Report on RFC Errata
2 November 2010

This report describes RFC errata as available from
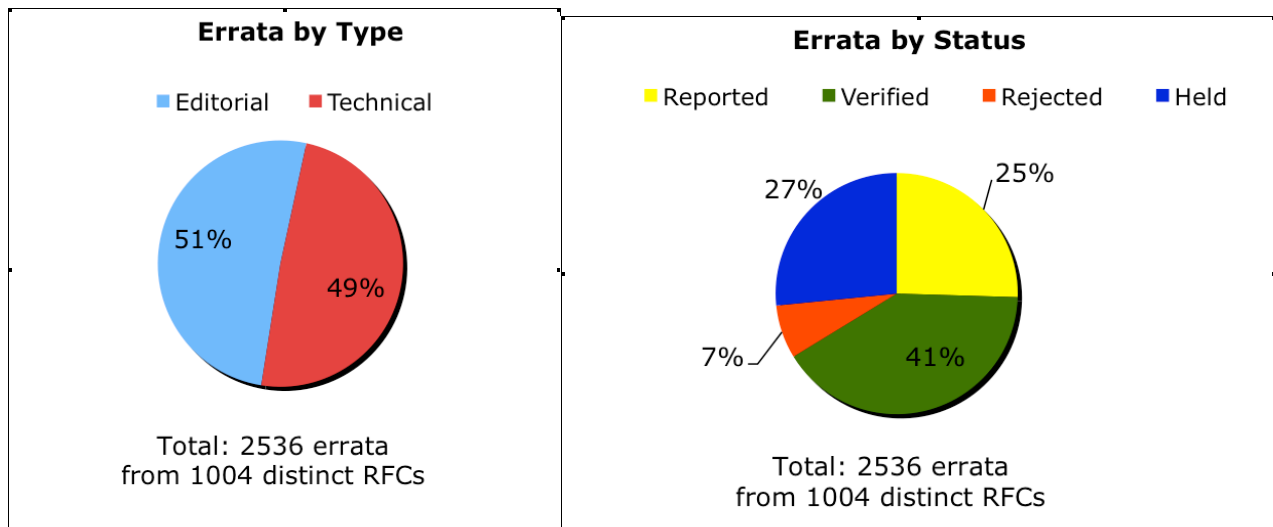http://www.rfc-editor.org/errata.php. This reports contains:
1. Overview of RFC Errata Collection
2. Use of the Web Portal (2007-Present)
3. Errata in the Context of the RFC Series
4. Reported Errata by Source of RFC
5. Data Quality

