

~~Living Documents~~ Dynamic Documents?

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more...
Srsly? Again?!

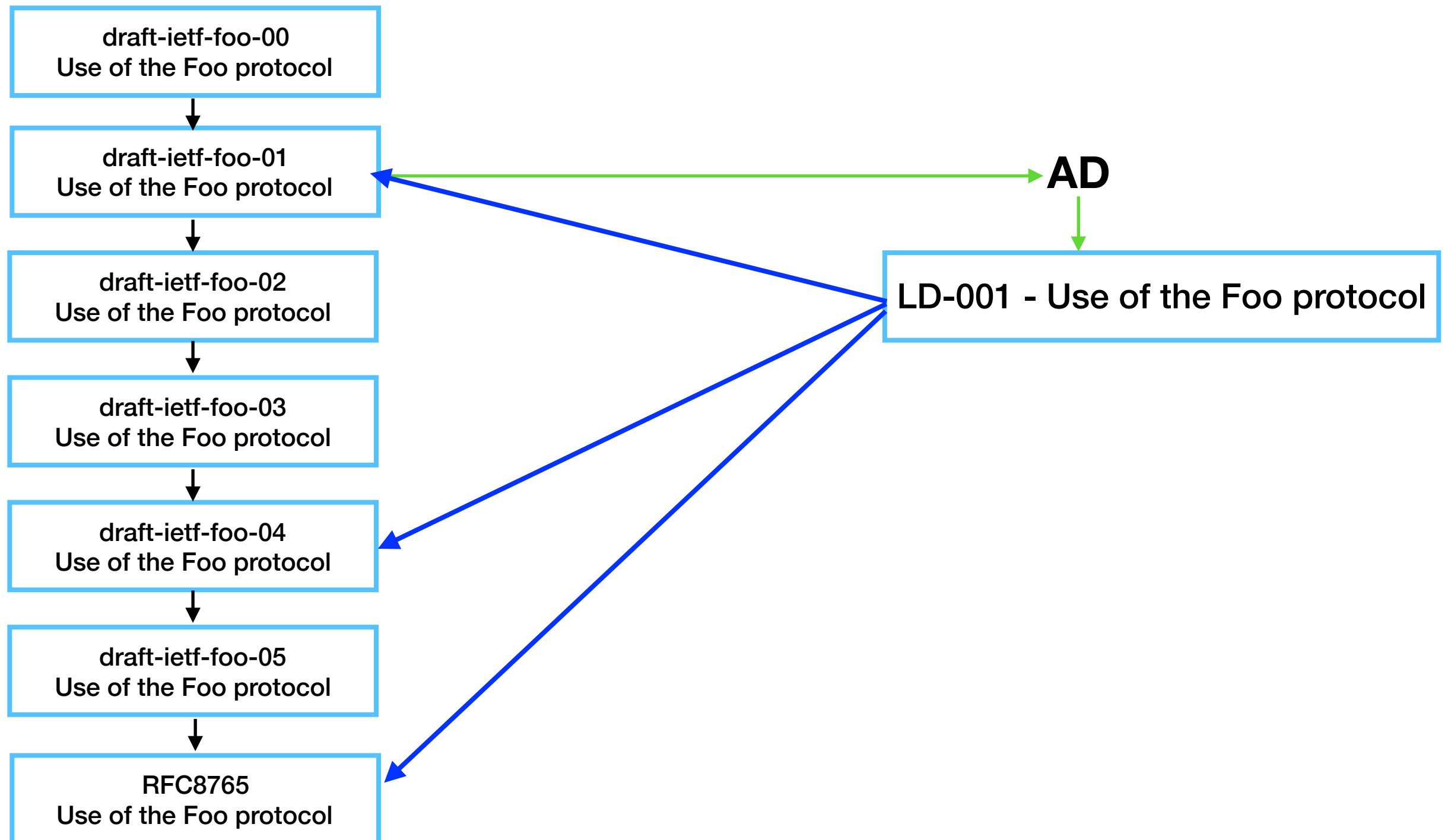
Overview

- Living Documents are pointers to stable versions of draft things.
- This is going to require *lots* more conversation!

