Report on RFC Errata
20 March 2011

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 **2685** errata reports.

About half of the errata reports are marked Technical. Less than a
quarter of errata are Reported.
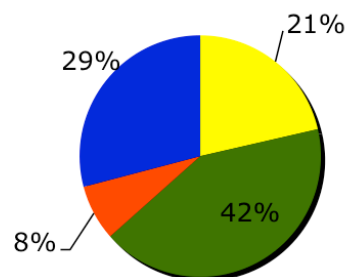
Errata by Type

Editorial Technical

52%
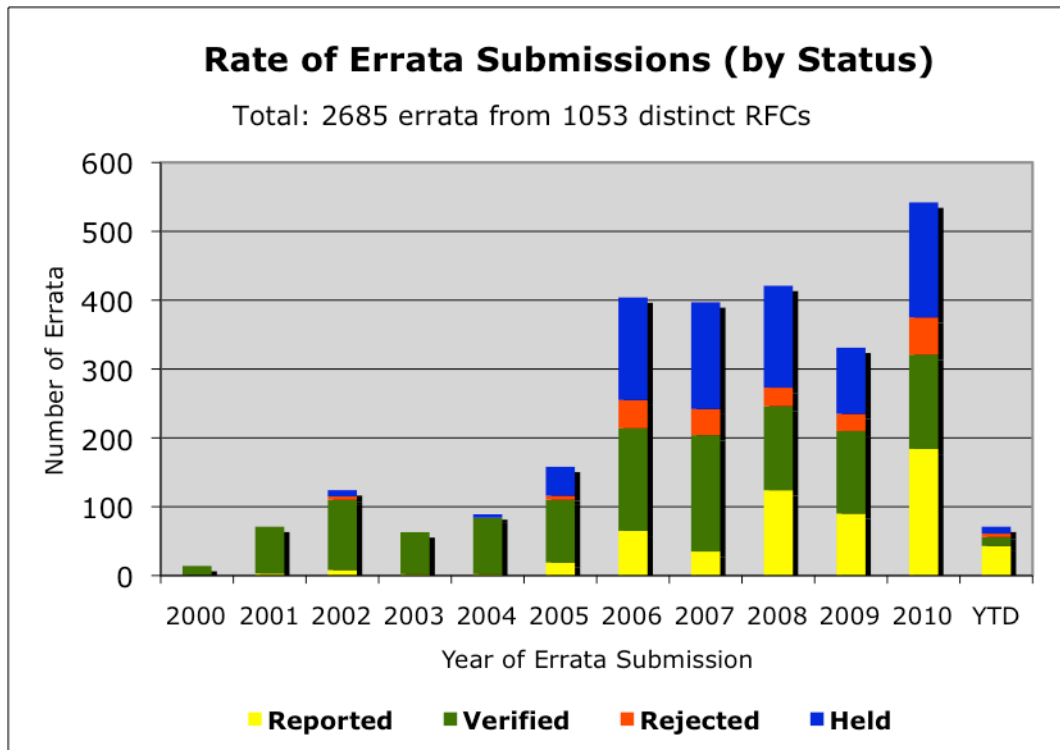
48%
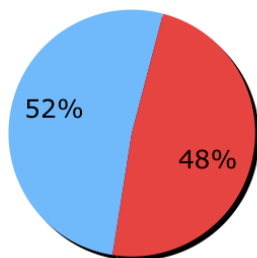
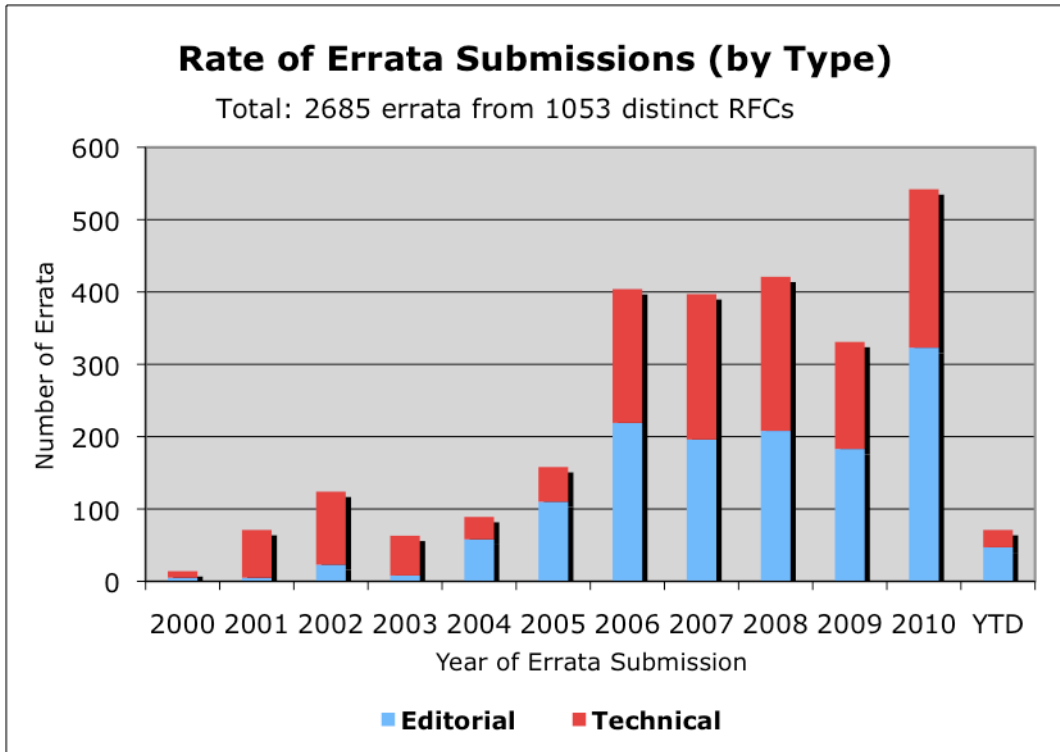Total: 2685 errata
from 1053 distinct RFCs

