Report on RFC Errata

This report shows the status of the errata submission and verification process as of 15 July 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 **1763** 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 19 months, the new submission system has been used by **162** 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.
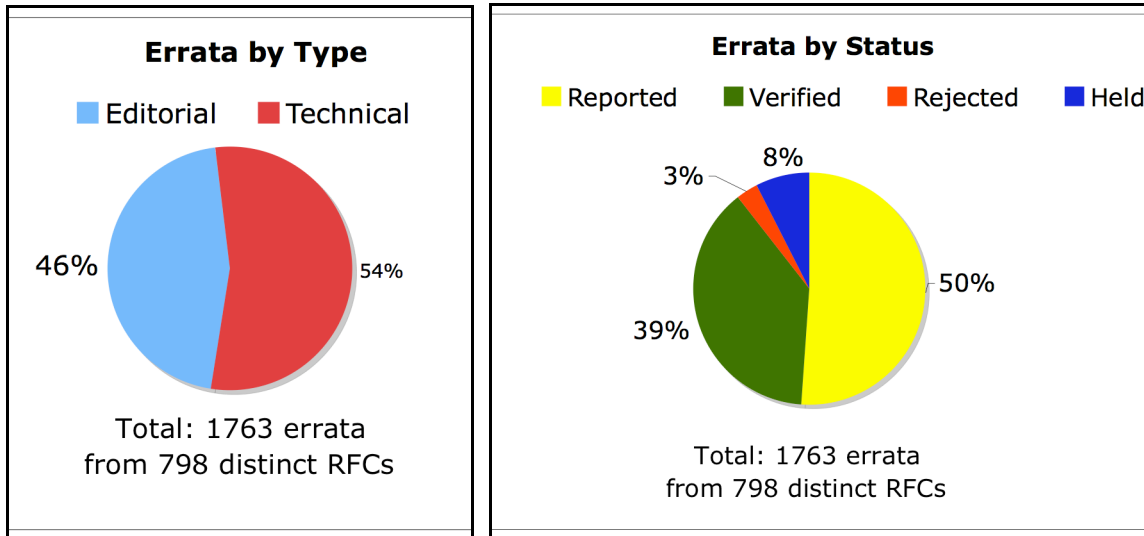
Data Quality

Approximately 100 errata reports contain multiple errata in their notes fields, so in fact, the actual number of individual reports is larger than **1763**.
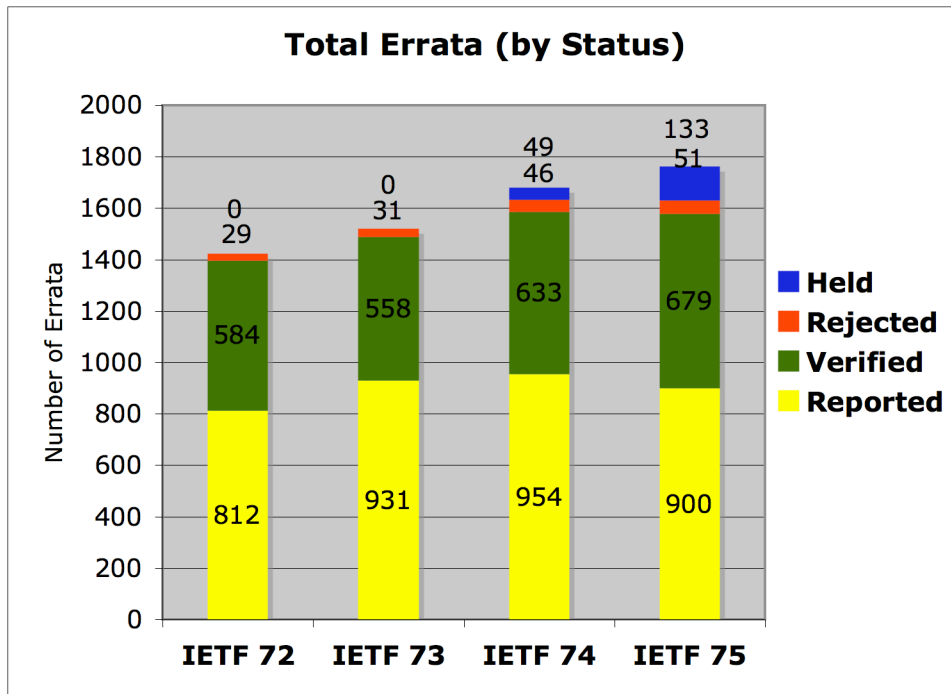
The Type labels (Technical/Editorial) should be taken with a grain of salt, as many reports (especially the older ones) may be mislabeled.

