

Report on RFC Errata

This report shows the status of the errata submission and verification process as of 15 March 2009.

History

The RFC Editor has been collecting errata since 2000, with a large influx from 2006 onwards. Over time, the approximate 50/50 ratio of Technical/Editorial errata has stayed intact, and the amount of Reported (unverified) errata has increased significantly. This is partly due to our underestimating the original problem (i.e., the number of errata that would be submitted), the difficulty in contacting document authors years after publication, the RFC Editor's delay in processing errata, and the IESG's determining its errata process during 2008. There are currently 1682 errata reports.

The New System

In November 2007, the RFC Editor released a web portal to ease errata processing, allowing users to submit errata via a web form, and allowing the appropriate representative stream bodies to review and verify the reports.

After 16 months, the new submission system has been used by 130 distinct users. Since the IESG statement regarding errata processing for the IETF stream was completed 30 July 2008, a new status called "Hold for Document Update" has been added. With this new status and improved search functionality available, the verification system is slowly starting to be used more.

Errata Statistics

Please refer to draft-rfc-editor-errata-process for the context of the statistics (which follow) in the larger errata process. See http://www.rfc-editor.org/status_type_desc.html for Type and Status descriptions for RFC Errata.

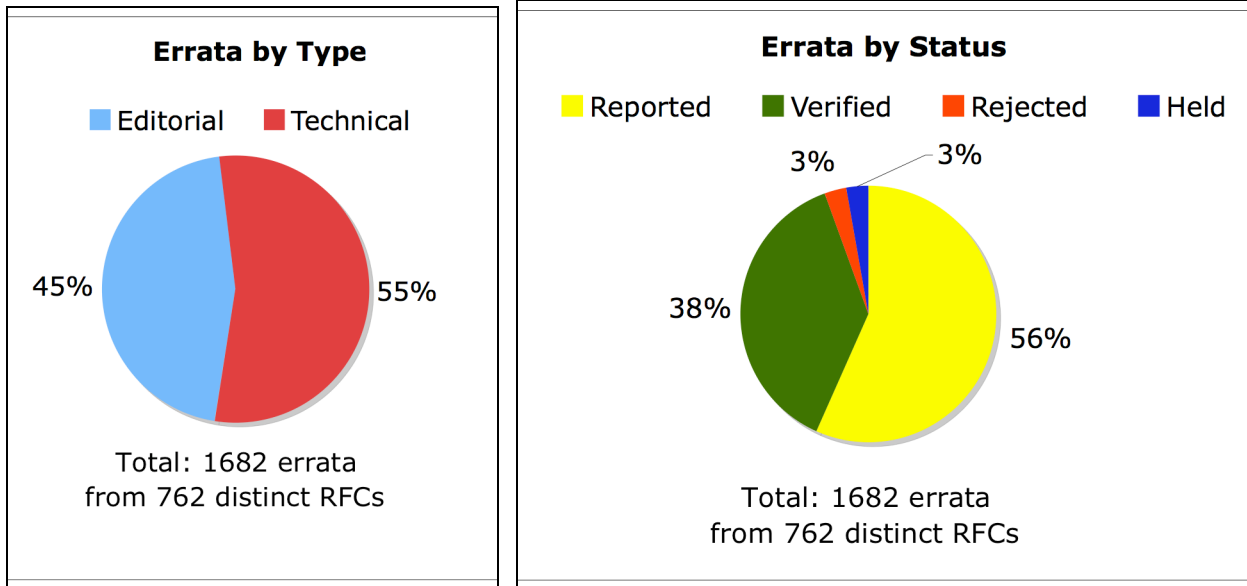
Data Quality

Approximately 100 errata reports contain multiple errata in their notes fields, so in fact, the total number of individual reports is larger than 1682.