Errata by Status

Reported Verified Rejected Held

21%

29%

42%

8%

Total: 2685 errata
from 1053 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: 2685 errata from 1053 distinct RFCs

Number of Errata vs. Year of Errata Submission (2000–2010, YTD)

Legend: ■ Editorial ■ Technical

Rate of Errata Submissions (by Status)

Total: 2685 errata from 1053 distinct RFCs

Number of Errata vs. Year of Errata Submission (2000–2010, YTD)

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
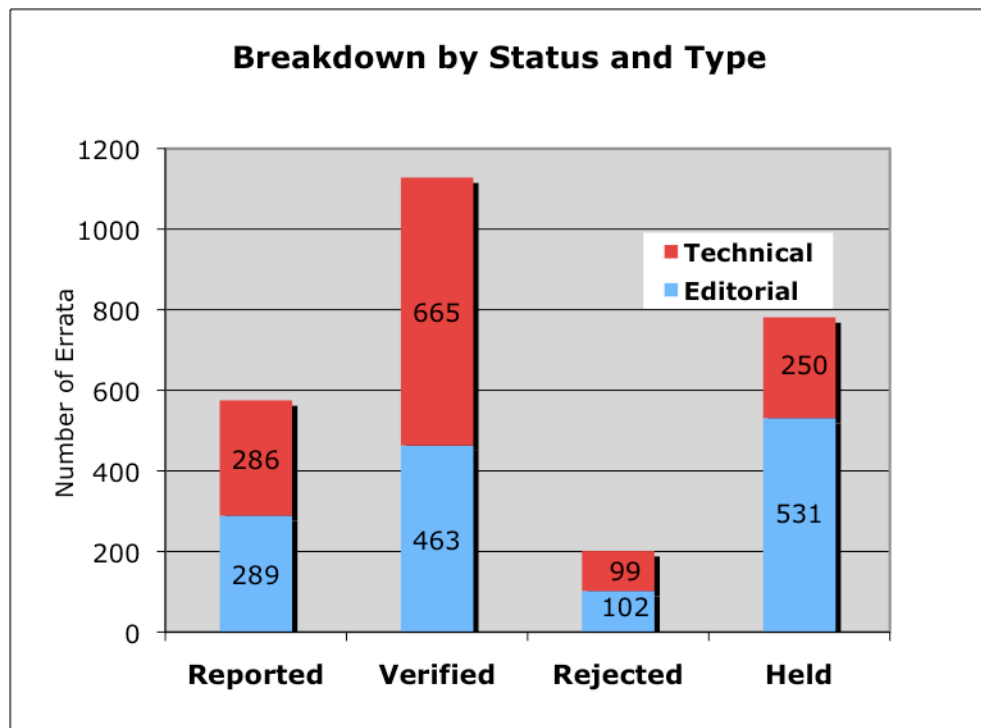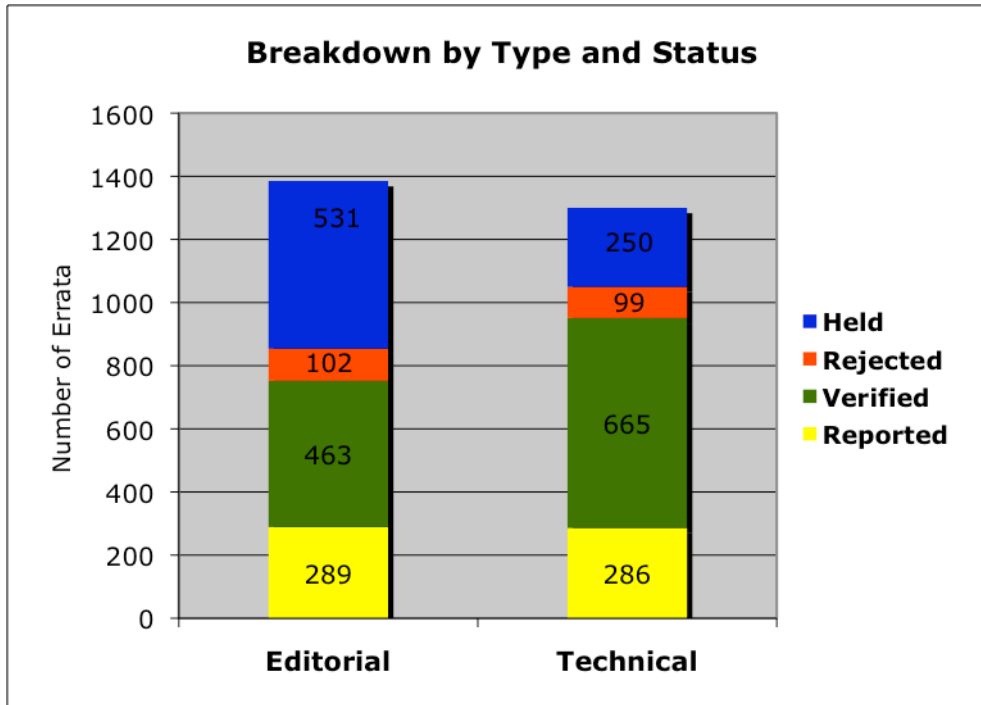
2. Use of the Web Portal (2007-Present)

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.

