

## Report on RFC Errata 3 November 2009

This report is regarding RFC errata as documented on <http://www.rfc-editor.org/errata.php>. This reports contains:

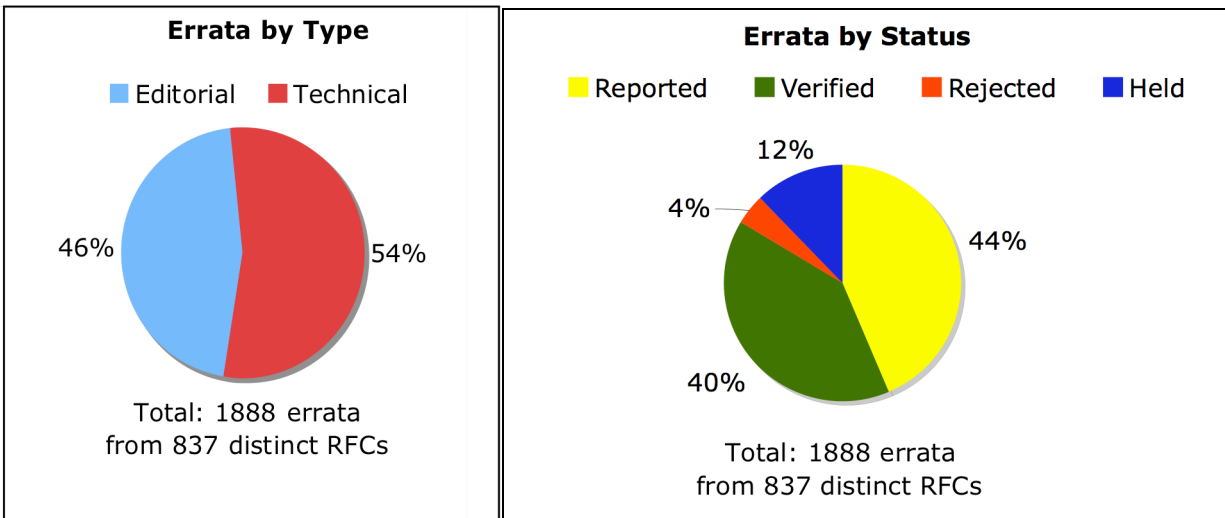
1. Overview of RFC Errata Collection
2. Use of the New System (since Nov. 2007)
3. Errata in the Context of the RFC Series
4. Reported Errata by Source of RFC
5. Data Quality

See [http://www.rfc-editor.org/status\\_type\\_desc.html](http://www.rfc-editor.org/status_type_desc.html) for Type and Status descriptions, and draft-rfc-editor-errata-process regarding the process.

