Will Sign an Agreement?
- Sun was Asked to Negotiate with:
  - IETF Executive Director
  - ISOC Council
  - IETF Chair
  - ISOC President
- Sun Negotiated Four Separate Agreements
  - IETF Chair Twice Said Agreement was OK
- IESG Area Director's Role?
- Is Vint Cerf the Only Person who can Sign?

IESG ROLE

- IESG Charted RPC/XDR Working Group
  - Working Group did it's Job
- IESG Seemed Reluctant to do it's Job
  - Fear of being Sued?
  - Progress was made only after community pushing
- Would Liability Insurance Help?
  - Why didn't ISOC provide this?
- IESG Needs to Fulfill it Obligations in Timely Manner