Read the Label BOF

33 IETF

July 1995

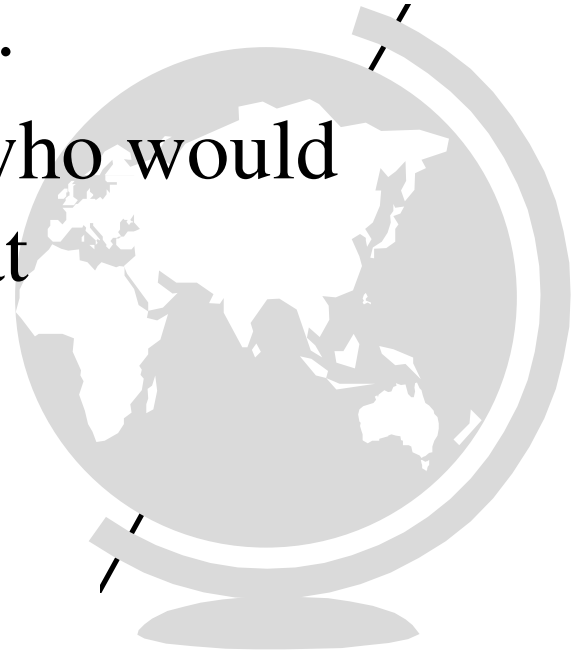
Stockholm, Sweden

Background

- Concerns about unlimited access by minors to all content on the Internet have been expressed publicly in several venues and in several countries.
- Restricting content seems virtually impossible, and inimical to the freedom of expression facilitated by the Internet.

Objectives of the BOF

- Determine whether IETF wishes to develop tools enabling access control at the periphery of the Internet, eg. at client, and, if so, what mechanisms might be suitable and how could they be operated.
- It is *not* an objective to decide who would apply these tools and under what circumstances.

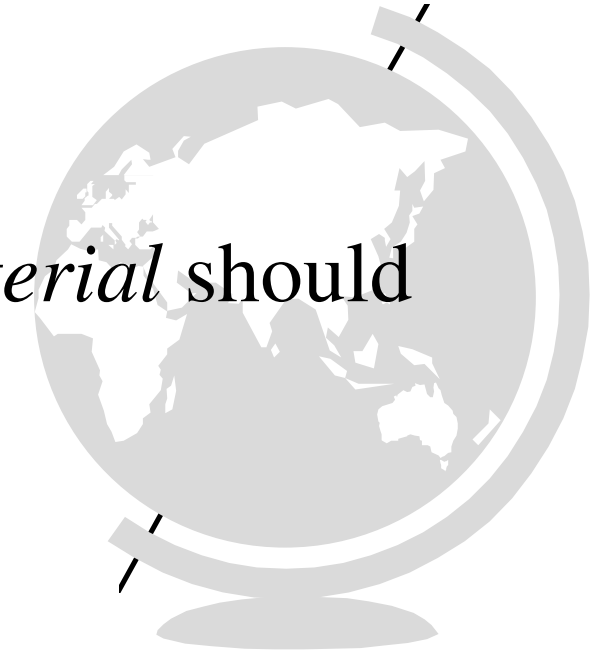


Agenda

- Discuss whether access control tool development is appropriate for IETF - maximum 30 minutes
- If negative, disband BOF and report.
- If positive, develop charter and timeline.

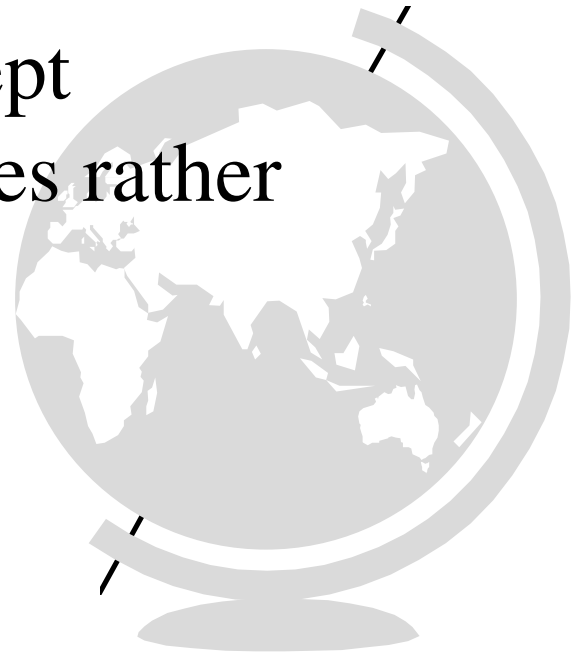
Possible Principles

- No one body should be responsible for categorizing or marking all content.
- If marking is used, every effort should be made to make the descriptive markings objective and not judgmental
- Multiple sources of marking or categorization *for the same material* should be possible.