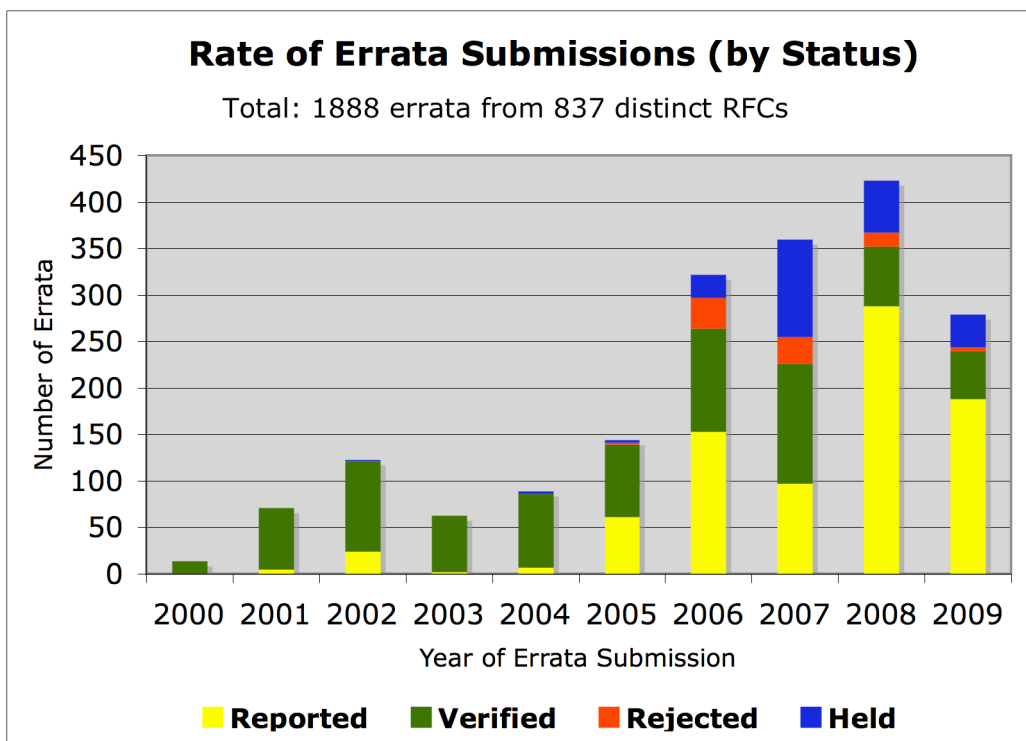
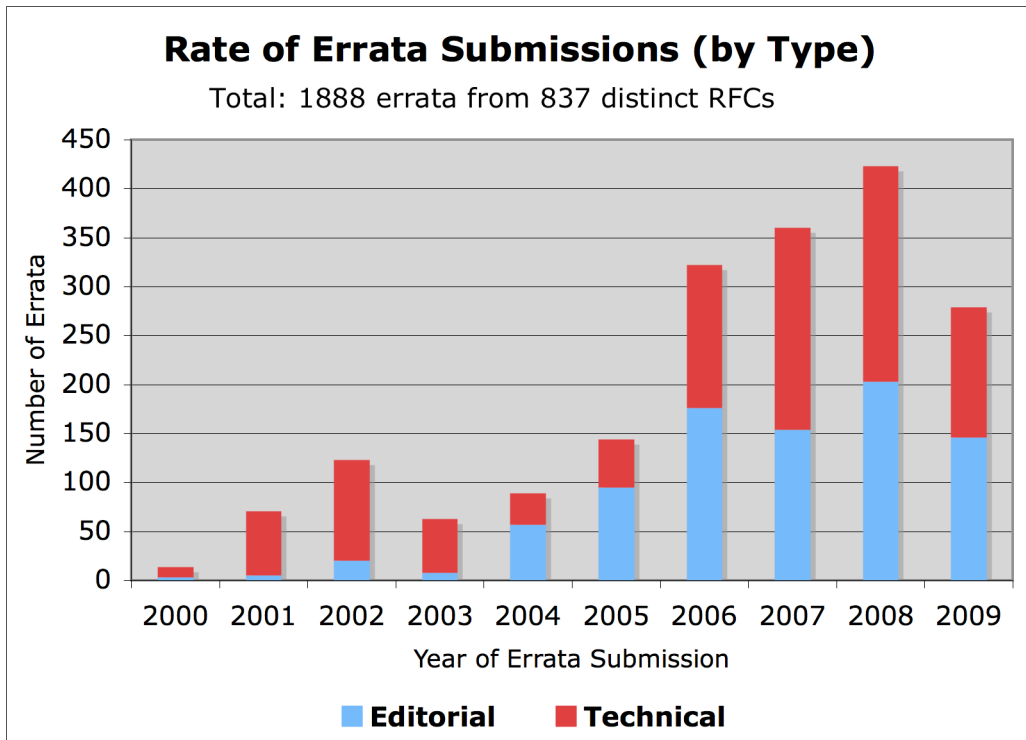
### 1. Overview of RFC Errata Collection

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, our delay in processing errata, and the IESG's determining its errata process during 2008. There are currently **1888** errata reports.