See http://www.rfc-editor.org/status_type_desc.html for Type and Status
descriptions, and draft-rfc-editor-errata-process regarding the process.
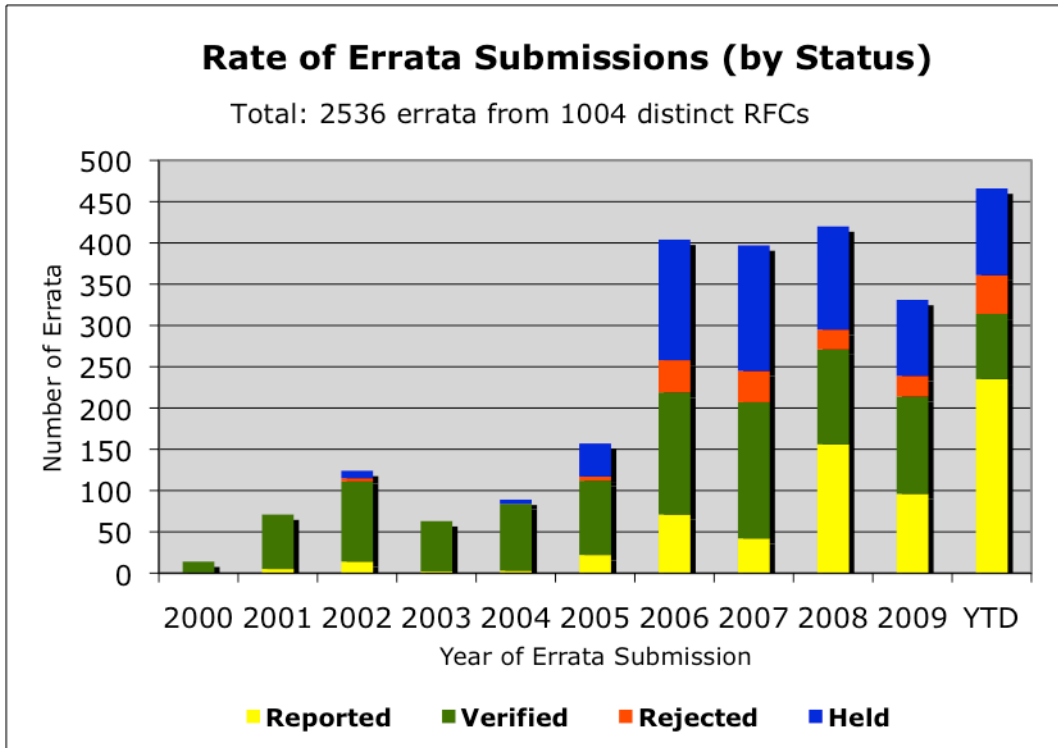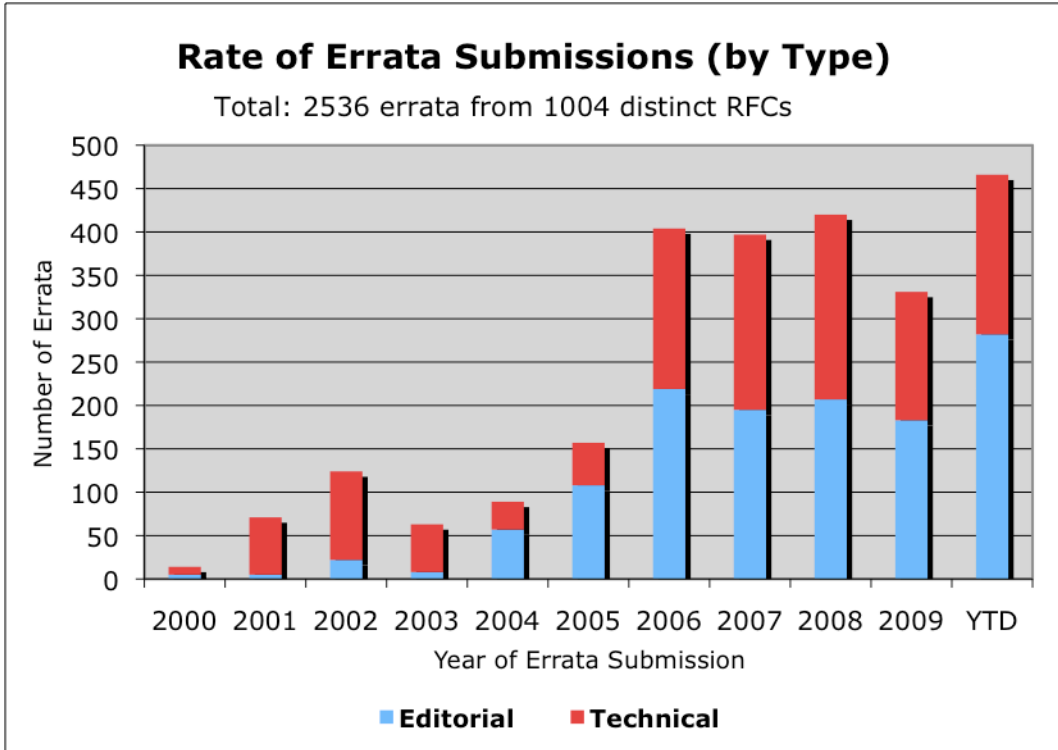
1. Overview of RFC Errata Collection

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 underestimation of the number of errata that would be submitted, the
difficulty in contacting RFC authors years after publication, our delay
in processing errata, and the IESG's determining its errata process
during 2008. There are currently **2536** errata reports.