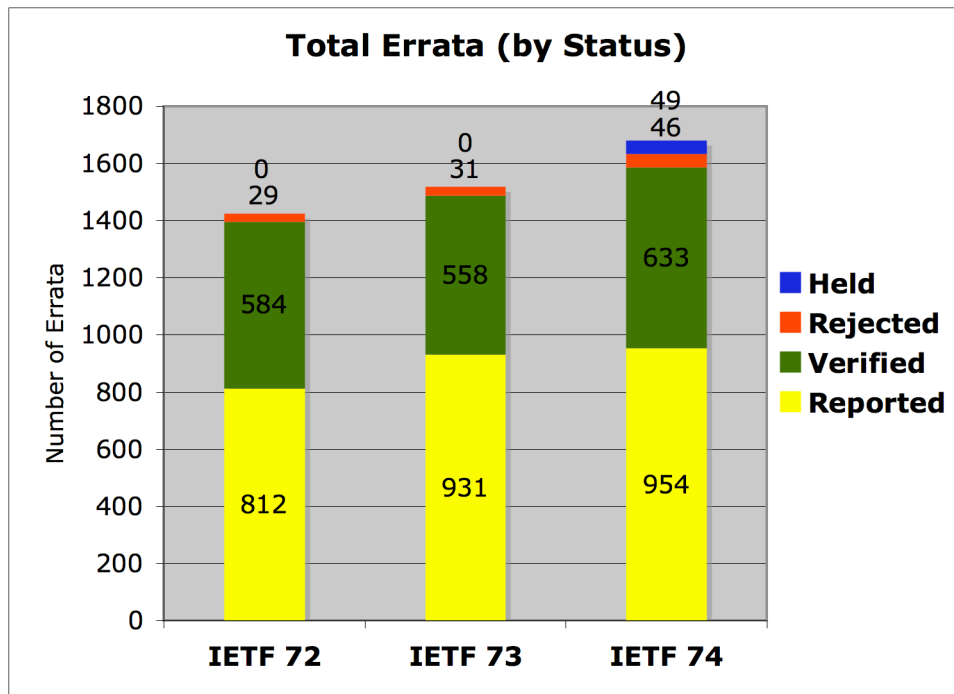
The Type labels (Technical/Editorial) should be taken with a grain of salt, as many reports (especially the older ones) may be mislabeled.

As verifiers make determinations regarding the status of errata, it is expected that the contents of some errata will be corrected – in the cases mentioned above, the reports could be atomized, and Type labels could be corrected.

