Report on RFC Errata

This report shows the status of the errata submission and verification process as of 11 November 2008.

History

We have 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 Unverified reports 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 in 2008 the IESG determining its errata process. There are currently 1551 errata reports. However, approximately 100 errata reports contain multiple errata in their notes fields, so in fact, the total number of individual reports is larger than 1551.

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.

At the one-year mark, the new submission system has been used by 104 distinct users. However, the new errata verification system has barely been used at all. 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, we believe the verification system will see more use during the coming year.

Errata Statistics

More than half of the 1551 errata reports are marked Technical, and more than half are Unverified. Please refer to draft-rfc-editor-errata-process for the context of these stats in the larger errata process.

The use of the new system does not seem to have affected the typical 50/50 ratio of Technical/Editorial errata. Note that the Type labels (Editorial and Technical) should be taken with a grain of salt, as many reports (especially the older entries) may be mislabeled.

Errata by Type

Editorial ■ Technical ■

44% 56%
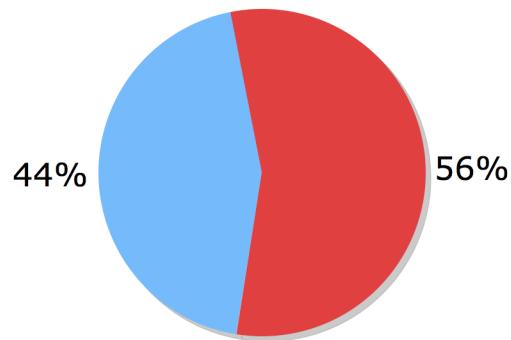
Total: 1551 errata
from 713 distinct RFCs

Errata by Status

Unverified ■ Verified ■ Rejected ■

2%

38% 60%
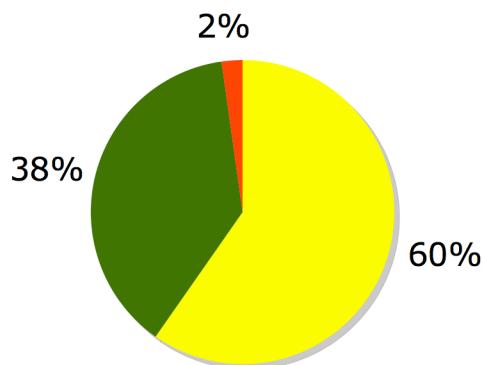
Total: 1551 errata
from 713 distinct RFCs

More than half of the Technical errata are Unverified. Almost
two-thirds of Editorial errata are Unverified.