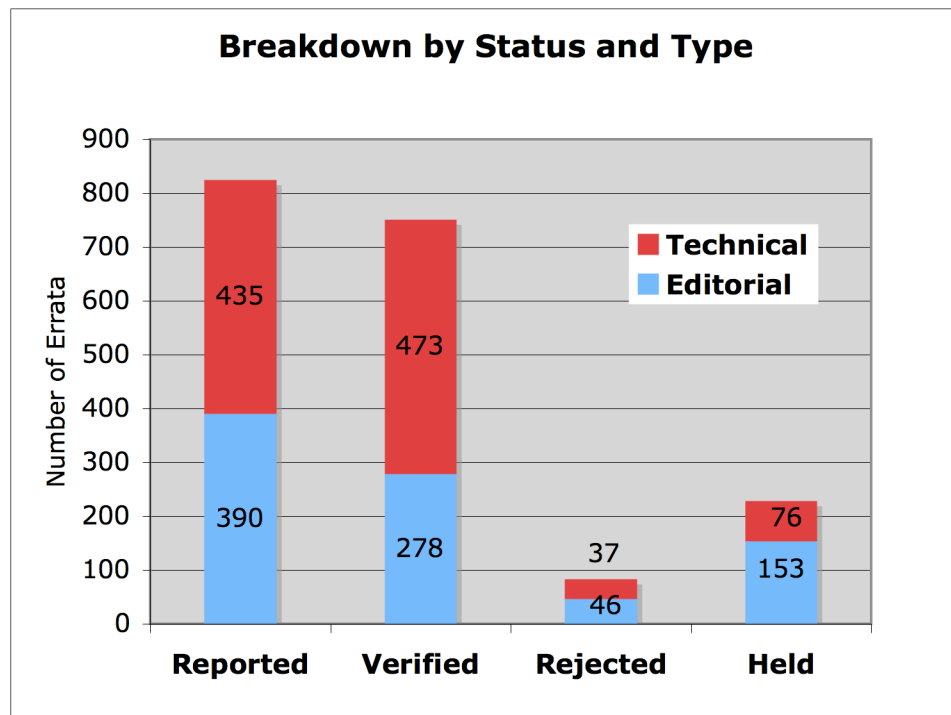
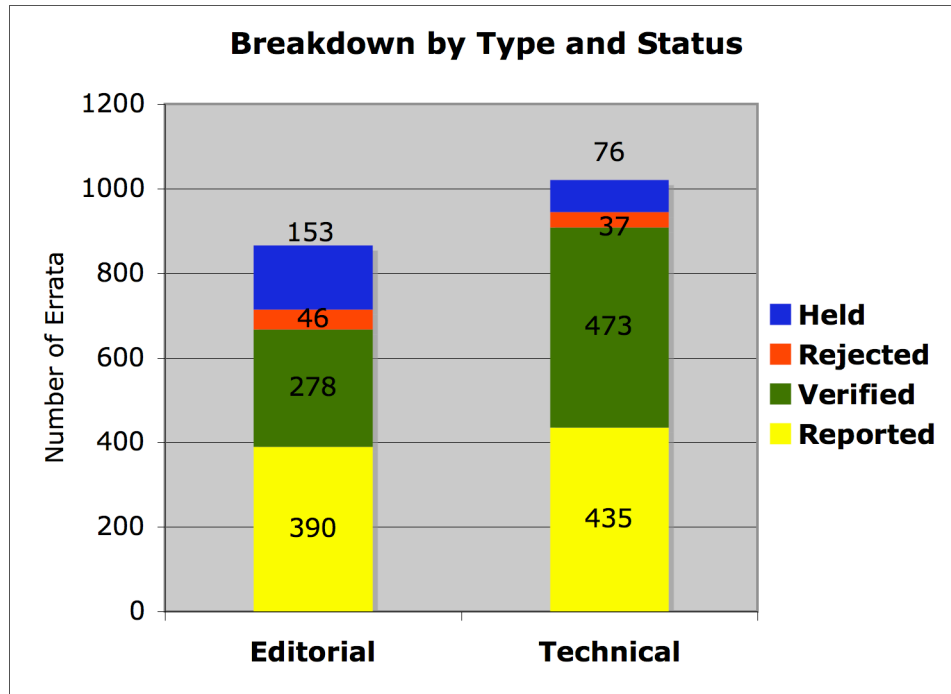
More than half of the errata reports are marked Technical, and almost of half of errata are Reported.



The following graphs show the number of errata reports submitted per year since we started collecting errata in 2000. Most errata submitted before 2005 have been Verified.



The following graphs show that Held for Document Update is used more for Editorial errata than Technical errata, which seems appropriate.