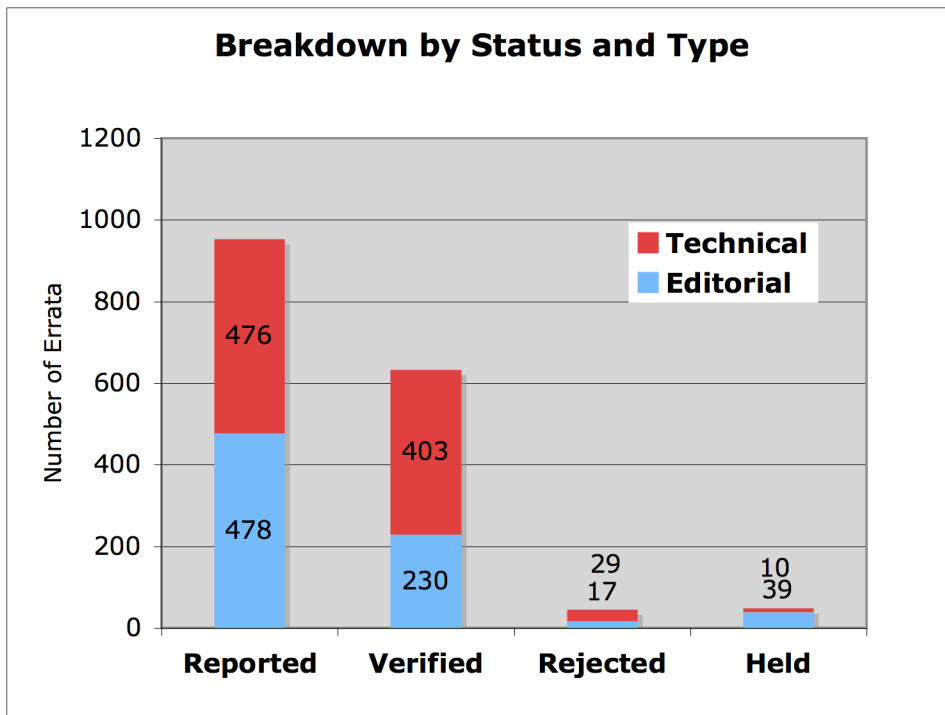
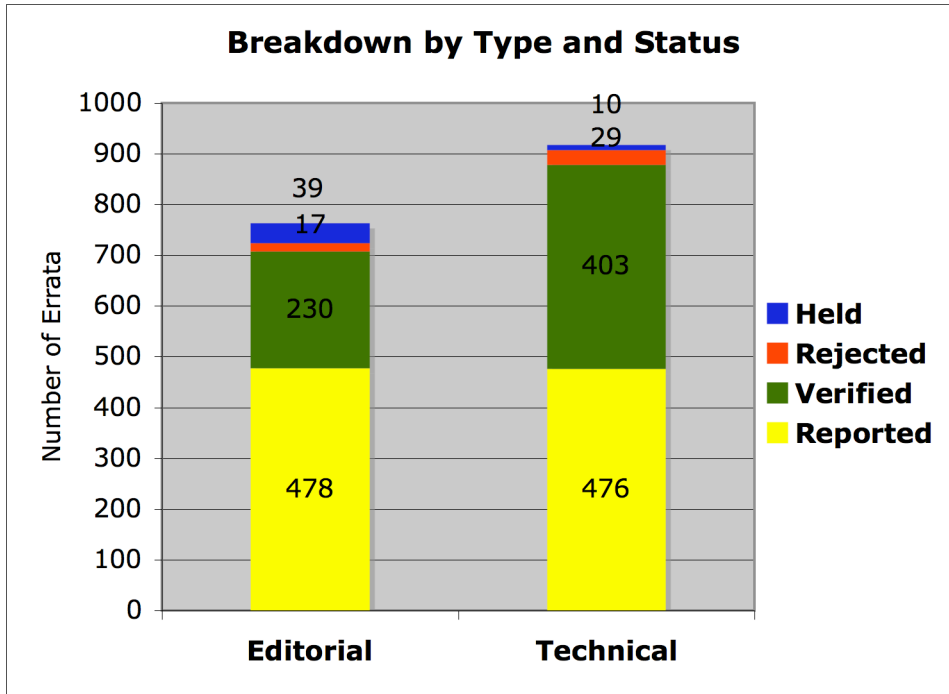
More than half of the errata reports are marked Technical, and more than half are Reported.