Over three years later, the submission system has been used by **377** 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.
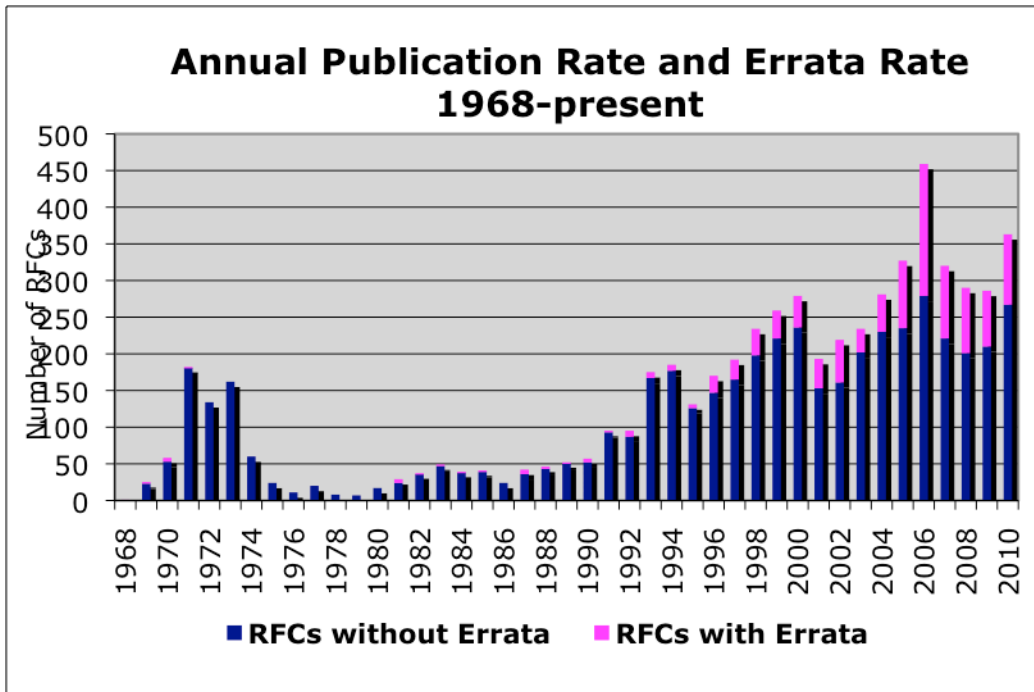
