Requirements Traceability for RFCs

Cameron Bytheway

Principal Engineer
AWS Cryptography

Goals

- What is traceability?
- How can we apply traceability to CA/B Forum efforts?

A story

QUIC RFC

Core Specifications

The ‘core’ specifications comprising QUIC are:

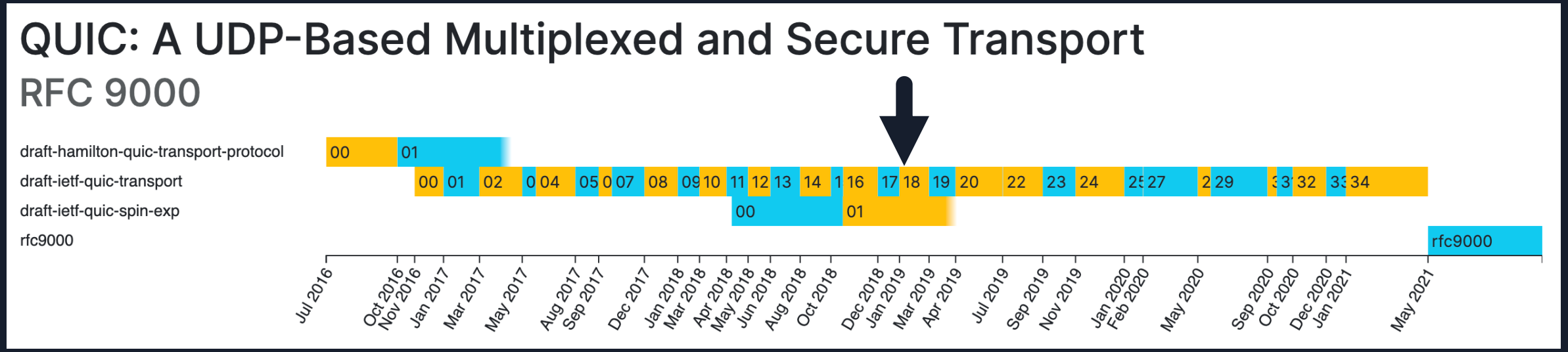
- **RFC 8999 - Version-Independent Properties of QUIC** - HTML / TXT / PDF
- **RFC 9000 - QUIC: A UDP-Based Multiplexed and Secure Transport** - HTML / TXT / PDF
- **RFC 9001 - Using TLS to Secure QUIC** - HTML / TXT / PDF
- **RFC 9002 - QUIC Loss Detection and Congestion Control** - HTML / TXT / PDF

QUIC Extensions

QUIC can be extended in several ways. The following specifications have been formally standardized as RFCs:

- **RFC 9221 - An Unreliable Datagram Extension to QUIC** - HTML / TXT / PDF
- **RFC 9287 - Greasing the QUIC Bit** - HTML / TXT / PDF
- **RFC 9368 - Compatible Version Negotiation for QUIC** - HTML / TXT / PDF
- **RFC 9369 - QUIC Version 2** - HTML / TXT / PDF