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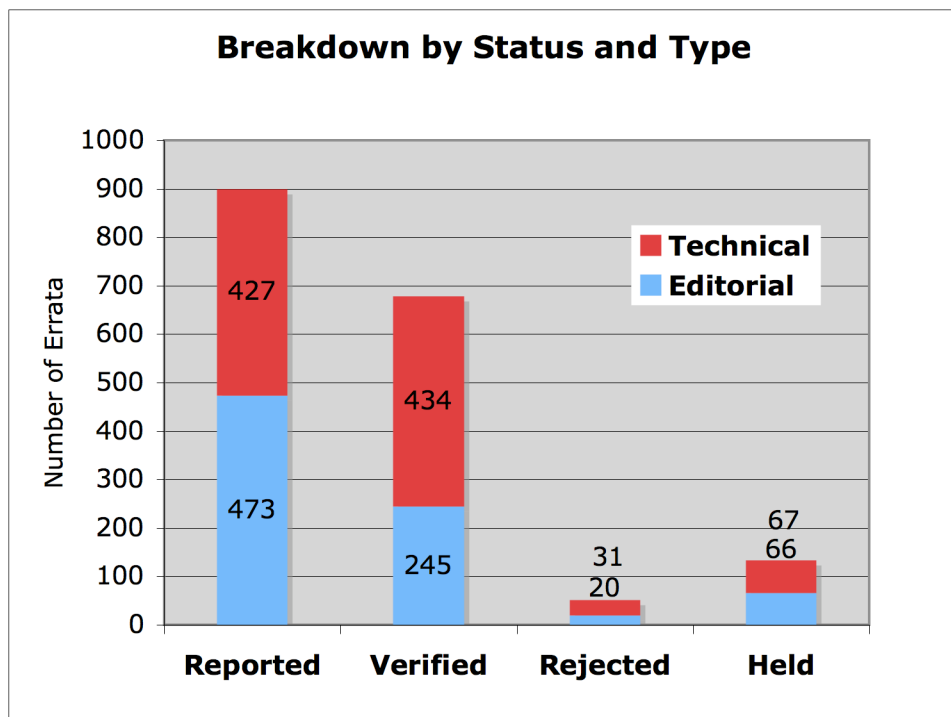
More than half of the errata reports are marked Technical, and half are Reported.

