

IETF DULT Specifies Behavior, Not Architecture

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What IETF DULT Specifies

IETF DULT (draft-ietf-dult-detecting-unwanted-location-trackers and the broader DULT working group output) specifies how trackers should advertise their presence, how detector implementations should detect unwanted trackers, how detected unwanted trackers should be communicated to the affected individual, and how the broader anti-stalking concern should be addressed across vendors. The specification is operationally important and broadly endorsed.

DULT specifies behavior at the protocol level. The specification answers 'what should a tracker advertise' and 'how should a detector behave when an unwanted tracker is identified.' It doesn't specify the architectural primitive that supports cross-vendor activation, credentialing chains for activation authority, or structural anti-stalking governance beyond the protocol-level behavior.

Why Behavior Specifications Don't Substitute for Architecture

Behavior specifications work for the bilateral cases they're designed for. DULT-compliant Apple readers detect DULT-compliant non-Apple trackers; DULT-

compliant Google readers detect DULT-compliant non-Google trackers. The bilateral pattern produces operational interoperability for the cases the specification covers.

Multi-vendor architectural needs go beyond the bilateral pattern. Cross-vendor activation by emergency-credentialed authorities, structural anti-stalking governance with credentialing chains, cross-jurisdictional coordination — these need the architectural primitive that DULT's behavior specification doesn't address. The specification composes cleanly with the architectural primitive; neither alone provides what the ecosystem needs.

How the Architectural Primitive Composes With DULT

The architectural primitive operates above DULT. DULT continues to specify the protocol-level behavior between trackers and detectors. The architectural primitive specifies the credentialing chain for activation authority, the cross-recognition policies that govern cross-vendor activation, and the structural anti-stalking governance that prevents abuse of the activation capability.

The two compose. DULT-compliant trackers and detectors operate at the protocol level; the architectural primitive operates at the governance level. The combined architecture supports the anti-stalking and lost-object-recovery use cases that DULT addresses behaviorally with the structural foundation that scales beyond bilateral patterns.

What This Enables for the Tracking-Ecosystem Standards

IETF DULT's adoption produces protocol-level interoperability across compliant vendors. The architectural primitive's adoption produces governance-level

coordination that turns the protocol-level interoperability into multi-vendor architectural support.

Standards bodies, regulatory authorities, and industry associations that are converging on cross-vendor coordination gain the architectural foundation that current standards work has been building toward. The patent positions the primitive at the architectural layer where DULT and similar specifications are converging behaviorally.