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

Errata by Type

Editorial Technical

51%

49%

Total: 2536 errata
from 1004 distinct RFCs

Errata by Status

Reported Verified Rejected Held

27% 25%

7% 41%

Total: 2536 errata
from 1004 distinct RFCs

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.

Rate of Errata Submissions (by Type)
Total: 2536 errata from 1004 distinct RFCs

Number of Errata vs. Year of Errata Submission

Legend: Editorial, Technical

Rate of Errata Submissions (by Status)
Total: 2536 errata from 1004 distinct RFCs

Number of Errata vs. Year of Errata Submission

Legend: Reported, Verified, Rejected, Held

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

Breakdown by Type and Status
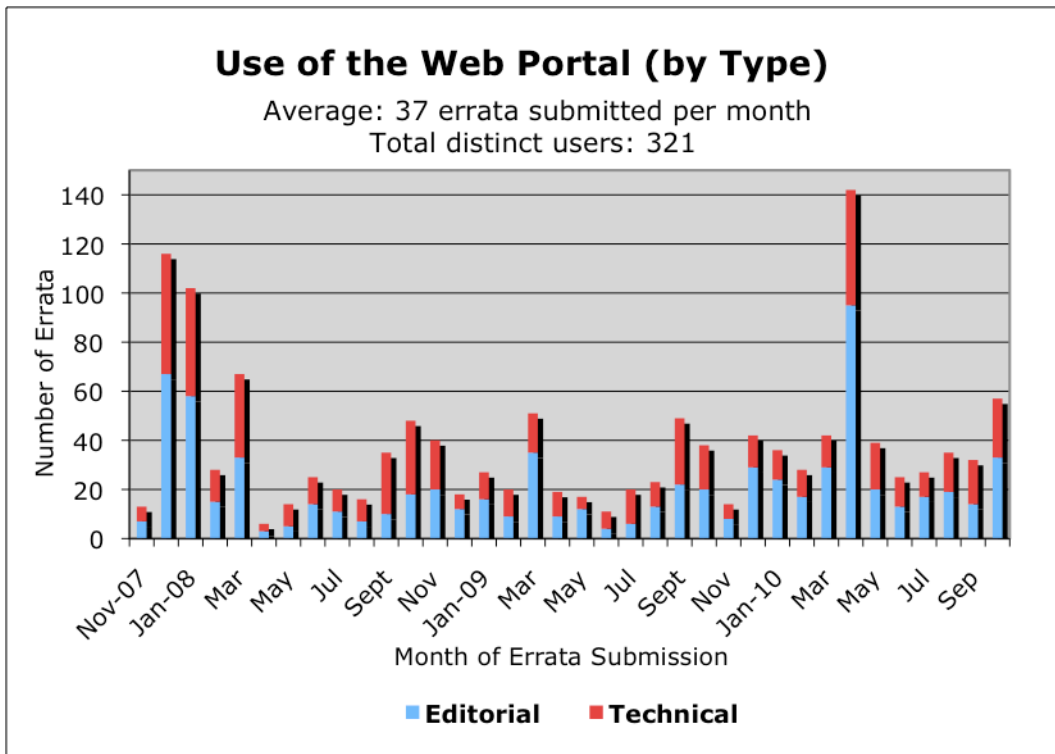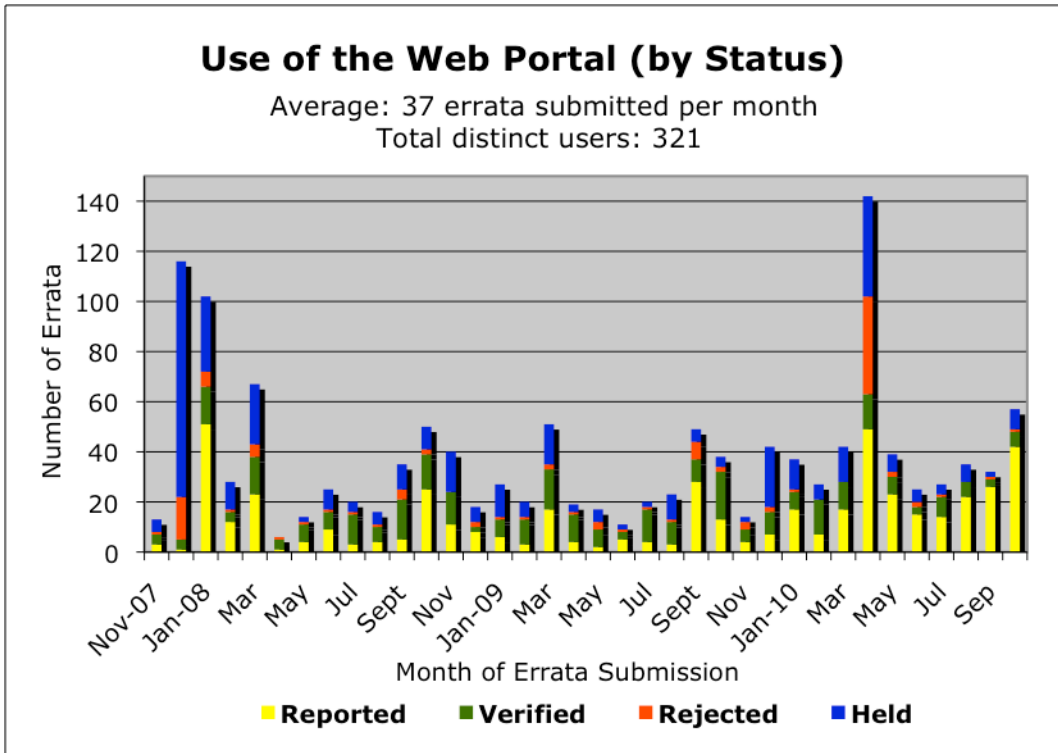