Errata by Type

Editorial Technical

46% 54%

Total: 1763 errata
from 798 distinct RFCs

Errata by Status

Reported Verified Rejected Held

8%
3%
50%
39%

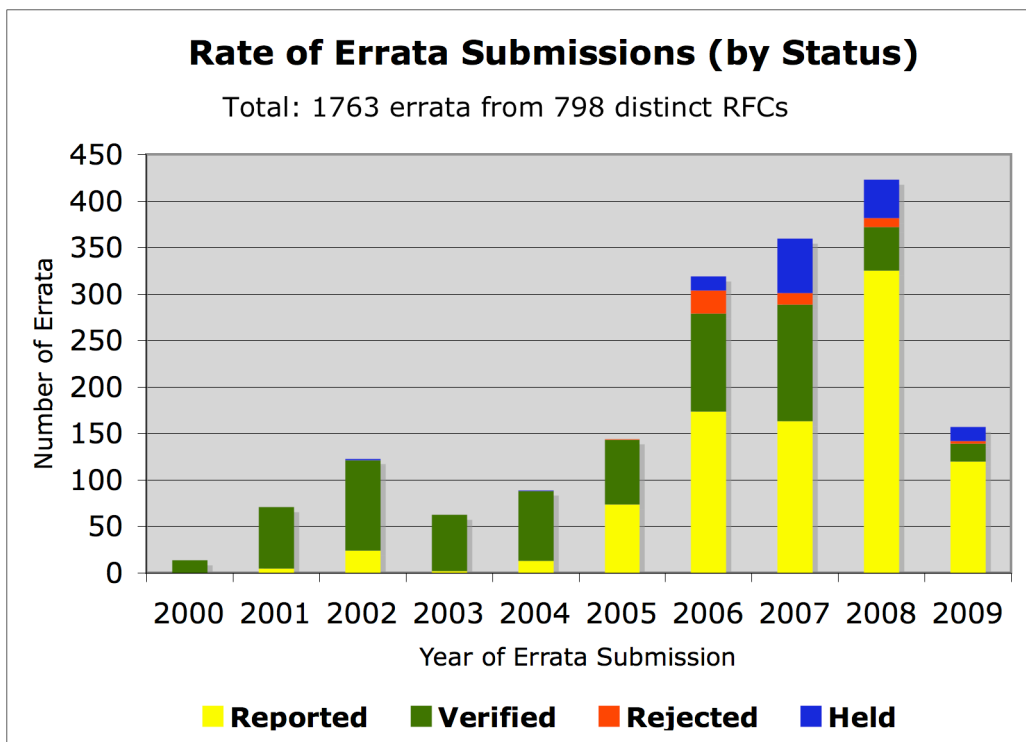Total: 1763 errata
from 798 distinct RFCs

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

Total Errata (by Status)

Number of Errata

	IETF 72	IETF 73	IETF 74	IETF 75
Held	0	0	49	133
Rejected	29	31	46	51
Verified	584	558	633	679
Reported	812	931	954	900

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

Breakdown by Type and Status

Number of Errata

	Editorial	Technical
Held	66	67
Rejected	20	31
Verified	245	434
Reported	473	427

Breakdown by Status and Type

Number of Errata

	Reported	Verified	Rejected	Held
Technical	427	434	31	67
Editorial	473	245	20	66
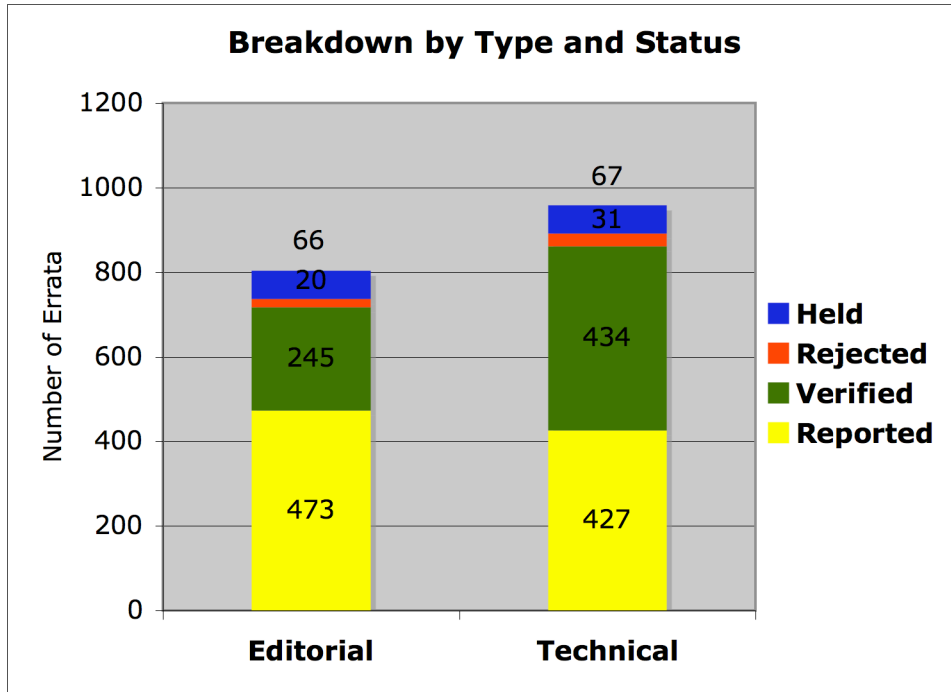
The following graphs show the number of errata reports submitted per year since we started collecting errata in 2000.