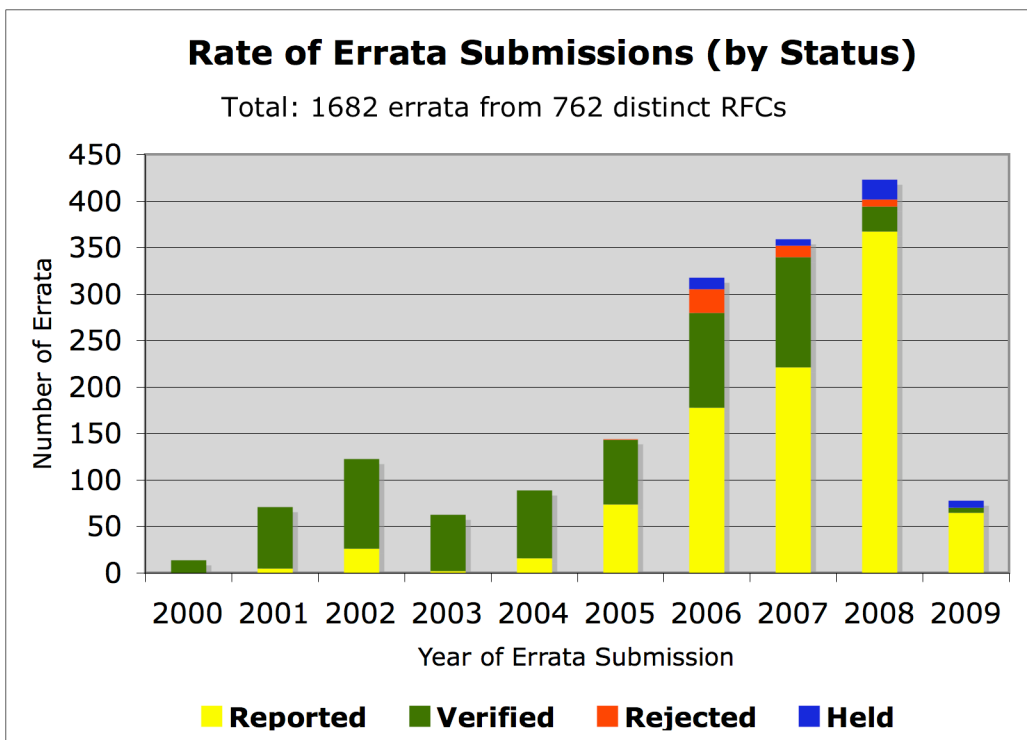
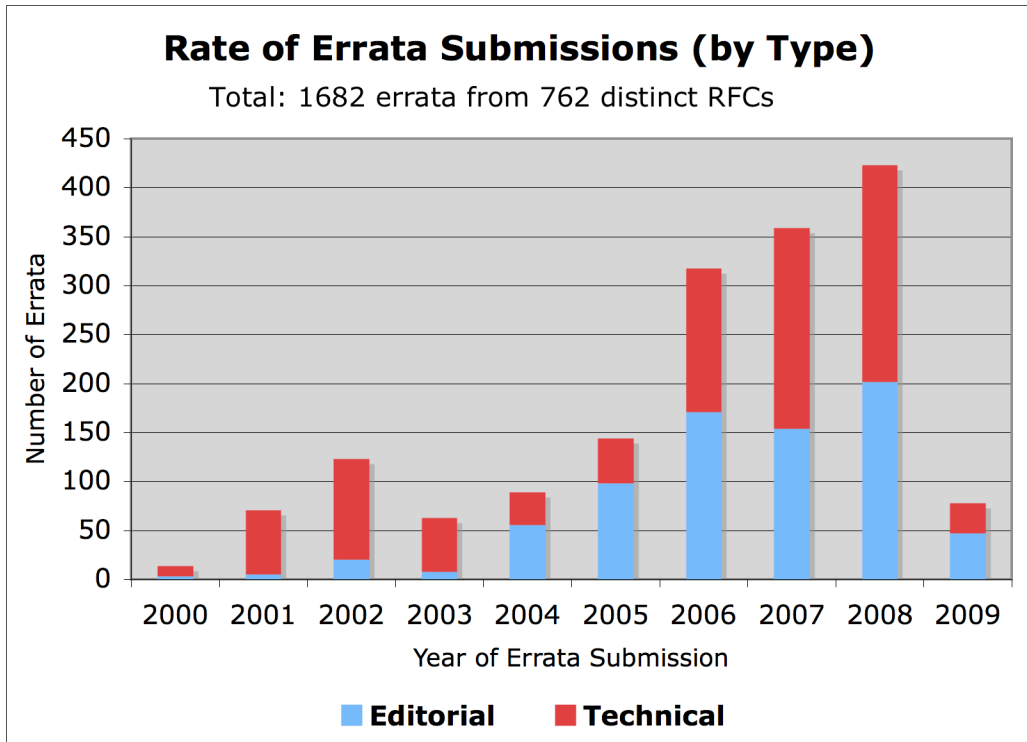
Over time, there are more total errata, and the verifiers are starting to mark them Verified, Rejected, and Held.