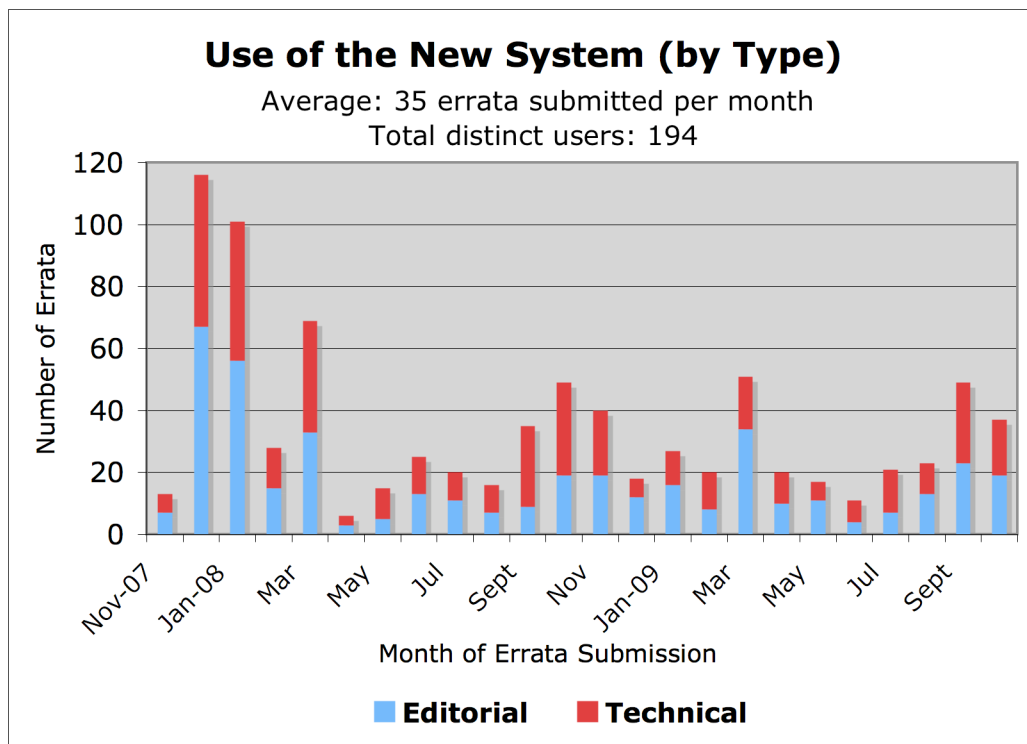


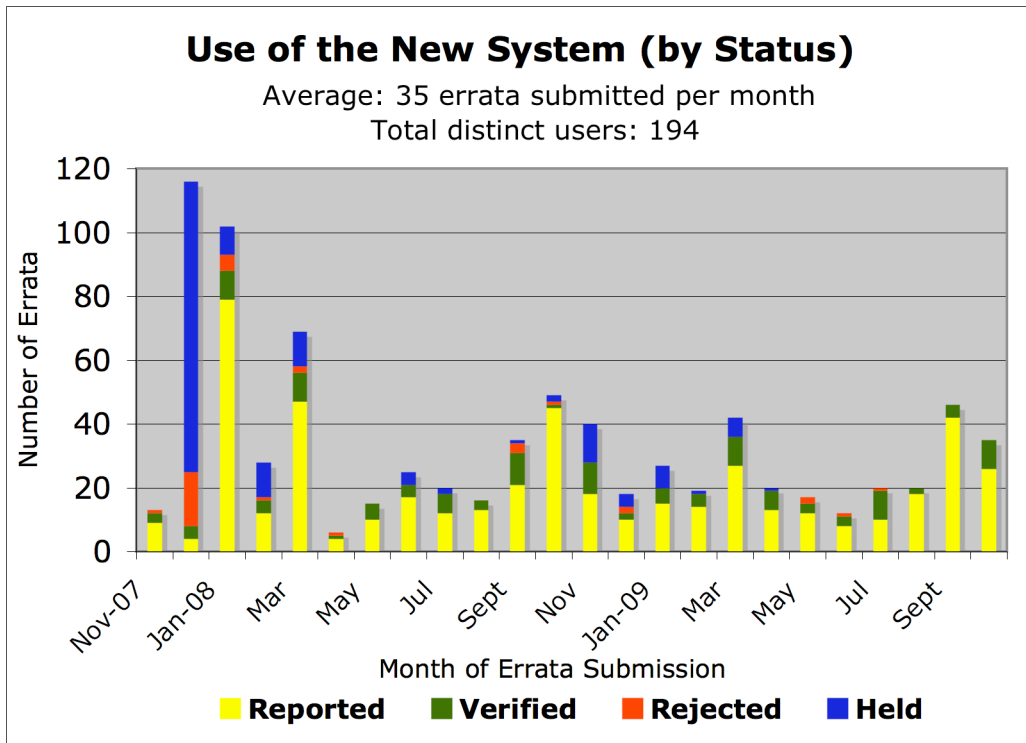
## 2. Use of the New System (since Nov. 2007)