Rate of Errata Submissions (by Type)

Total: 1763 errata from 798 distinct RFCs

Rate of Errata Submissions (by Status)

Total: 1763 errata from 798 distinct RFCs
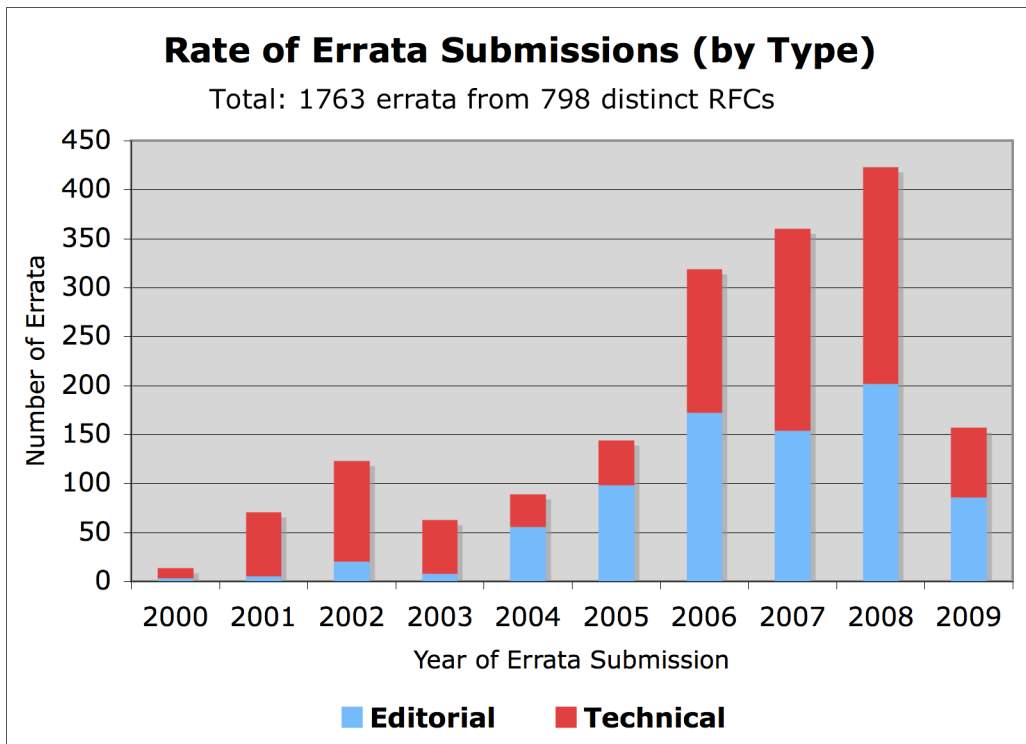
The following graphs show the number of errata submitted since the new system was introduced. On average (over the past 19 months), **35** errata were submitted per month. The majority of recently submitted errata are Reported.

Use of the New System (by Type)
Average: 35 errata submitted per month
Total distinct users: 162

Editorial ■ **Technical**

Use of the New System (by Status)
Average: 35 errata submitted per month
Total distinct users: 162