Use of the Web Portal (by Status)
Average: 37 errata submitted per month
Total distinct users: 377
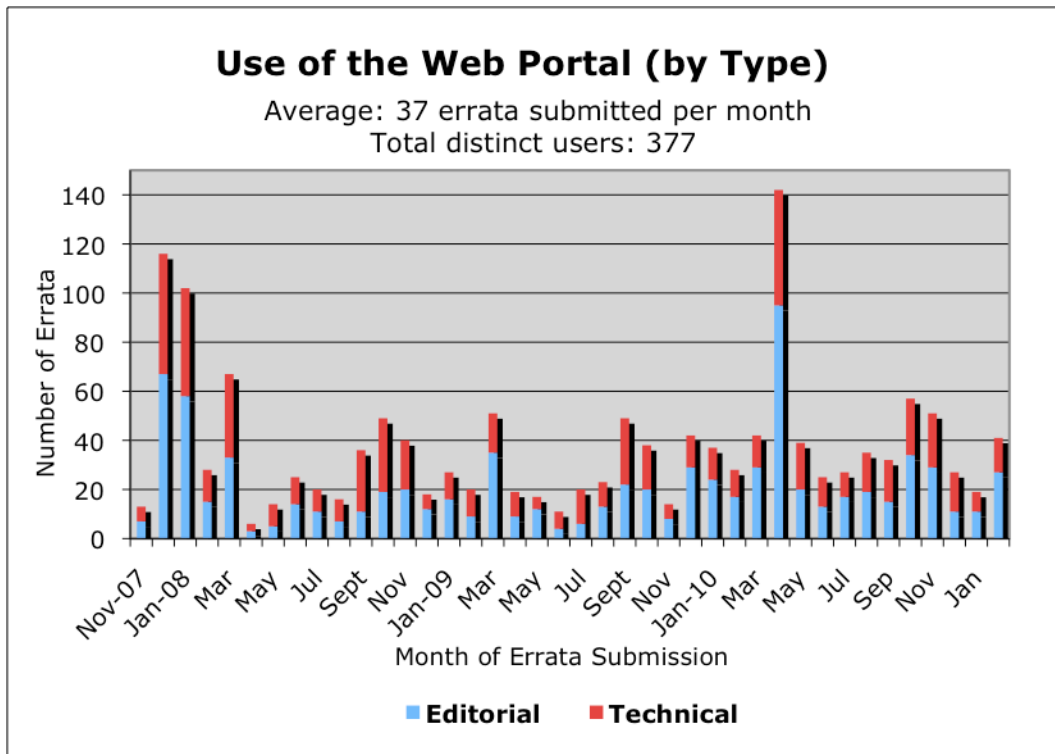