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.

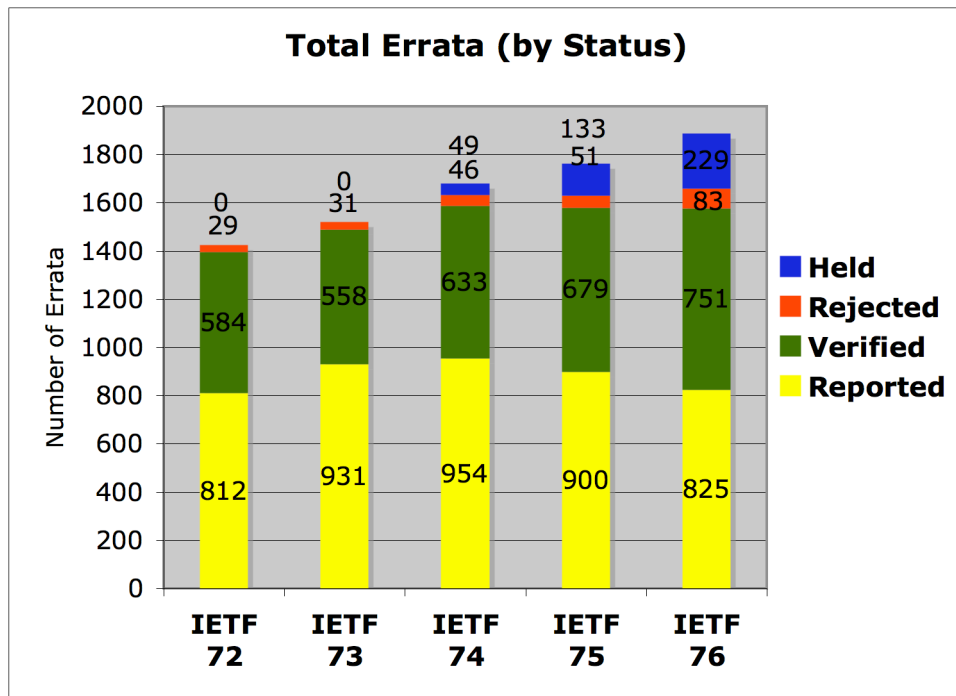
After 2 years, the new submission system has been used by **194** distinct users. When the IESG statement regarding errata processing for the IETF stream was completed 30 July 2008, a new status called "Hold for Document Update" was added. With this status and improved search functionality available, the verification system is starting to be used more. **17** distinct verifiers have used the new system.

The following graphs show the number of errata submitted since the new system was introduced. On average (over the past 2 years), **35** errata were submitted per month. The majority of recently submitted errata are Reported.