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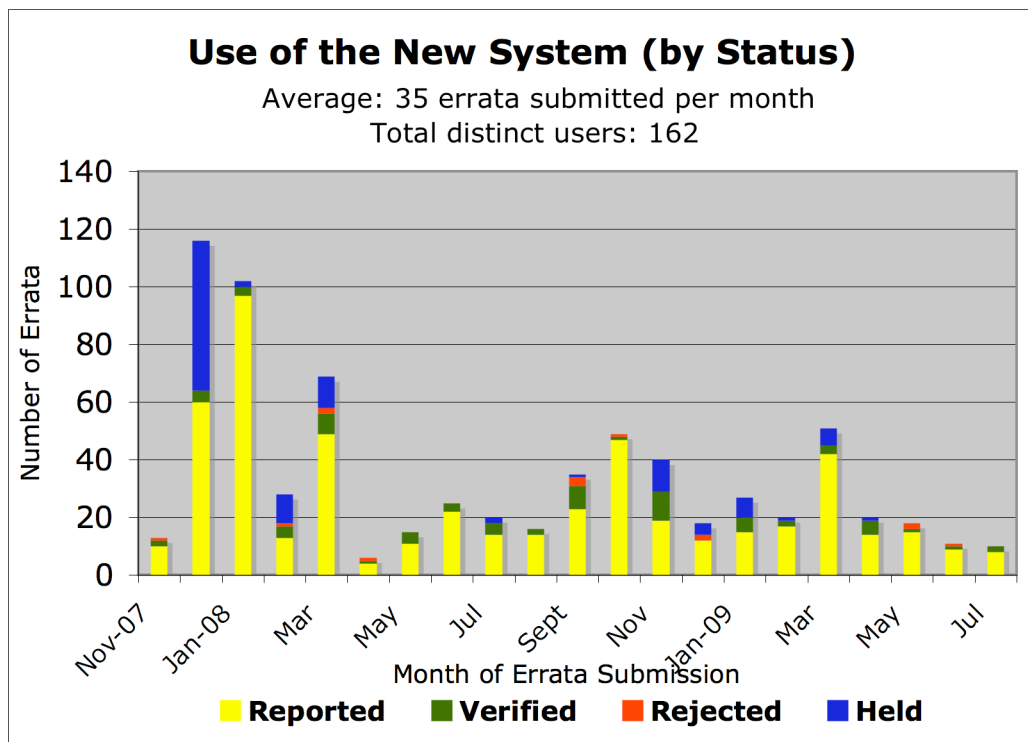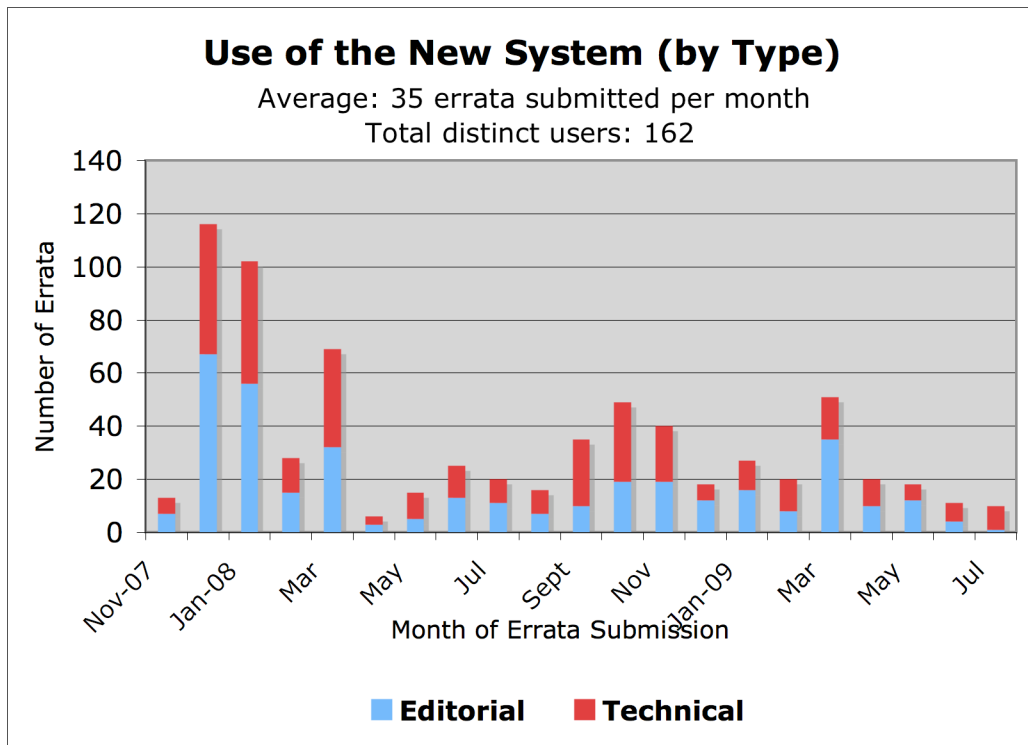
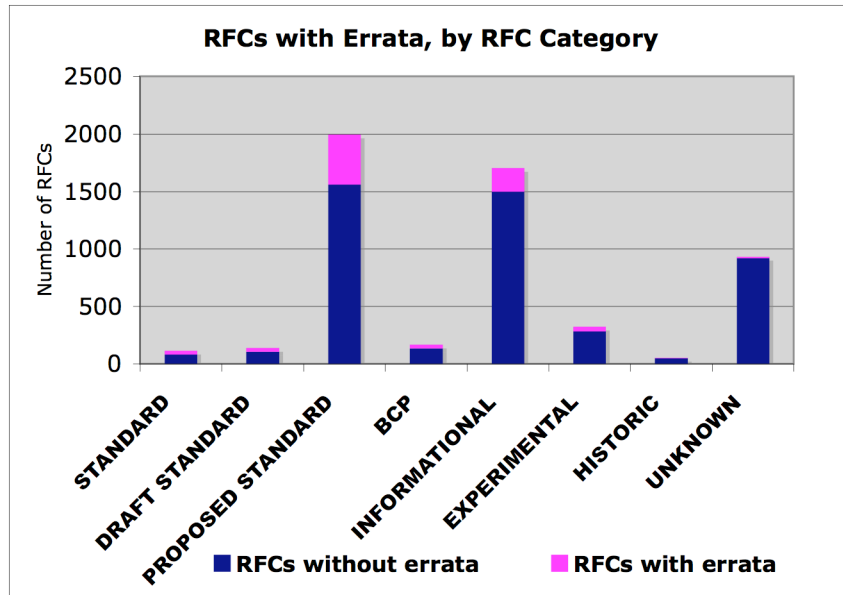The graph below shows the total number RFCS published in a given year, and of those, the number of distinct RFCs for which **any** errata have been submitted.