QUIC RFC



RFC Quotes

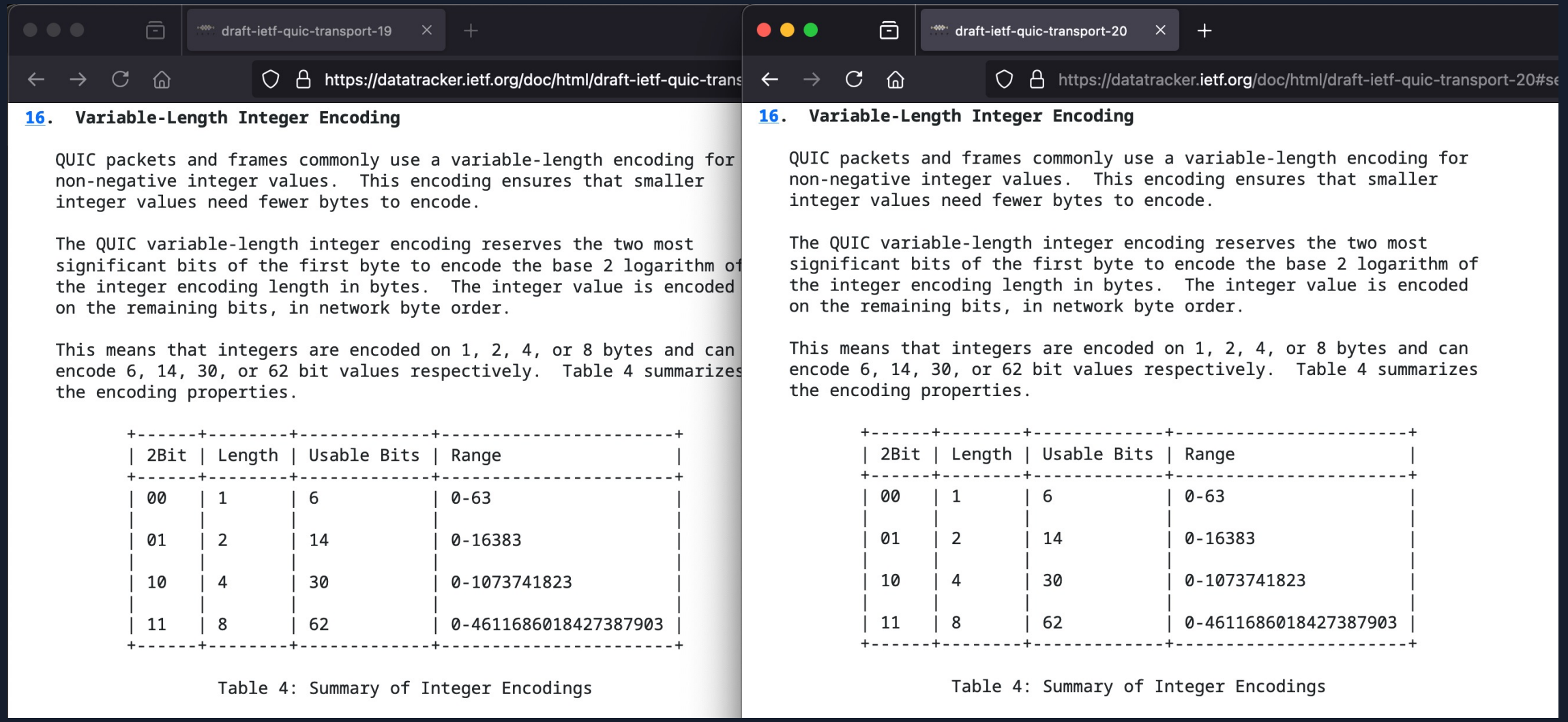
```
//= https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-quic-transport-19#section-16
//# This means that integers are encoded on 1, 2, 4, or 8 bytes and can
//# encode 6-, 14-, 30-, or 62-bit values, respectively.  Table 4
//# summarizes the encoding properties.
//#
//#        +======+========+=============+=======================+
//#        | 2MSB | Length | Usable Bits | Range                 |
//#        +======+========+=============+=======================+
//#        | 00   | 1      | 6           | 0-63                  |
//#        +------+--------+-------------+-----------------------+
//#        | 01   | 2      | 14          | 0-16383               |
//#        +------+--------+-------------+-----------------------+
//#        | 10   | 4      | 30          | 0-1073741823          |
//#        +------+--------+-------------+-----------------------+
//#        | 11   | 8      | 62          | 0-4611686018427387903 |
//#        +------+--------+-------------+-----------------------+

varint_table! {
    (0b00, 1, 6 , 63);
    (0b01, 2, 14, 16_383);
    (0b10, 4, 30, 1_073_741_823);
    (0b11, 8, 62, 4_611_686_018_427_387_903);
}
```