Breakdown by Type and Status

Status	Editorial	Technical
Rejected	12	21
Verified	219	374
Unverified	458	467

Breakdown by Status and Type

Type	Unverified	Verified	Rejected
Technical	467	374	21
Editorial	458	219	12
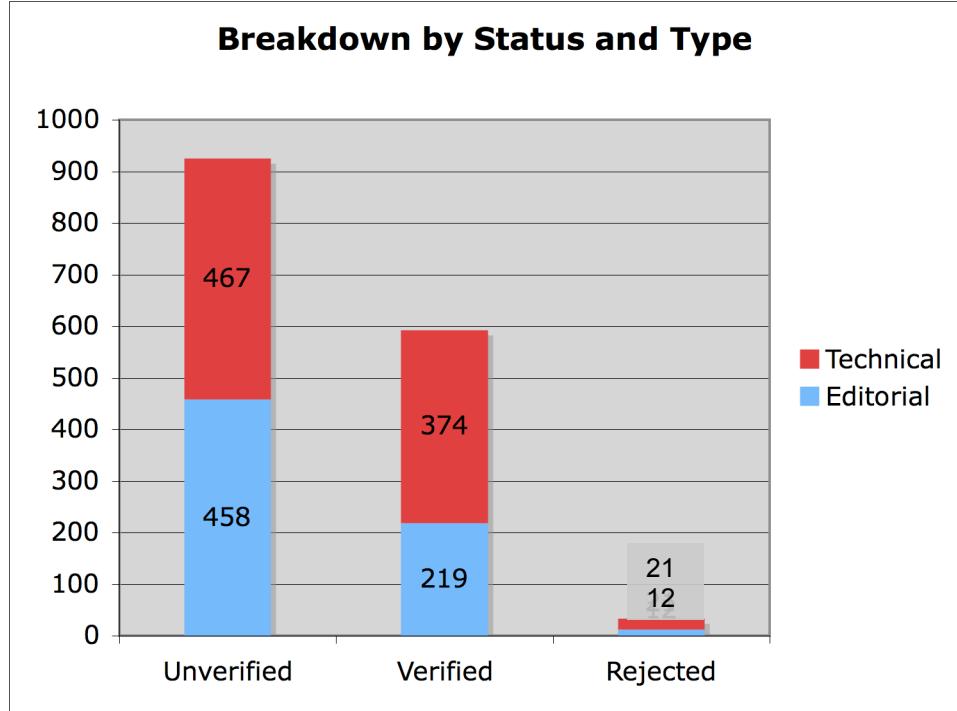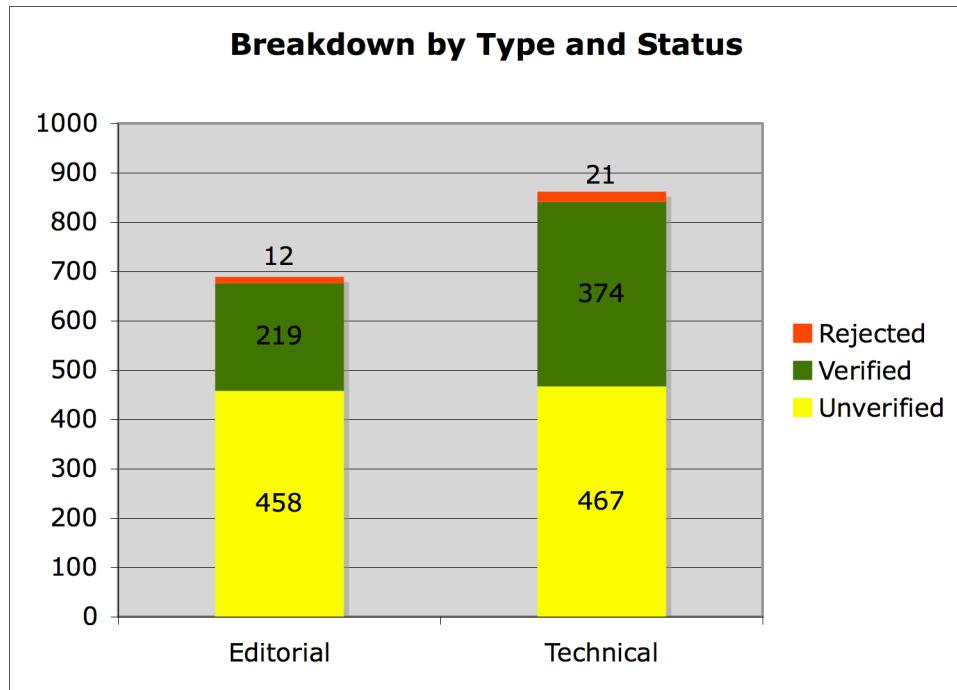
The following graphs show the number of errata reports submitted per year.