Annual Publication Rate and Errata Rate 1968-2009

Number of RFCs (y-axis): 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500

■ RFCs without Errata   ■ RFCs with Errata
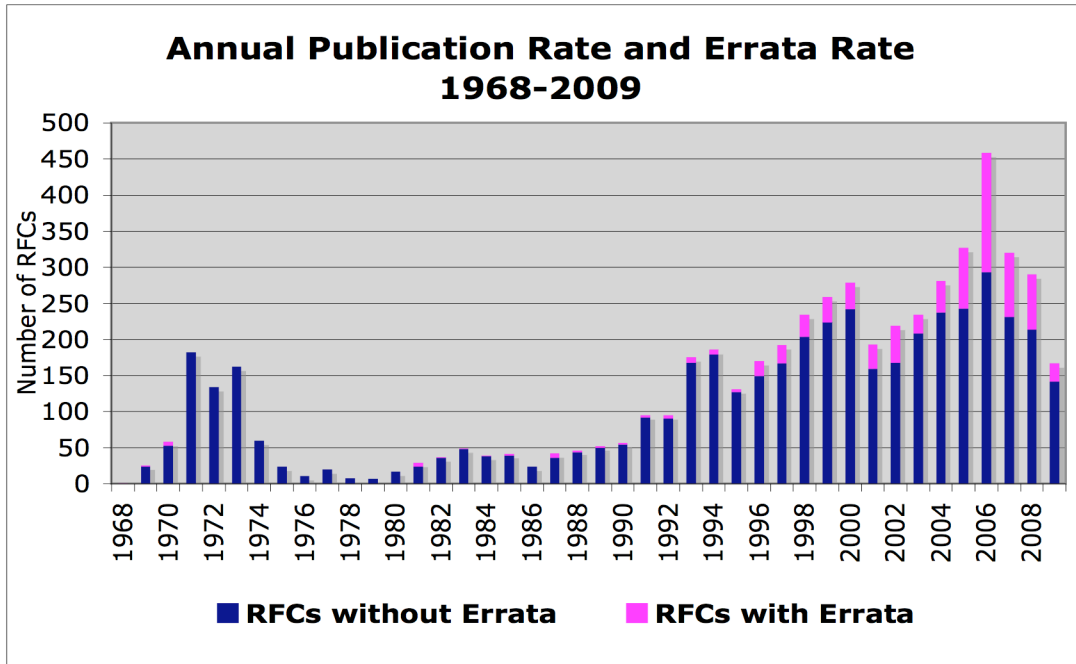
The graph below shows the RFCs published over the past 10 years that have **Technical** errata. (However, as noted under "Data Quality", the label of "Technical" is not necessarily accurate.)