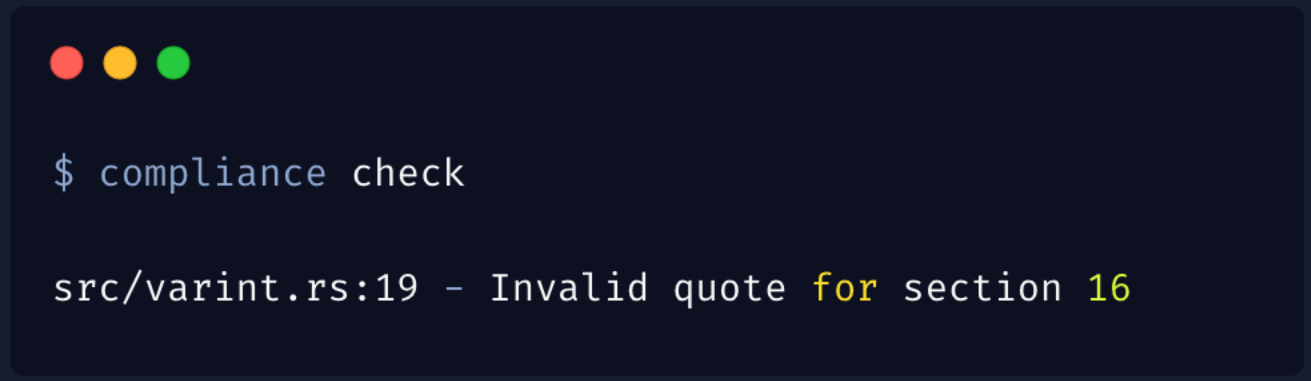
What do we get from this?

- Implementing the code is clearer
- Give context to pull request reviewers
- Leave a paper trail for posterity

What happens when there's a new draft?