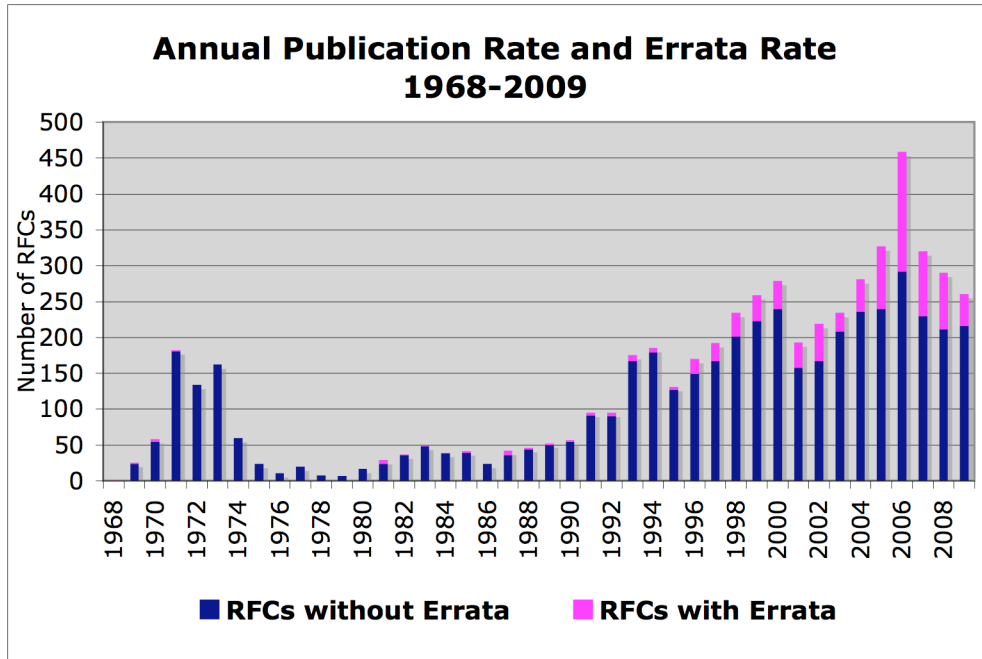


Recently, the verifiers have started marking errata as Verified, Rejected, and Held.