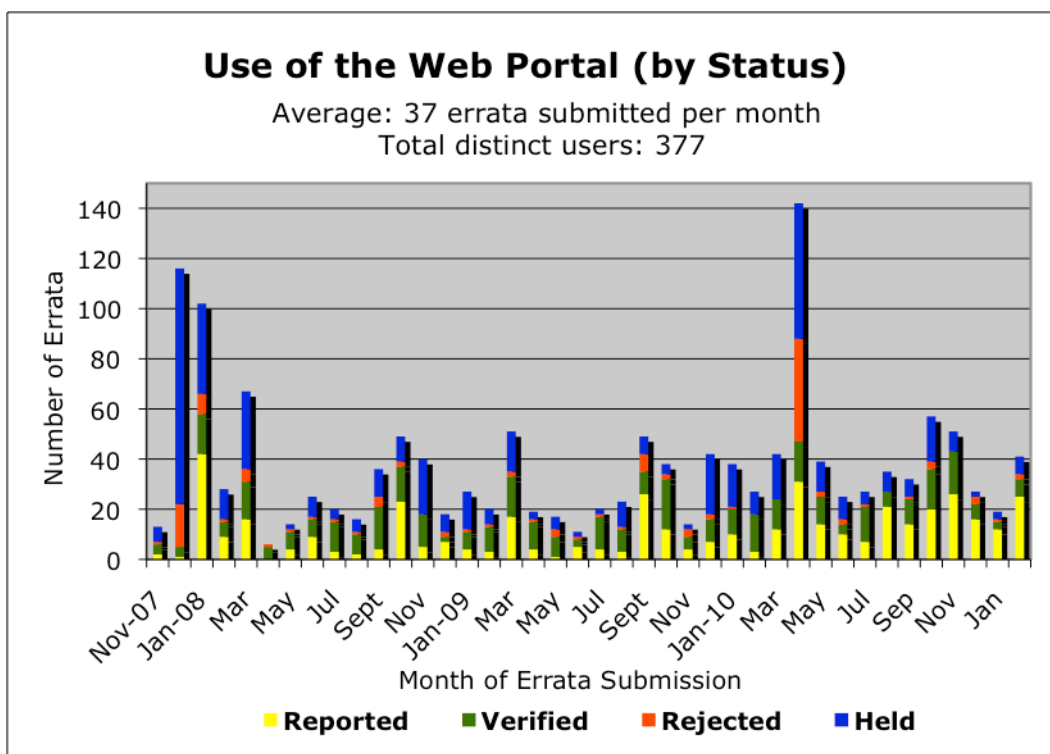
Over time, the verifiers have been marking errata as Verified, Rejected,
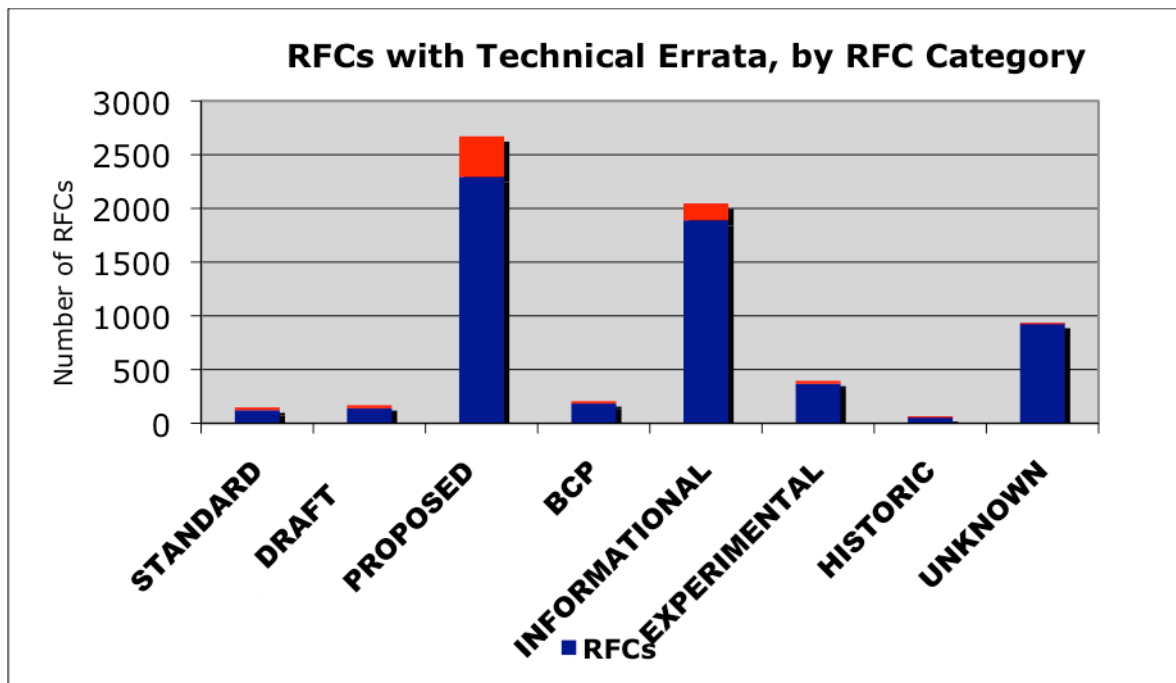and Held.