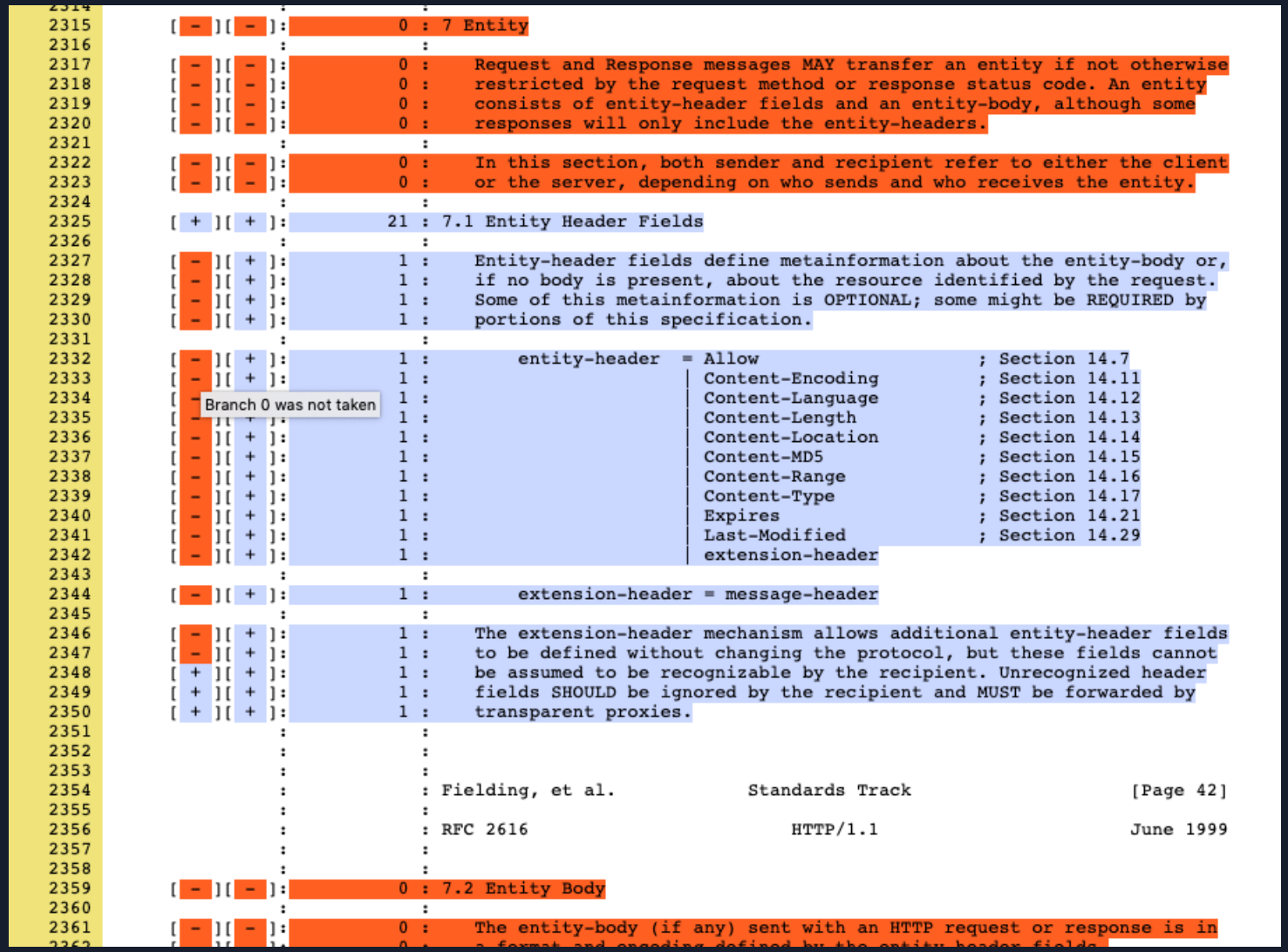
In need of a tool



What do we get from this?

- Greatly reduced the time manually checking for changes
- Reduced the amount of human error
- Some enforcement in CI

How do we track progress/coverage?



RFC 2119

Network Working Group S. Bradner
Request for Comments: 2119 Harvard University
BCP: 14 March 1997
Category: Best Current Practice

Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels

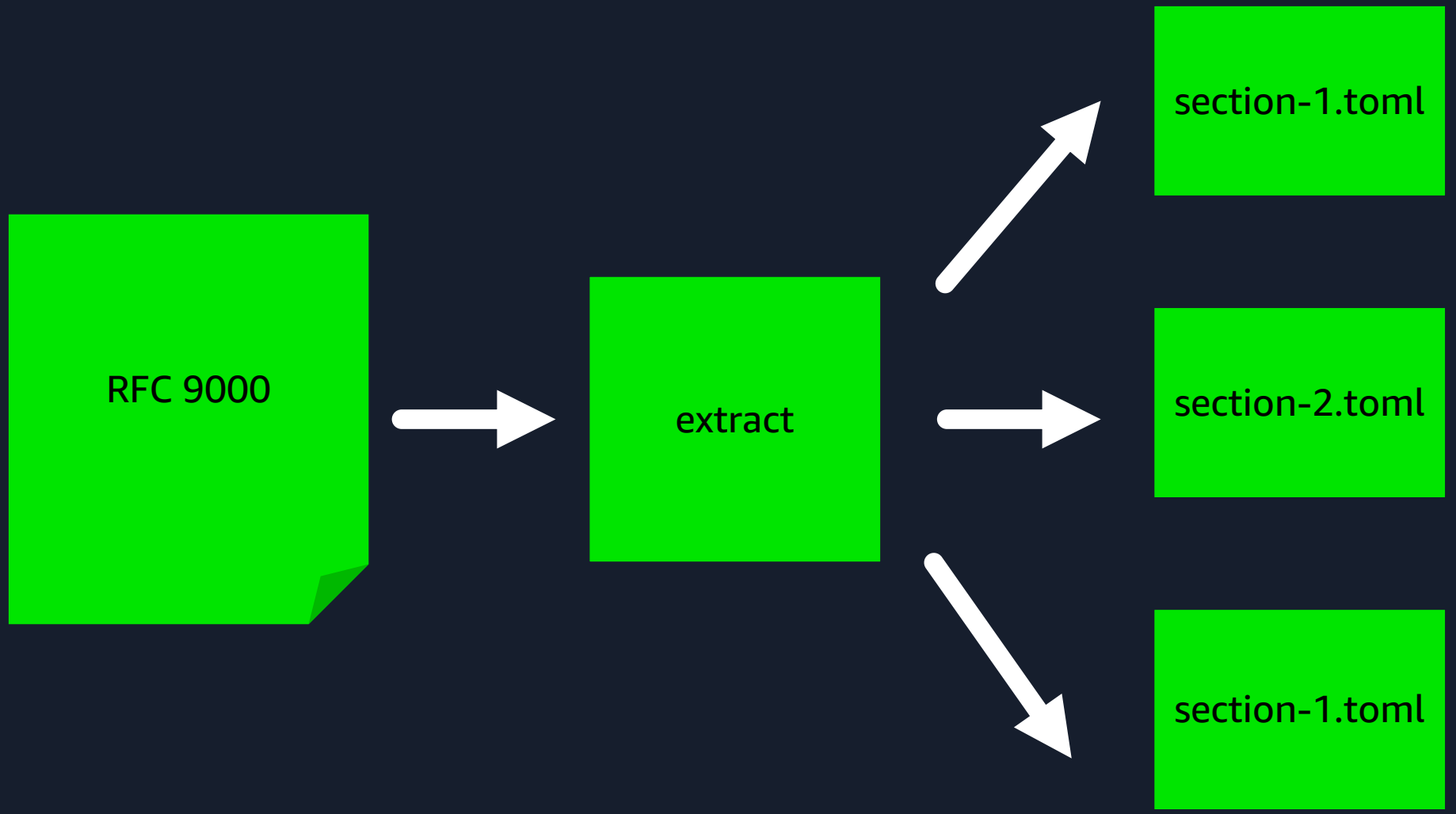
[...]

Abstract

In many standards track documents several words are used to signify the requirements in the specification. These words are often capitalized. This document defines these words as they should be interpreted in IETF documents. Authors who follow these guidelines should incorporate this phrase near the beginning of their document:

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119

Extracting requirements



Extracting requirements

```toml
target = "https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9000#section-4.1"

[[spec]]
level = "MUST"
quote = '''
Senders MUST NOT send data in excess of either limit.
'''

[[spec]]
level = "MUST"
quote = '''
A receiver MUST close the connection with an error of type
FLOW_CONTROL_ERROR if the sender violates the advertised connection
or stream data limits; see Section 11 for details on error handling.
'''
```

Not all references are equal

- Implementation
- Test
- TODO
- Exception
- Implication

```
//= https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8312#section-4.3
//= type=test
//# In this region, cwnd MUST be incremented by
//# (W_cubic(t+RTT) - cwnd)/cwnd for each received ACK, where
//# W_cubic(t+RTT) is calculated using Eq. 1.
#[test]
fn on_packet_ack_congestion_avoidance_concave_region() {
    ...
}
```

```
//= https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9000#section-6.2
//= type=TODO
//= feature=Version negotiation handler
//= tracking-issue=349
//# A client MUST discard a Version Negotiation packet that
//# lists the QUIC version selected by the client
```

What do we get from this?