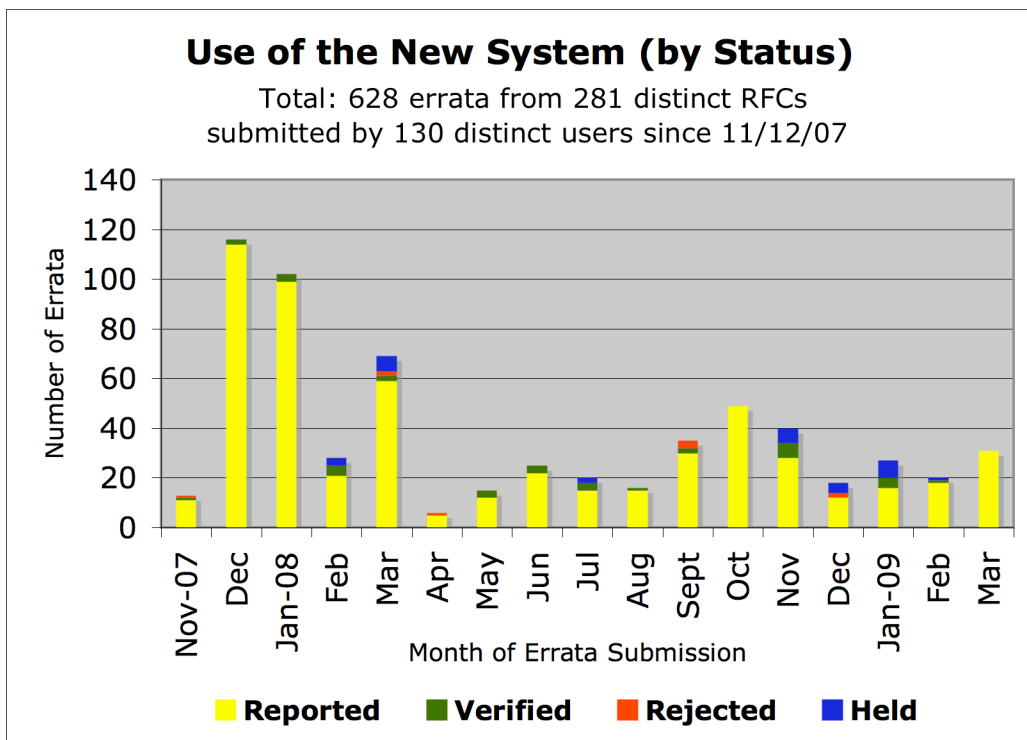
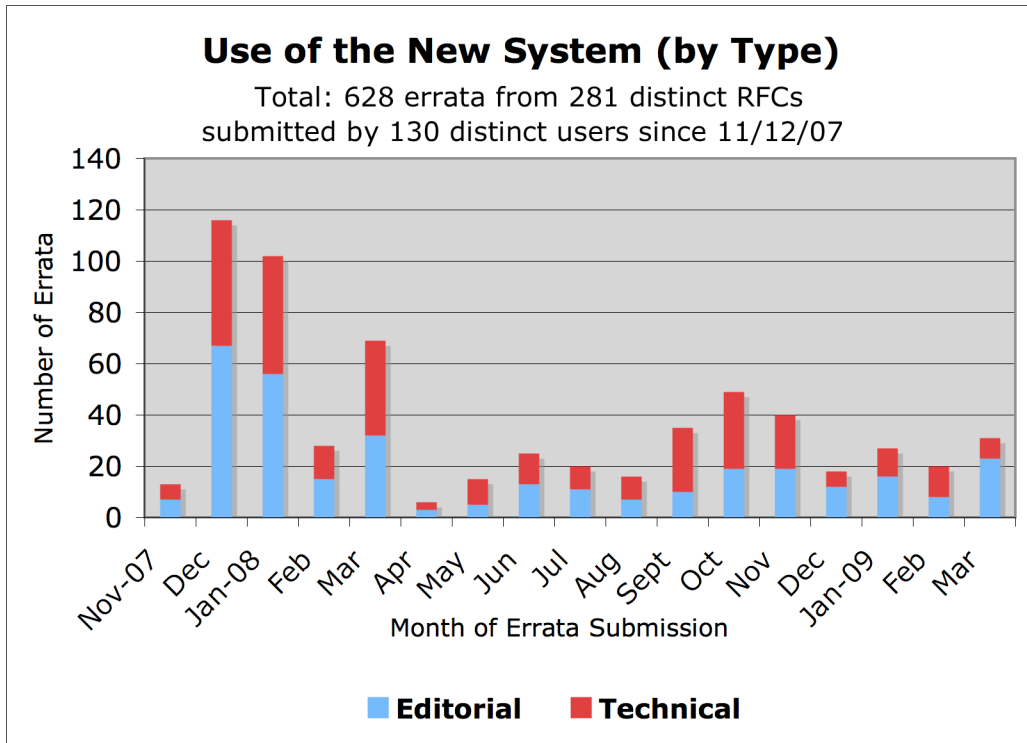
More than half of the Technical errata are Reported. Almost two-thirds of Editorial errata are Reported. Few have been marked Held for Document Update or Rejected.



The following graphs show the number of errata reports submitted per year since we started collecting errata in 2000.