Received Errata Reports by Type

Received Errata Reports by Status
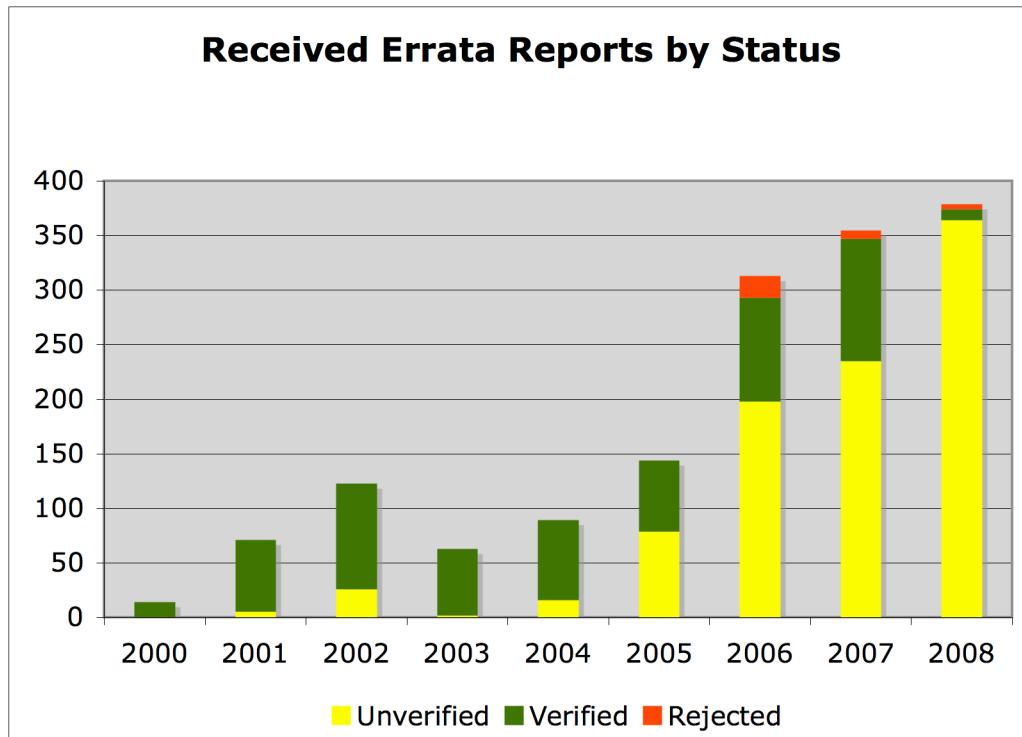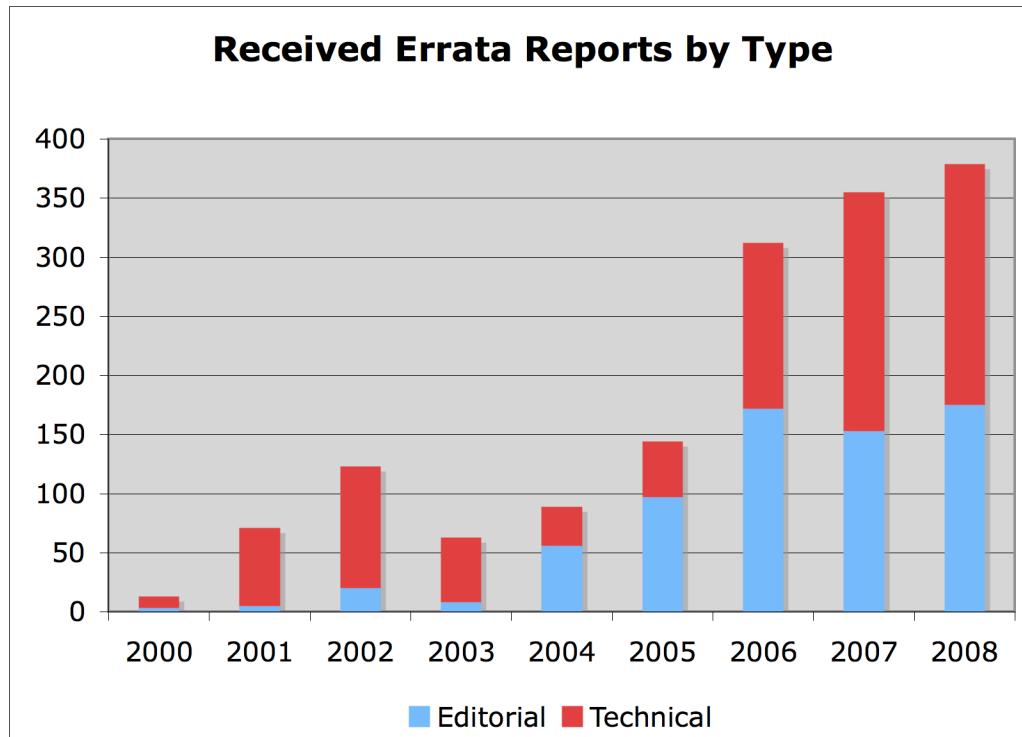
The graphs below show the total number RFCS published in a given year, and of those, the number of distinct RFCs for which errata have been reported. The increase in the errata rate in recent years can partially be attributed to the activity of one very avid reporter of errata, who has submitted over 600 reports in the past 6 years.