Breakdown by Status and Type
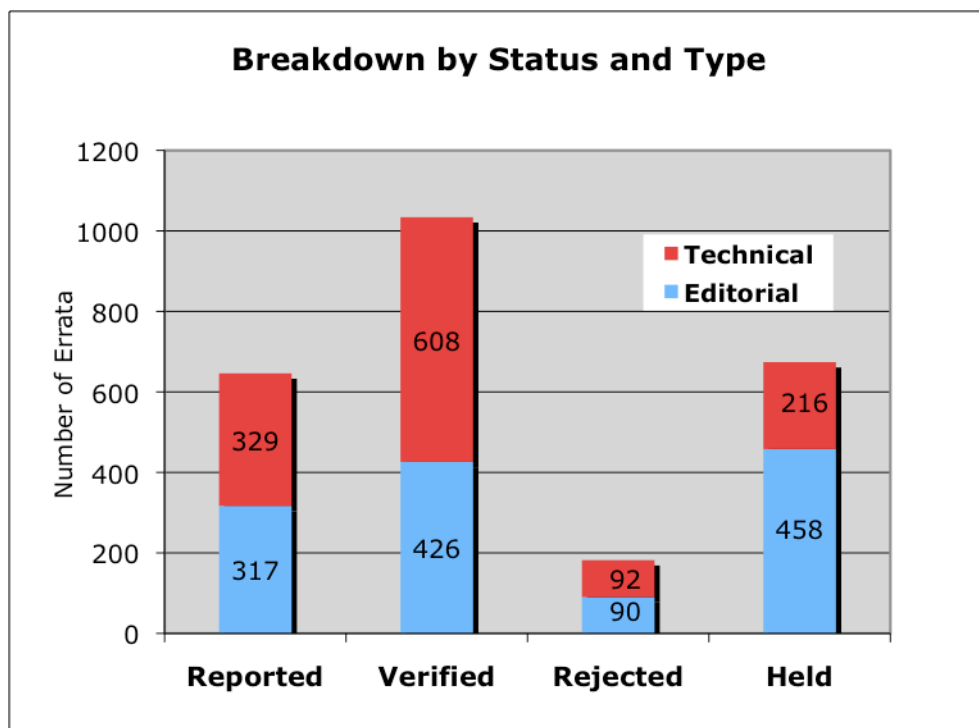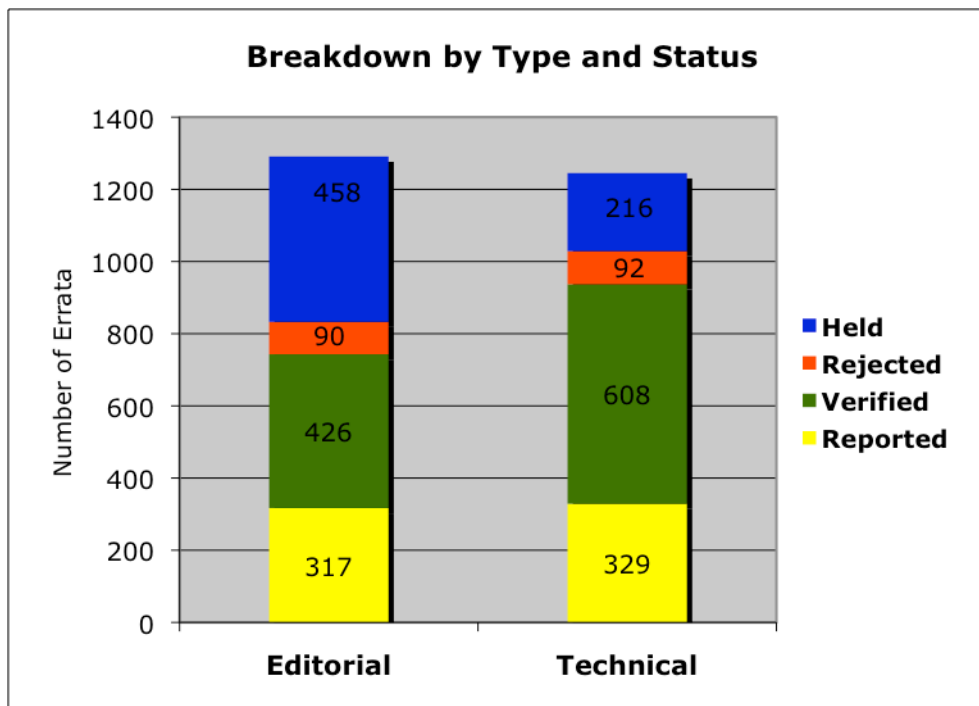
2. Use of the Web Portal (2007-Present)

