Who am I?

- Michael Richardson
- <mcr@sandelman.ca>
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- Director, Consumer Desktop Desktop Development
  - working on an ubuntu-based* virtual desktop
  - this presentation running from virtual desktop

What do I do?

- I work on standards based systems.
- I have worked on the IETF IPsec (VPN) specifications since 1994.
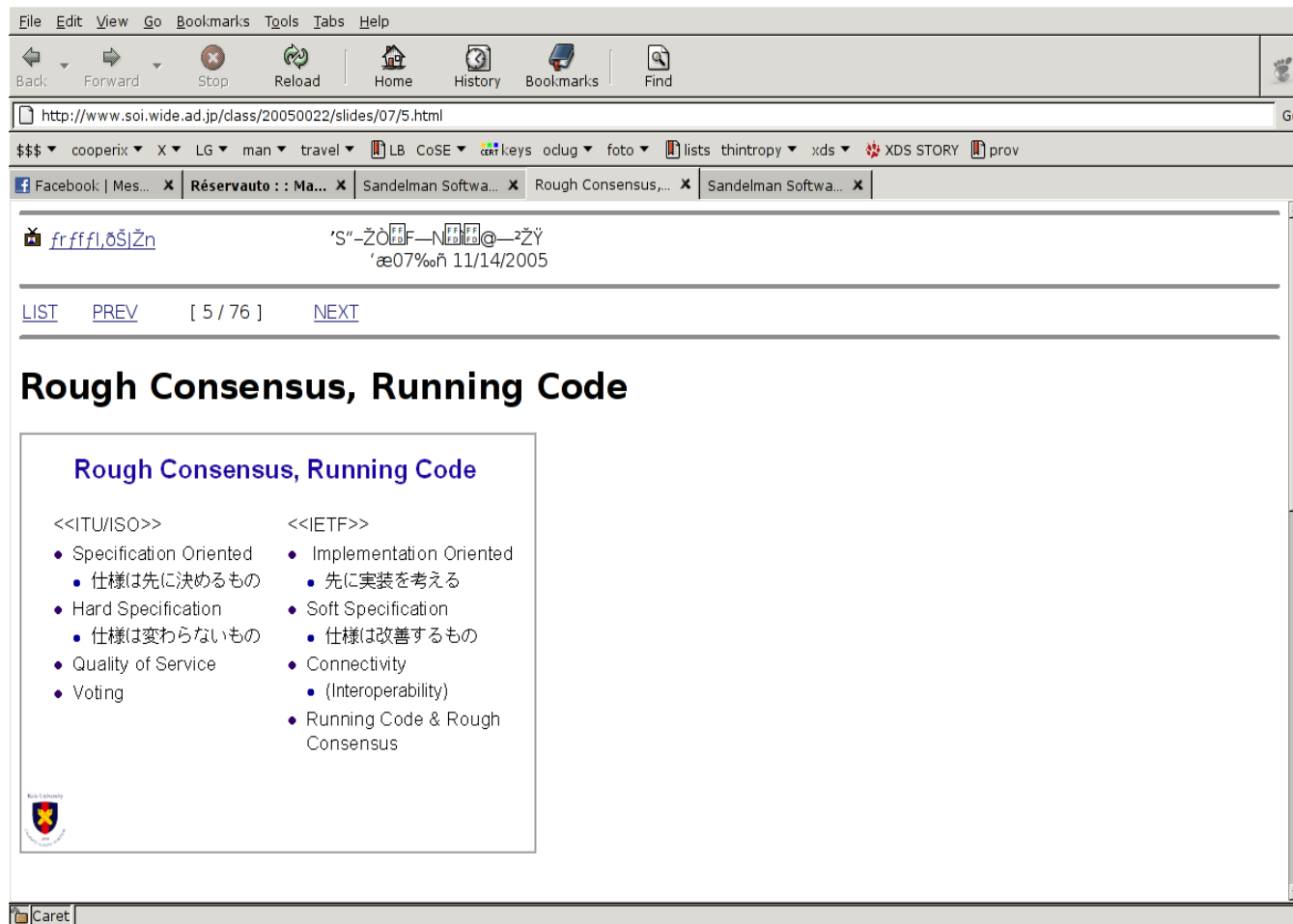- rfc1829 (series), rfc2401, rfc4301.

history of the IETF.

- T-shirt

what is an RFC.

- Why? "Not all RFCs are standards"

- Request For Comments.

  - 6 kinds: Informational, Best Current Practices, Experimental, Proposed Standard, Draft Standard, Full standard.

- Full standards are few, actually.

- Internet drafts, i.e. "draft-ietf-btns-apireq-00.txt"

how is the IETF "different"?

- google for "Rough Consensus and Running Code"

How is the IETF managed?

- management by "volunteers"

- IESG "management", 13 people who spend 50% of their time on this.

- 7 areas: Security, General, Applications, Internet, Operations&Management, Transport, Realtime Applications Infrastructure*

- randomly chosen volunteers for nominations committee

structure of a standard

- standard
- how to read a standard
- RFC2119 "MUST", "SHOULD"
- Security Considerations
- IANA Considerations
- the standards process **is** an RFC: RFC2026.

how to participate in the standards process

- got an email address?

- got a text reader?

- got a computer?

- ~~got your network protocol designer's license?~~

- ~~make sure that you work for a big telco company~~

where the IETF fails/falls down

- interoperability is someone else's problem
- but, critical for advancement
- lack of interoperation is nobody's problem
- Intellectual Property Rights are strange
  - vs debian free software guild
- compliance testing

"This I wish the IETF could do, but doesn't"

- fund open source reference implementation
- do negative testing/compliance testing