Annual Publication Rate and Errata Rate 1968-2008

Annual Publication Rate and Errata Rate 1998-2008
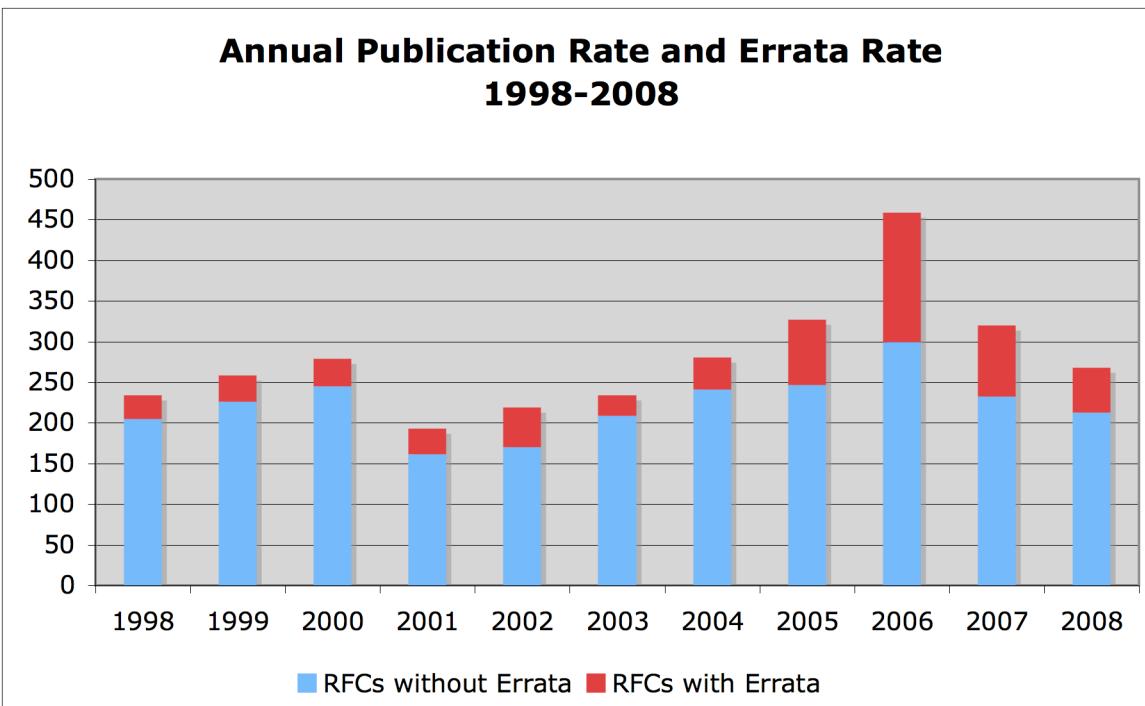