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Internet Fax Extended Mode Standards Approved

IETF RFCs Complete But ITU Approval Delayed

The Internet Engineering Task Force has approved and published new standards which extend Internet Fax via email to support new features such as transmission of color fax documents. The documents have been published in the IETF Request For Comment series as *Proposed Standards*. Proposed Standards are the first level of IETF standardization. In related news, the new IETF extended mode RFCs were also submitted to the Study Group 8 fax experts of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for their March meeting in Geneva. The purpose of the submission was to propose the incorporation by reference of the RFCs as part of a new Amendment 1 to the T.37 recommendation. However, the delegates at the SG8 meeting were not able to establish a unanimous agreement, as two countries elected to defer their vote by 4 weeks. As a result, the approval of the T.37 amendment to establish support for the "Full Mode" of Internet Fax has been delayed.

Our coverage of these events begins with a review of the IETF approval and covers the related events which took place at the March-April meeting of the ITU-T Study Group 8 and in its aftermath.

IETF Approval of Extended Fax RFCs

As reported in our last issue, the three drafts for extended Internet fax were submitted for Last Call within the IETF in early January, 1999.

The documents submitted were:

- Extended Facsimile Using Internet Mail - <draft-ietf-fax-eifax-11.txt>
- Indicating Supported Media Features Using Extensions to DSN and MDN - <draft-ietf-fax-reporting-extensions-04.txt>
- Content feature schema for Internet fax <draft-ietf-fax-feature-schema-05.txt>

On February 16, it was announced that all three of these documents had been approved as IETF proposed standards. However, two of the drafts had been slightly updated at the end of January to address some editorial issues that were observed during the IETF Last Call. As a result, the final version of "eifax" was "-12" and the final version of "reporting extensions" was "-05". A fourth related document on "Terminology and Goals for Internet Fax" (based on <draft-ietf-fax-goals-04.txt>), which had been submitted last Fall, was also approved as an informational RFC.

In addition, there are three documents from the Content Negotiations working group that are referenced in the Fax documents which were

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