- Automatic extraction of requirements
- Assigned priorities to each requirement
- References better reflect current status
- Percent completion based on requirements, not text

A better report

Compliance Coverage Report

rfc8312

Requirement	Total	Complete	Citations	Implications	Tests	Exceptions	TODOs
MUST	4	4	4	0	4	0	0
SHOULD	5	5	4	0	4	1	0
MAY	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	10	10	9	0	9	1	0

rfc8899

Requirement	Total	Complete	Citations	Implications	Tests	Exceptions	TODOs
MUST	34	20	5	0	3	17	8
SHOULD	30	20	6	0	6	14	4
MAY	17	8	2	0	2	6	3
Totals	81	48	13	0	11	37	15

A better report

4.2	SHOULD	Complete	If so, CUBIC is in the TCP-friendly region and cwnd SHOULD be set to W_est(t
4.3	MUST	Complete	In this region, cwnd MUST be incremented by (W_cubic(t+RTT) - cwnd)/cwnd f calculated using Eq.
4.4	MUST	Complete	In this region, cwnd MUST be incremented by (W_cubic(t+RTT) - cwnd)/cwnd f calculated using Eq.
4.5	SHOULD	Complete	Parameter beta_cubic SHOULD be set to 0.7.
4.6	SHOULD	Exception	In network environments with only a single CUBIC flow and without any other tr
4.6	SHOULD	Complete	To speed up this bandwidth release by existing flows, the following mechanism implemented.

A better report

4.6. Fast Convergence

To improve the convergence speed of CUBIC, we add a heuristic in CUBIC. When a new flow joins the network, existing flows in the network need to give up some of their bandwidth to allow the new flow some room for growth if the existing flows have been using all the bandwidth of the network. To speed up this bandwidth release by existing flows, the following mechanism called "fast convergence" SHOULD be implemented.

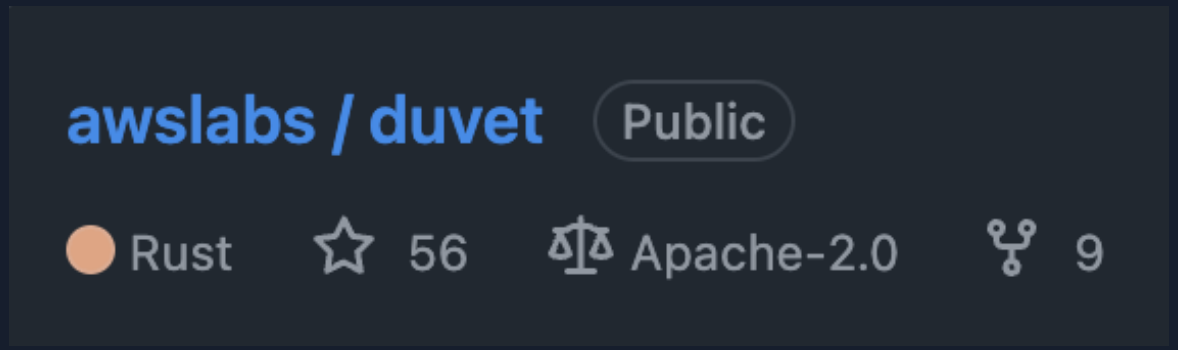
With fast convergence, when a congestion event occurs, before the window reduction of the congestion window, a flow remembers the last value of W_max before it updates W_max for the current congestion event. Let us call the last value of W_max to be W_last_max.

A better report

A better report

```
108         //= https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8312#section-4.6
109         //= type=test
110         //# To speed up this bandwidth release by
111         //# existing flows, the following mechanism called "fast convergence"
112         //# SHOULD be implemented.
113         // Window max was less than the last max, so fast convergence applies
114         assert_delta!(cubic.w_last_max, 80000.0 / max_datagram_size, 0.001);
115         // W_max = W_max*(1.0+beta_cubic)/2.0 = W_max * .85
116         assert_delta!(cubic.w_max, 80000.0 * 0.85 / max_datagram_size, 0.001);
```

Duvet



What is Traceability?

"the ability to describe and follow the life of a requirement in both a forwards and backwards direction (i.e., from its origins, through its development and specification, to its subsequent deployment and use, and through periods of ongoing refinement and iteration in any of these phases)"

So what?

Thank you!