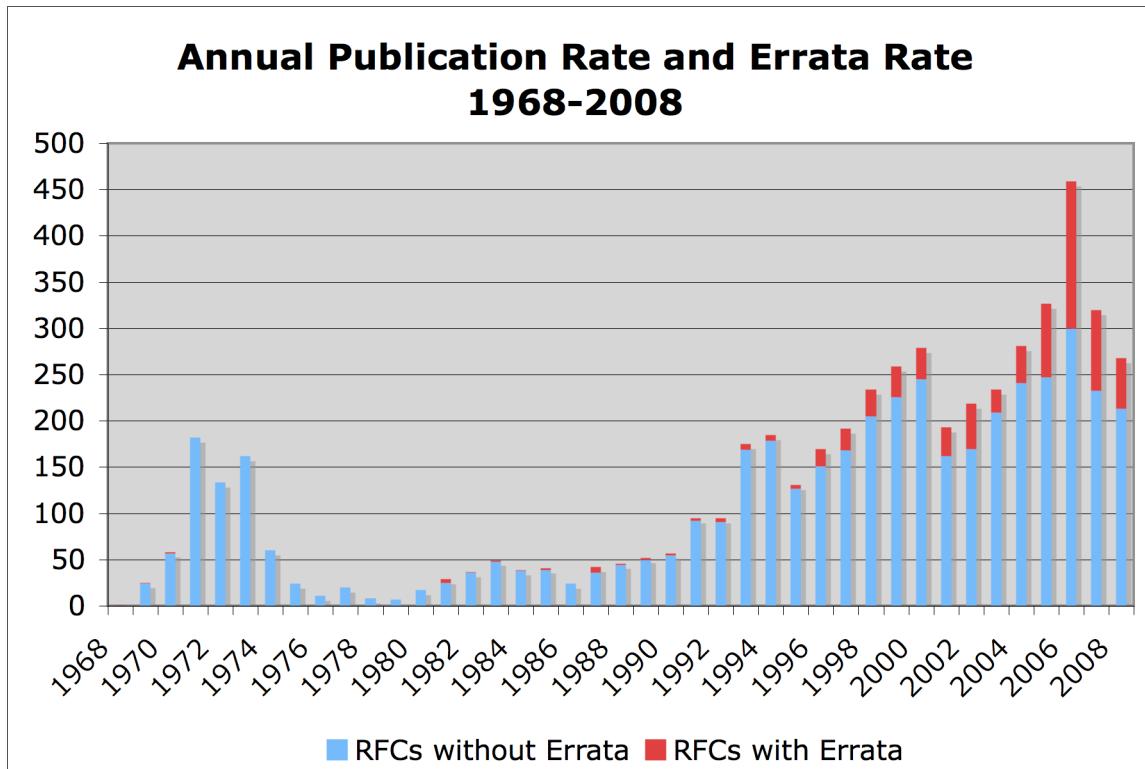
The following graphs show the number of errata submitted since the new system was introduced.