Annual Pub. Rate and Technical Errata Rate 1999-2009

Number of RFCs (y-axis): 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500

Year of Publication: 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

■ RFCs w/ Technical Errata

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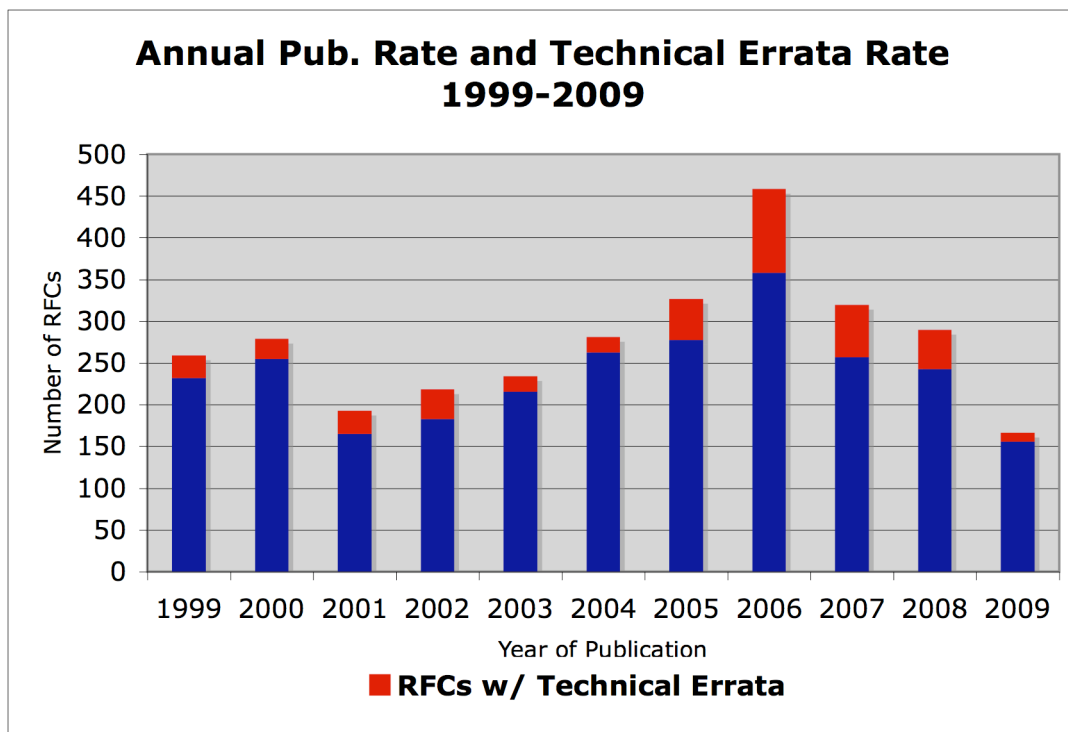
The graph below shows the number of RFCs in a given category, and of those, the number of distinct RFCs for which errata have been submitted. Overall, **14%** of RFCs have errata.

RFCs with Errata, by RFC Category

Number of RFCs

Categories: STANDARD, DRAFT STANDARD, PROPOSED STANDARD, BCP, INFORMATIONAL, EXPERIMENTAL, HISTORIC, UNKNOWN

■ RFCs without errata   ■ RFCs with errata

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, non-WG (individual submissions), and Legacy RFCs.

Reported Errata by Source of the RFC

0, 7, 62, 2, 94, 54, 46, 178, 86, 132, 189, 18, 31

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