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.
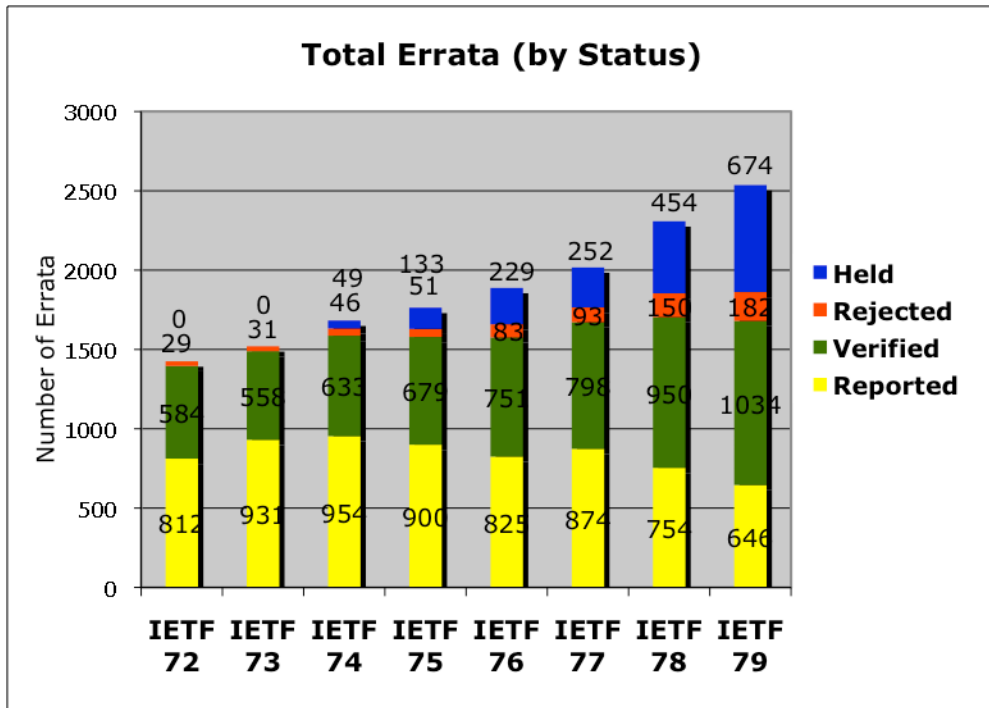
Three years later, the submission system has been used by **321** distinct users. When the IESG statement regarding errata processing for the IETF stream was completed 30 July 2008, a new status called "Hold for Document Update" was added. With this status and improved search functionality available, the verification system is starting to be used more. **27** distinct verifiers have used the new system.

