

Open-IX Document Development Process Fundamentals

1.1 Purpose

This document describes the Open-IX Document Development Process (OIX DDP). The OIX DDP is the process by which current Standards and best current operational practices (BCOPs) for the operation of the Internet, and connected networks, are documented by the Open-IX community. These Open-IX documents are developed and published in an open, transparent, bottom-up, and ongoing manner designed to yield functional documentation that is accessible to all.

The OIX DDP requires participation from the Open-IX community, and encourages all members of the community to submit appeals for new documents and/or updates to existing documents. The OIX DDP is designed to bring forth clear, technically sound, and useful network engineering Standards and best practices, written for engineers, by engineers. To accomplish this goal, the OIX DDP charges the appropriate Board-appointed committee as the primary facilitators of the OIX DDP with appropriate checks and balances on its performance in that role.

Section 1 of this document provides the underlying fundamentals upon which the OIX DDP rests (including its purpose, scope, principles, philosophy, and criteria for documents) and Section 2 describes the specific Document Development Process used for both creating and updating Open-IX documents.

1.2 Philosophy

All technology is and will be used and developed in a variety of ways with competing interests and agendas driving it forward. The Internet is the world's first, true global utility and in the spirit of the open standards surrounding its evolution, the Global Network Engineering Community (GNEC) has requested multiple times for there to be a synthesized documentation process to capture GNEC driven Standards and best practices. These GNEC driven documents are an open, transparent, bottom-up, on-going effort to help spread the unbiased working knowledge of how the Internet and connected networks work, at any given time, in the best possible way. The GNEC's philosophy towards this OIX DDP can be further described in the following way:

1.2.1 Free from organizational agendas

All documents shall be sourced from the network engineering community and developed in an open, transparent, bottom-up approach. Given this philosophy, the idea of Standards and Best Practices shall encompass objective input from the community at large with a best effort mentality to ensure proper documentation. Conceptually, all documents should not be biased or tainted by organization specific agendas but rather should reflect individual operator experiences.

1.2.2 Communal knowledge available to all

The entire effort shall be made available to everyone, always. An open, transparent, bottom up, on-going approach applies to all efforts in the OIX DDP arena to yield documentation for all to help advance the resilient and reliable development of the Internet.

1.2.3 Advancement of the Internet to all reaches of the world

The Internet is global and should be made available to all. In this spirit, the GNEC is seeking, thru this OIX DDP, to help advance that goal. These documents will be driven by the network engineering community and are therefore for the network engineering community, and anyone else who wishes to learn more about Internet interconnection. OIX documents will contribute to the common knowledge base for all facets of the evolving Internet everywhere in the world.

To facilitate a common context and common language in the development of Standards and Practices, and to leverage existing regional relationships, the OIX DDP will serve the Open-IX community directly, and the GNEC less directly.

1.3 Scope

Documents developed through the OIX DDP are community-regulated documents that provide synthesized knowledge of current, real-world network engineering standards and best practices. OIX documents are driven and catalyzed by the network engineering community. Thru the efforts of our community, these documents are, and will always be, publically available.

Documents developed through the OIX DDP are living documents and will always be subject to scrutiny and ongoing development as technologies change and as new knowledge is ascertained from the network engineering community.

1.3.1 Standards

Open-IX Standards:

- Promote uniform specifications for data transfer and physical connectivity.
- Create resiliency to improve reliability of Internet interconnection.
- Provide a benchmark against which Open-IX certifies Internet Exchanges and Data Centers that meet the community developed standards.

1.3.2 Best Current Operational Practices (BCOPs)

BCOPs are not intended to be binding rules on how operators configure or operate their network. BCOPs are intended to provide good advice about operational practices that is useful for the majority cases. Additionally, if there are some small percentage of corner cases where the standard advice does not apply, or some other practice is recommended, that should also be documented. Documentation of competing approaches and their trade-offs is also acceptable.

1.4 Principles

All OIX documents are developed under the constraint of four basic principles: Open, transparent, bottom-up, and on-going.

1.4.1 Open

All policies are developed in an open forum in which anyone may participate. There are no qualifications for participation. Open-IXs document discussions are conducted in an open, publicly accessible forum that consists of a mailing list and virtual and in-person meetings. Anyone may subscribe to the mailing list and anyone may attend a meeting via the Internet or in person.

1.4.2 Transparent

All aspects of the OIX DDP are documented and publicly available via the Open-IX website. The mailing list is archived. The proceedings of each meeting are published. All documents are available for viewing and download.

1.4.3 Bottom Up

The network engineering community develops and documents all standards and practices from the bottom up. Individuals in the community initiate OIX documents through Appeals to the mailing list; participants will work thru various stages of development that will yield an unbiased, community authored document to be available to all those interested.

1.4.4 On-going

All OIX documents, as with all things evolving, will be subject to scrutiny into perpetuity. This allows for revisions to occur that will follow the DDP update process (documented in Section 2). This process will ensure that all documents will always truly reflect the current best practices.

1.5 Criteria for Document Publication

OIX documents must meet two strict criteria before publication: First, they must be clear and technically sound. Second, they must be developed through open and transparent processes.

1.5.1 Clear and technically sound

It is the responsibility of the appropriate Open-IX committee to ensure that all documents are both clear and technically sound, before recommending their publication. This serves to ensure that all published documents are relevant and useful to the network engineering community.

The Open-IX committees rely heavily on the wisdom and experience of the entire community when determining relevancy and usefulness. Community consensus is the primary indication that a document is clear and technically sound.

1.5.2 Developed through open and transparent processes

It is the responsibility of the Open-IX Board of Directors to ensure that all documents are developed via open and transparent processes that provide for participation by all. There are no requirements for participation other than adherence to the guidelines of behavior and decorum, and anyone interested in following the process may subscribe to the mailing list or may participate in meetings via in person or remote participation methods. By publishing a document, or an update to a document, the Open-IX Board of Directors is declaring that document was developed following the Philosophy and Principles described in this document.

The OIX DDP itself may only be changed by the Open-IX Board of Directors after a public consultation period to consider the proposed changes.

1.6 Terms

Subject Matter Expert (SME) - Authors and contributors to OIX documents.

Shepherd - Editor and promoter of OIX documents, does not need to be a member of Open-IX or any of its committees.

GNEC - Global Network Engineering Community.

Standard – A document that reflects uniform specifications for data transfer and physical connectivity that creates resiliency to improve reliability of Internet interconnection. Organizations can be certified to comply with OIX Standards.

Best Current Operational Practice (BCOP) - A document that reflects an aspect of Internet Engineering (e.g., Sub-netting), is sought after by the GNEC, is worked on by the GNEC, and is ultimately published on the OIX website (open-ix.org).

OIX DDP - The Development Process, see section 2 of this document, which the Open-IX community has adopted to create and publish all documents.