6.10 Obsoleting a W3C Recommendation

W3C *may* obsolete a Recommendation, for example if the W3C Community feels that the Recommendation no longer represents best practices, or is not adopted and unlikely to be adopted. A Working Group or the TAG *may* request the Director to obsolete a Recommendation which was a deliverable, or the Director *may* directly propose to obsolete a Recommendation.

W3C only obsoletes entire specifications. To obsolete some *part* of a Recommendation, W3C follows the process for modifying a Recommendation.

The process to retire a specification may be initiated:

1. By anyone on request to the relevant Working Group (if it exists), or the TAG, and that group agrees;
2. By the Director;
3. On the request of anyone if their request to the WG or TAG is not acted on in 90 days;
4. By 5% of the Advisory Committee.

The Director *must* announce the proposal to obsolete a W3C Recommendation to other W3C groups using at least the list for all chairs, the public, and by starting an Advisory Committee review. The announcement *must*:

* include the rationale for obsoleting the Recommendation.
* indicate that this is a Proposal to Obsolete a Recommendation
* specify the deadline for review comments, which *must* be at least four weeks after announcing the proposal to obsolete.
* identify known dependencies and solicit review from all dependent Working Groups;
* solicit public review.

If there was any dissent in the Advisory Committee review, the Director *must* publish the substantive content of the dissent to W3C **and the public**, and *must* formally address the comment at least 14 days before any publication as an Obsoleted Recommendation. The Advisory Committee *may* appeal the Director's decision.

An Obsoleted Recommendation *must* be published with up to date status, linking to a page that explains the meaning of Obsoleted.

**Note:** the original Recommendation document will continue to be available at its version-specific URL.