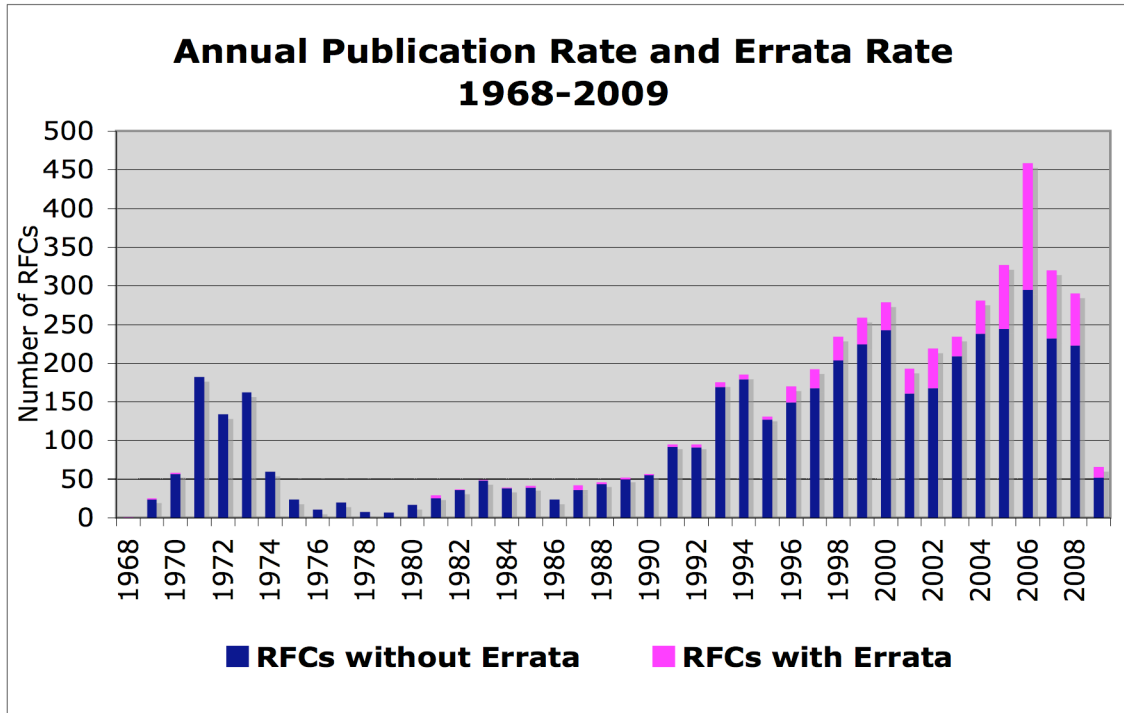


The following graphs show the number of errata submitted since the new system was introduced. On average (over the past 16 months), 37 errata were submitted per month. The majority of recently submitted errata are Reported.