The following graphs show the number of errata submitted since the new system was introduced. On average, **37** errata were submitted per month. The majority of recently submitted errata are Reported.


Use of the Web Portal (by Type)
Average: 37 errata submitted per month
Total distinct users: 321

Use of the Web Portal (by Status)

Average: 37 errata submitted per month
Total distinct users: 321

Chart: Number of Errata vs. Month of Errata Submission (Nov-07 through Sep), with legend: **Reported** (yellow), **Verified** (green), **Rejected** (orange), **Held** (blue)

Y-axis (Number of Errata): 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140

X-axis (Month of Errata Submission): Nov-07, Jan-08, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov, Jan-09, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov, Jan-10, Mar, May, Jul, Sep

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

Total Errata (by Status)

Chart: Number of Errata vs. IETF meeting, with legend: **Held** (blue), **Rejected** (orange), **Verified** (green), **Reported** (yellow)

Y-axis (Number of Errata): 0, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000

|	IETF 72	IETF 73	IETF 74	IETF 75	IETF 76	IETF 77	IETF 78	IETF 79
Held	0	0	49	133	229	252	454	674
Rejected	29	31	46	51	83	93	150	182
Verified	584	558	633	679	751	798	950	1034
Reported	812	931	954	900	825	874	754	646

## 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.
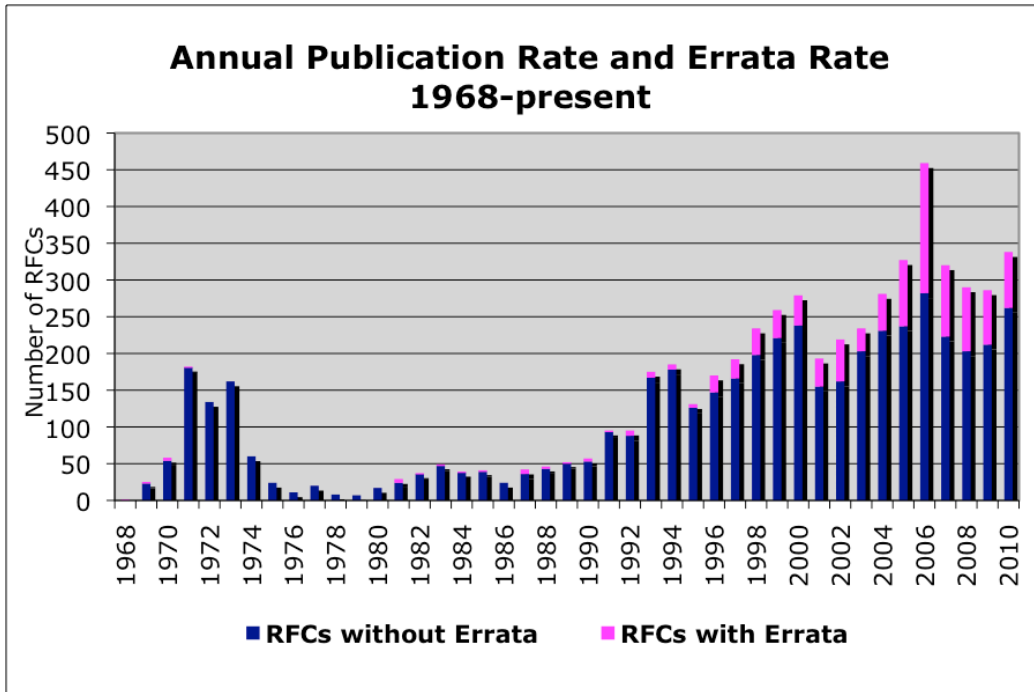
The graph below shows the number of RFCs in a given category, and of those, the number of distinct RFCs for which Technical errata have been submitted. Overall, **10%** of RFCs have Technical errata.
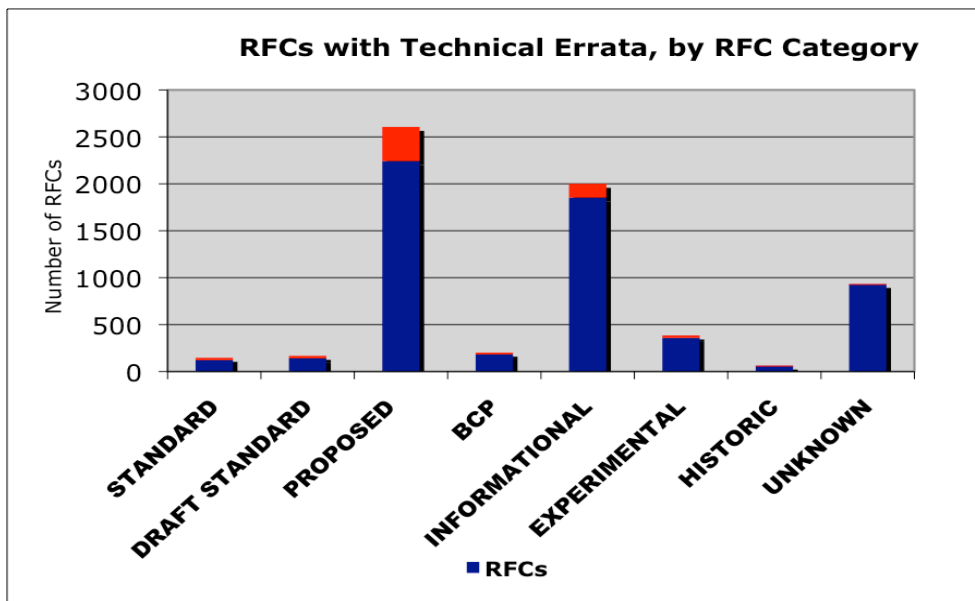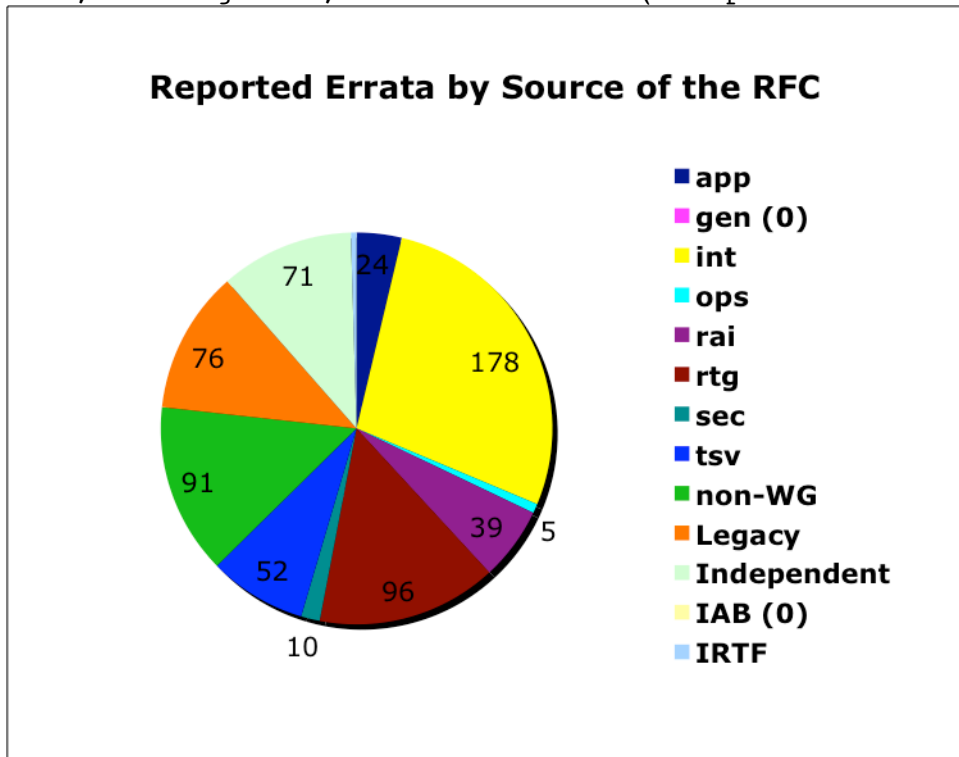
The graph below shows the RFCs published over the past 10 years that have **Technical** errata that have not been Rejected. As noted earlier, Technical errata make up about half of the total errata.