Total Errata (by Status)
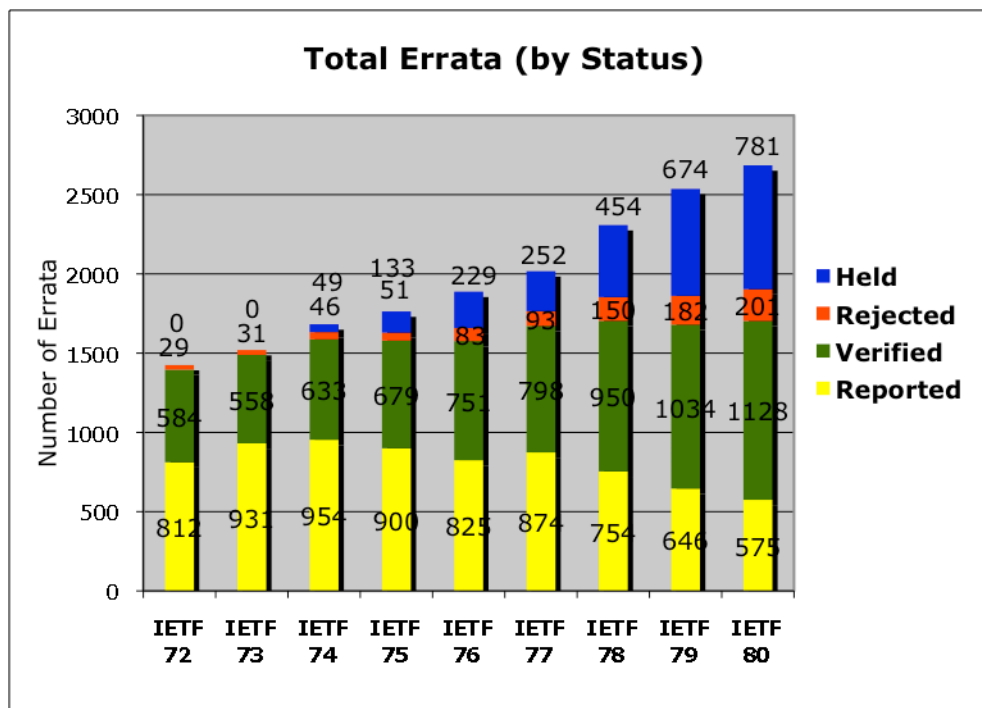
3. Errata in the Context of the RFC Series