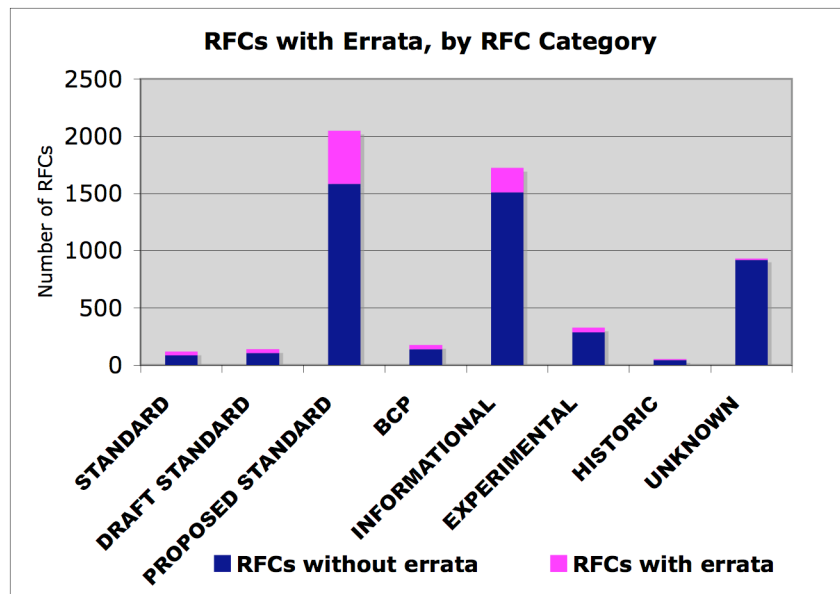


### 3. Errata in the Context of the RFC Series

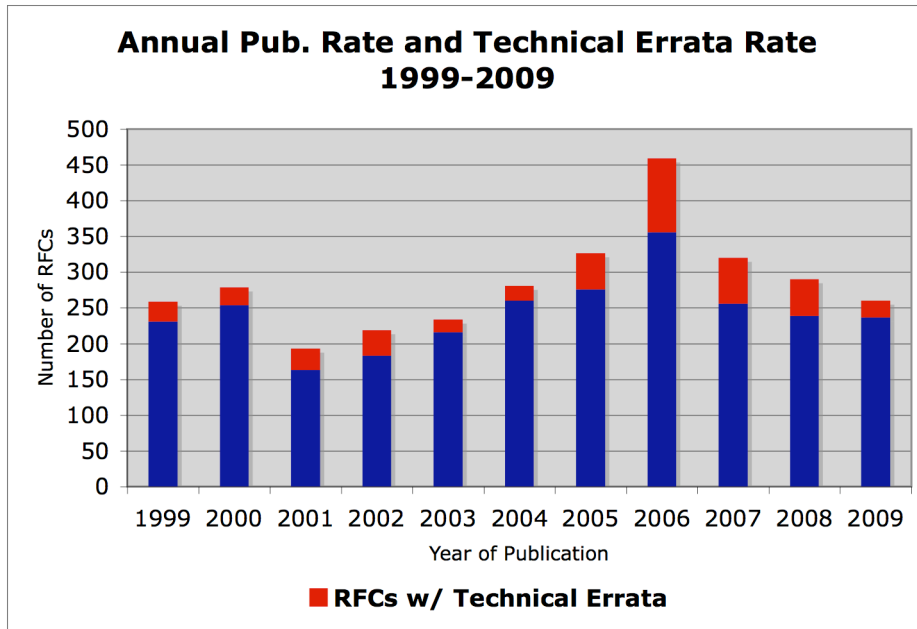
The graph below shows the total number RFCs published in a given year, and of those, the number of distinct RFCs for which **any** errata have been submitted.



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, **15%** of RFCs have errata.

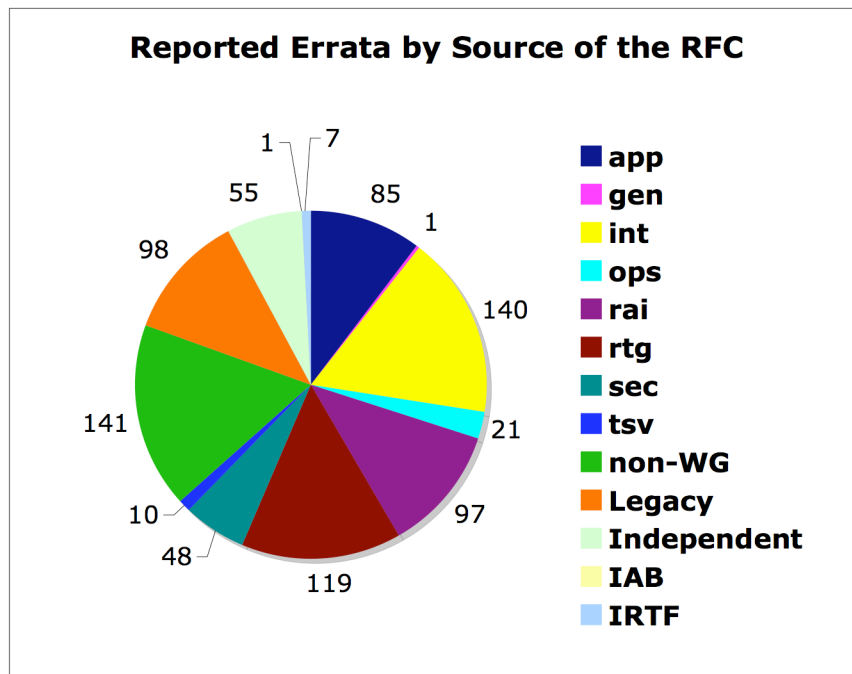


The graph below shows the RFCs published over the past 10 years that have **Technical** errata that have not been Rejected. As noted earlier, Technical errata make up about half of the total.



#### 4. Reported Errata by Source of the RFC

The following graph shows the number of errata reports per document source. The majority of errata awaiting review are from RAI Area, Routing Area, and non-WG (individual submissions). The number of Legacy RFCs with errata has decreased because source information was updated for over 1200 RFCs in September 2009.



## 5. Data Quality

Approximately 100 errata reports contain multiple errata in their notes fields, so in fact, the actual number of individual reports is larger than **1888**.

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 (or at least split by Status), and Type labels could be corrected.

As mentioned above, the source information for a number of RFCs that were originally marked Legacy has been updated to reflect the appropriate WG from which they originated. There is additional cleanup of the source field that could be done; this affects the errata system by determining who will verify the errata.