Experiment

- Reasonable chance of failure
- Very lightweight
 - *I think we should focus on keeping this as lightweight an experiment as possible, but in practice to make LD useful I suspect it's going to take a bunch of community discussion and some tooling support. Lots of strong opinions even from the 10 or so people I asked.*
- Different area may/will have different use-cases / need
 - Possibly very different amounts / types of “consensus”
 - Possibly have boilerplate in the LD saying what the consensus structure is
- Once size does **not** fit all - AD approval, their judgment

Worked example



Preview

Number	Title	WG / Area	Last updated
<u>LD-001</u>	Use of the Foo protocol	OpSec	Apr 8, 2019
<u>LD-002</u>	SoK: SSL and HTTPS: Revisiting past challenges and evaluating certificate trust model enhancements	TAPS	Apr 1, 2019
<u>LD-003</u>	RFC7457 - Summarizing Known Attacks on Transport Layer Security (TLS) and Datagram TLS (DTLS)	Security Area	Feb, 2015
<u>LD-004</u>			

Alissa - Notes

1. I think we should focus on keeping this as lightweight an experiment as possible, but in practice to make LD useful I suspect it's going to take a bunch of community discussion and some tooling support. Lots of strong opinions even from the 10 or so people I asked.
2. People have widely varying ideas of what they want to use LD for, beyond the examples given below. Some people want to use them to represent the most current version of a protocol standard that has some level of consensus (WG consensus? IETF consensus?) — e.g., imagine displaying the HTTP 1.1 LD as the synthesis of RFC 723x and the 12 existing errata and the updates contained in 3 existing update drafts. Some other people think this will seriously undermine the standards process. One suggestion to mitigate this was to require IETF LC for any protocol-affecting change > XXX months old, with the consequence of not doing so that you can't make any future protocol changes to the LD. On the other end of the spectrum, some people want to use LD to do things that we currently use wikis for, like record implementation status of various protocols. My conclusion from all of this is that I think we need to think about our objective, how this experiment would intersect with the in-line errata tooling that is going to start soon, and how the question what level of consensus is needed to publish changes to an LD intersects with the question of whether standards track documents could be published as LD.
3. There is also a question of whether different kinds of LD could have different levels of consensus needed for changes, or whether different kinds of changes require different levels of consensus. E.g., for some informational docs or editorial changes to any sort of doc even the AD approval step might seem like overkill, whereas if you're making an on-the-wire protocol change to an LD that has protocol spec in it you would probably want IETF consensus for that.
4. Something needs to be said about referencing. As laid out, presumably LD could not be normatively referenced by RFCs today. Could they in the future? Can they normatively reference each other? What does it mean for an LD to be a normative reference? We've been down a similar path before ... <https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-atlas-external-normref-00>

Alissa - Mechanical / editorial

1. The name “Living Document” has been somewhat poisoned by the WHATWG. Suggestions were “Dynamic Document” or some variant of that.
2. People would like the indication of LD clear on the document itself and/or in the datatracker. The centralized index of LD seemed less interesting to them.
3. Some people would prefer not to use the I-D format because it’s too limiting (to display, e.g., tables of implementations), or to be constrained by an LD being an I-D. This might mean editing the contents of an LD directly (in a repo).
4. It would be good for LD to have stable URLs of their own.
5. Do LD really need numbers? Could they just have names?
6. Expiration of LD seems unnecessary. Authors can indicate in the content that they are dead when they die.

Open Questions

1. The name - I like “Living Documents”, but this maybe too polluted?
2. Is this a new document series / track?
 1. I had been viewing it as a tag instead
 2. ... or a pointer to an existing “thing”
3. How are these identified? Perhaps boilerplate in the document?
4. What is consensus for a LD?
 1. AD approval? AD approval for initial?
 2. One size does not fit all, perhaps that is reflected in the documents (see boilerplate)