Possible Principles

- If markings are used, they should be applied voluntarily
- All forms of content should be dealt with (Web pages, files, telnet servers, etc.)
- Browsers should be able to accept "guidance" from multiple sources rather than "compiling in" limitations

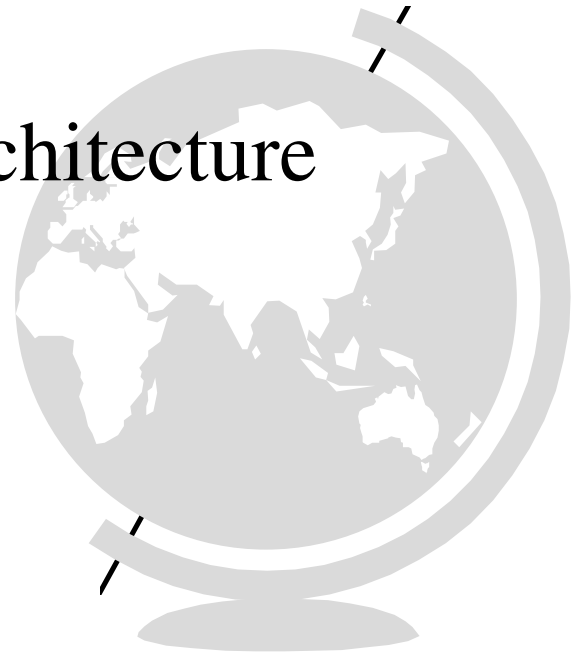


Possible Charter

- The Voluntary Access Control (VAC) Working Group proposes to develop tools and procedures which can be used in conjunction with appropriately designed client software to limit the scope of access to Internet content when using the client software. Use of these tools and any markings required are purely voluntary.

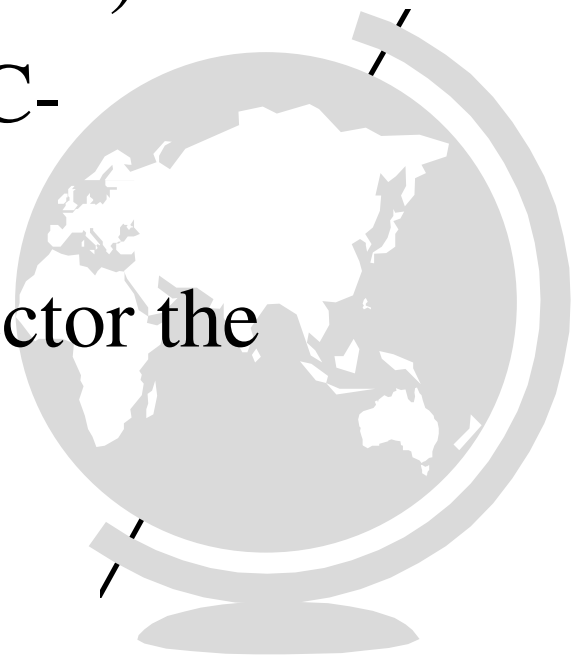
Possible Milestones and Schedule

- November 1995 - Review and document alternatives for achieving objective (e.g., URL lists of approved or proscribed sources, objective/descriptive markings on URLs)
- March 1996 - Select primary architecture and conduct detailed design



Possible Milestones

- July 1996 - Demonstrate prototype system and determine whether standardization is appropriate.
- November -Submit Specification to IESG for Proposed Standard

Action Items

- Finalize Charter/Milestones and submit to IESG for approval
- Propose Chairperson for WG
- Propose Editor (if not Chair person)
- Establish Distribution List: VAC-WG@ietf.cnri.reston.va.us
- Report to IESG/Apps Area Director the outcome of the BOF (Cerf)