Supplement
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SERIES A: Organization of the work of ITU-T

Guidelines on interoperability experiments and proof-of-concept events

Supplement 2 to ITU-T A-series Recommendations

Guidelines on interoperability experiments and proof-of-concept events

Summary

These guidelines relate to interoperability experiments and proof-of-concept events to be performed outside of ITU-T. The guidelines have been prepared in order to encourage such experiments and events to be performed, and to facilitate information exchange between ITU-T and parties participating in such experiments.

History

Edition	Recommendation	Approval	Study Group	Unique ID*
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Keywords

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FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

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Supplement 2 to ITU-T A-series Recommendations

Guidelines on interoperability experiments and proof-of-concept events

1 Scope

These guidelines relate to interoperability experiments and proof-of-concept events to be performed outside of ITU-T. The guidelines have been prepared to encourage such experiments and events to be performed, and to facilitate information exchange between parties participating in such experiments and events, and ITU-T study groups developing relevant Recommendation(s).

2 References

None.

3 Definitions

None.

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

PoC   Proof-of-Concept

5 Conventions

None.

6 Background

6.1 Study groups of ITU-T have been doing their best to ensure interoperability of products made in accordance with ITU-T Recommendations. There is no better way to assess interoperability than to actually interoperate systems and equipment of various manufacturers. ITU-T has occasionally initiated interoperability experiments for specific projects in the past.

6.2 However, when interoperability experiment/testing has not been performed, users may have suffered from the lack of interoperability between products coming from different manufacturers. Moreover, manufacturers are not always members of ITU-T and develop their products only by reading relevant Recommendations.

6.3 In addition, following the rapid development of new technologies, the proof-of-concept (PoC) is used by different standards development organizations as a useful tool to determine the feasibility of the concept, technology or solution, or to verify that it will function as intended and according to the features defined in particular standards that are under development. This approach may significantly help ITU standardization activities to understand whether the concept, technology or solution is viable, and provide useful information in order to advance work items under study or to evolve the standards of interest.

7 Objective

The objective of these guidelines is to encourage interoperability experiments and PoC events to be performed outside of ITU-T and to facilitate information exchange between parties participating in such experiments and study groups of ITU-T.

8 Guidelines

8.1 The interoperability experiments and PoC events are to be performed outside of ITU-T on a voluntary basis, self-governed, self-supporting and incurring no additional cost to ITU-T. Such interoperability experiments and PoC events may therefore involve non ITU-T members as well.

8.2 The self-governance of interoperability experiments and PoC events to be performed outside of ITU-T means that parties participating in such an experiment or event should govern themselves by making rules of their own. ITU-T is in no way involved in such rule making.

8.3 ITU-T would like to ask the kind cooperation of its members participating in such an interoperability experiment or PoC event to submit contributions to study groups based on the results of the interoperability experiment or PoC event in order to advance ongoing work items and improve the quality of Recommendations, e.g., by proposing text changes to remove ambiguities, etc.

8.4 Furthermore, ITU-T would like to ask the kind cooperation of its members participating in such an interoperability experiment or PoC event to share as much information as possible on its experiment or event at study group meetings. Examples of information that would be useful to be shared are as follows:

– the results of the experiment or event;

– how should interoperability experiments or PoC events be performed: description of the experiment or event, testing or PoC methods, test equipment, experiment schedules, coordinator, etc.;

– where have interoperability experiments or PoC events been conducted or are going to be conducted;

– how should testing or PoC results be handled in order to submit contributions to ITU-T to advance ongoing work items and improve the quality of ITU-T Recommendations;

– identification of other activities in the same area and potential cooperation and work-sharing with them.

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