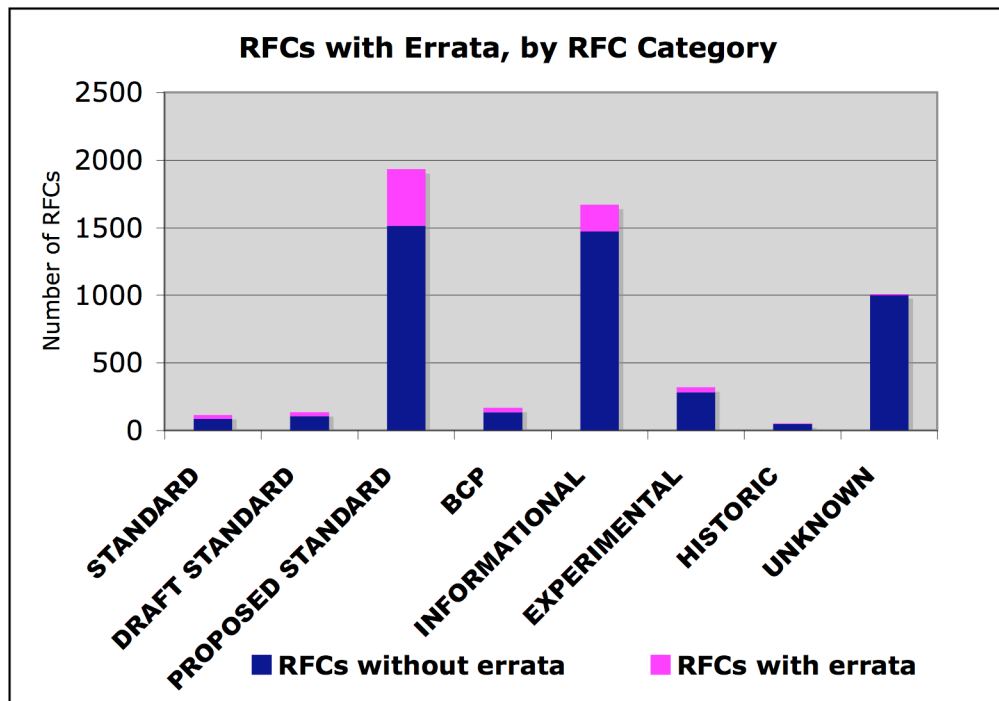


Errata in the Context of the RFC Series

The graph below shows the total number RFCs published in a given year, and of those, the number of distinct RFCs for which errata have been submitted.

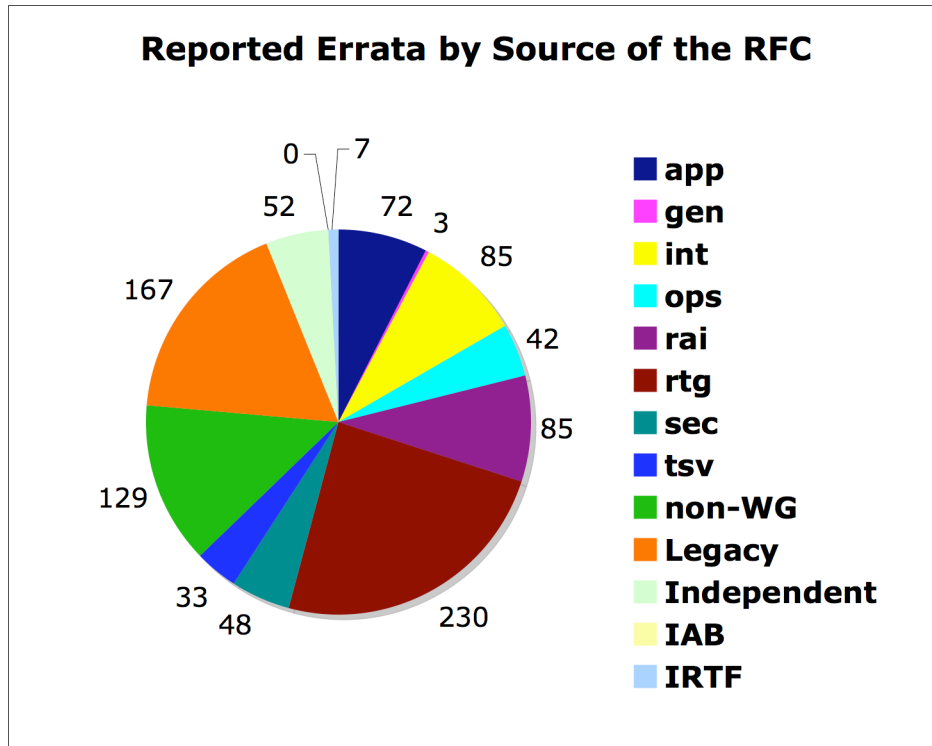


The graph below shows the number of RFCs in a given category, and of those, the number of distinct RFCs for which errata have been submitted. Overall, 14% of RFCs have errata.



Reported Errata by Source of the RFC

The following graph represents the number of errata reports per document source (i.e., IETF Area, IAB, IRTF, Independent Submissions, and Legacy documents). The majority of errata awaiting review are from RAI Area, Routing Area, non-WG (individual submissions), and Legacy RFCs.



Updates to the Errata System since November 2008

- Verifiers started marking errata as Held for Document Update, as the new status was made available November 2008.
- When a new erratum is submitted for an RFC that was the product of a working group, the WG mailing list is CC'ed on the notification message (in addition to the relevant parties who also receive the message).