Annual Pub. Rate and Technical Errata Rate 2001-2010

Number of RFCs — Year of Publication
■ RFCs w/ Technical Errata
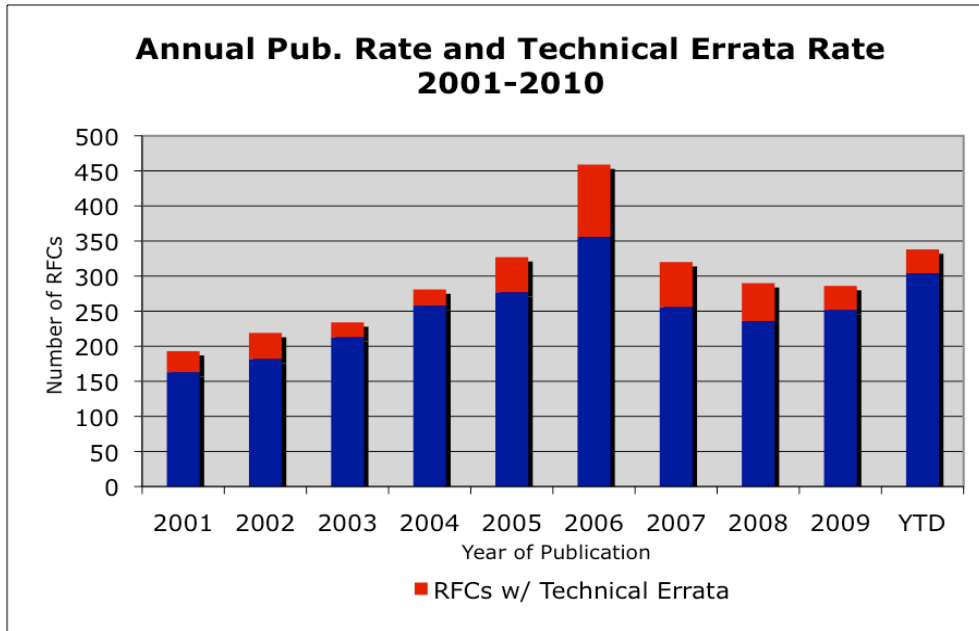
4. Reported Errata by Source of the RFC

The following graph shows the number of errata reports per document source. The majority of errata awaiting review are from RFCs of the Internet area, Routing area, and IETF non-WG (AD-sponsored documents).

Reported Errata by Source of the RFC

■ app
■ gen (0)
■ int
■ ops
■ rai
■ rtg
■ sec
■ tsv
■ non-WG
■ Legacy
■ Independent
■ IAB (0)
■ IRTF

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 **2536.**

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.