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.

Annual Publication Rate and Errata Rate 1968-present

■ RFCs without Errata ■ RFCs with Errata

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.

RFCs with Technical Errata, by RFC Category

STANDARD DRAFT PROPOSED BCP INFORMATIONAL EXPERIMENTAL HISTORIC UNKNOWN

■ RFCs

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
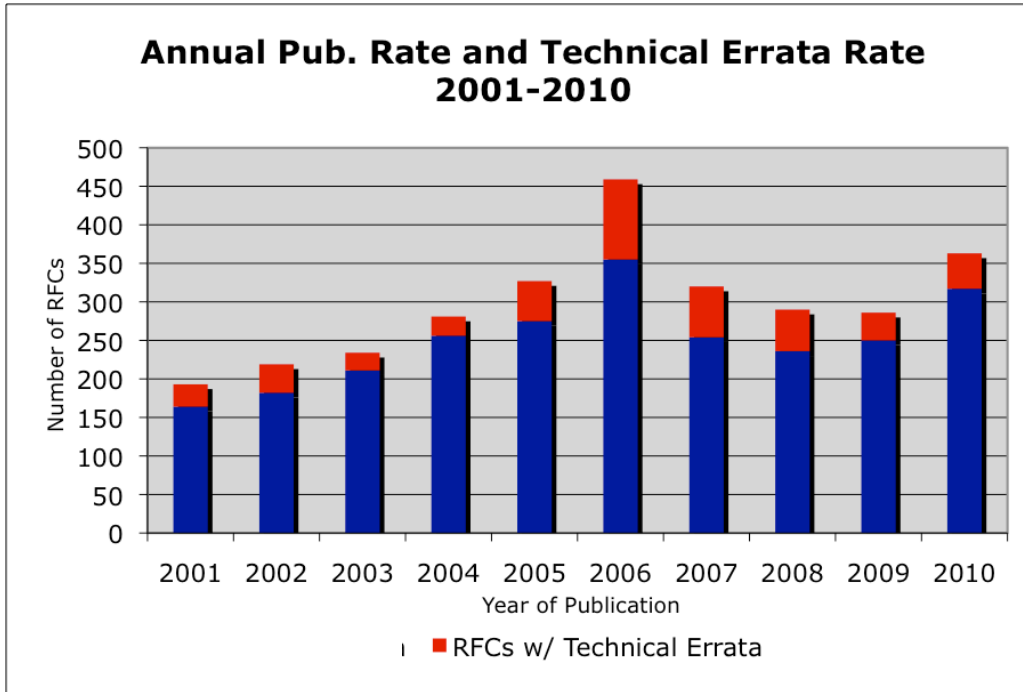
4. Reported Errata by Source of the RFC

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
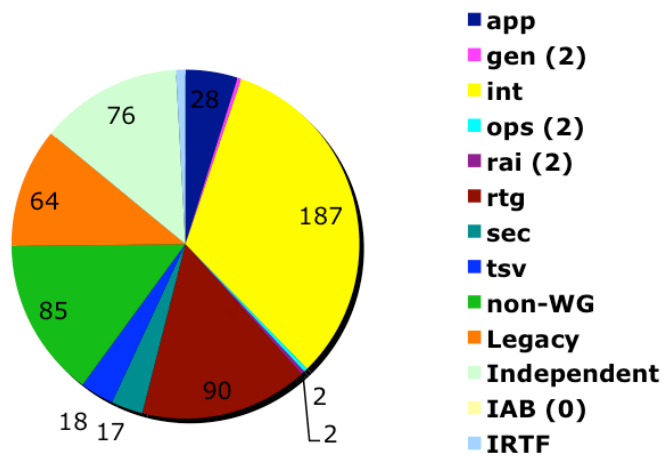
5. Data Quality

Approximately 100 errata reports contain multiple errata in their notes fields, so in fact, the actual number of individual reports is larger than **2685.**

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.