Use of the New System by Type

374 errata from 179 distinct RFCs
reported by 104 distinct users since 11/12/07

Legend: ■ Editorial ■ Technical

Use of the New System by Status

374 errata from 179 distinct RFCs
reported by 104 distinct users since 11/12/07

Legend: ■ Unverified ■ Verified ■ Rejected
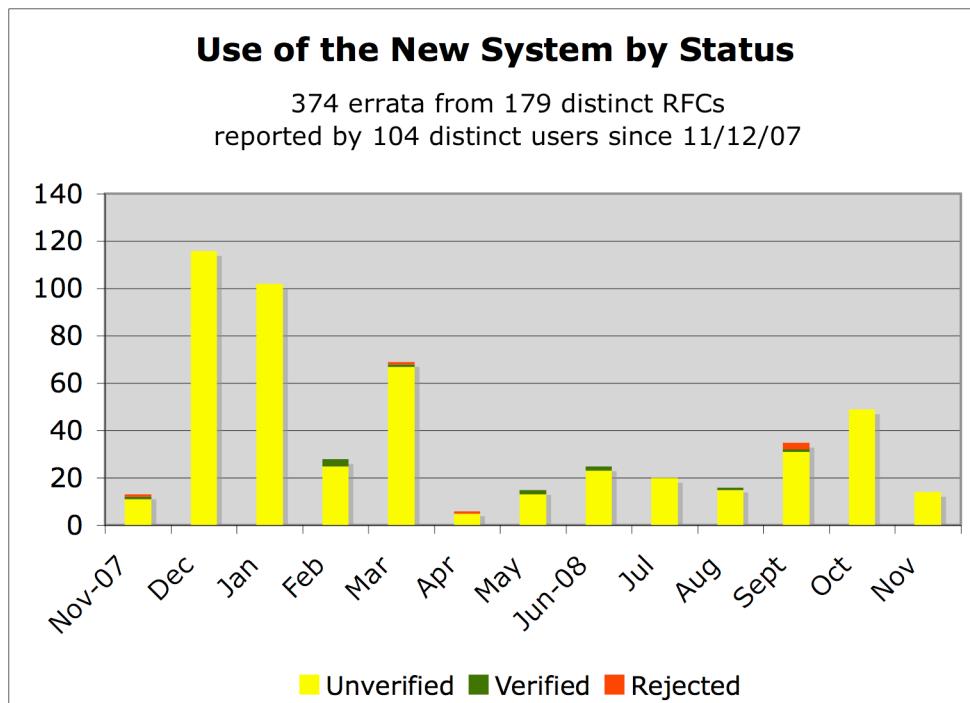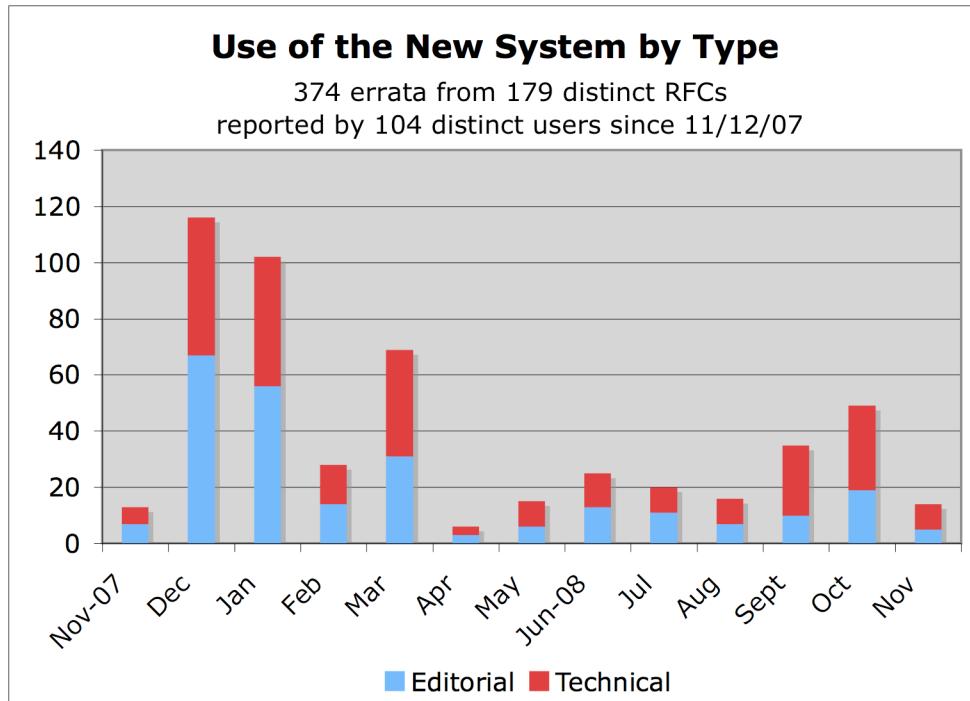
Note: In December, a significant amount of errata were reported for a single RFC. This happened somewhat in January as well.

Unverified 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.

Unverified Errata by Source of the RFC

Value	Category
5	
1	
51	
69	app
1	gen
81	int
40	ops
157	rai
90	rtg
111	sec
45	tsv
64	non-WG
209	Legacy
	Independent
	IAB
	IRTF

Legend:
- app
- gen
- int
- ops
- rai
- rtg
- sec
- tsv
- non-WG
- Legacy
- Independent
- IAB
- IRTF
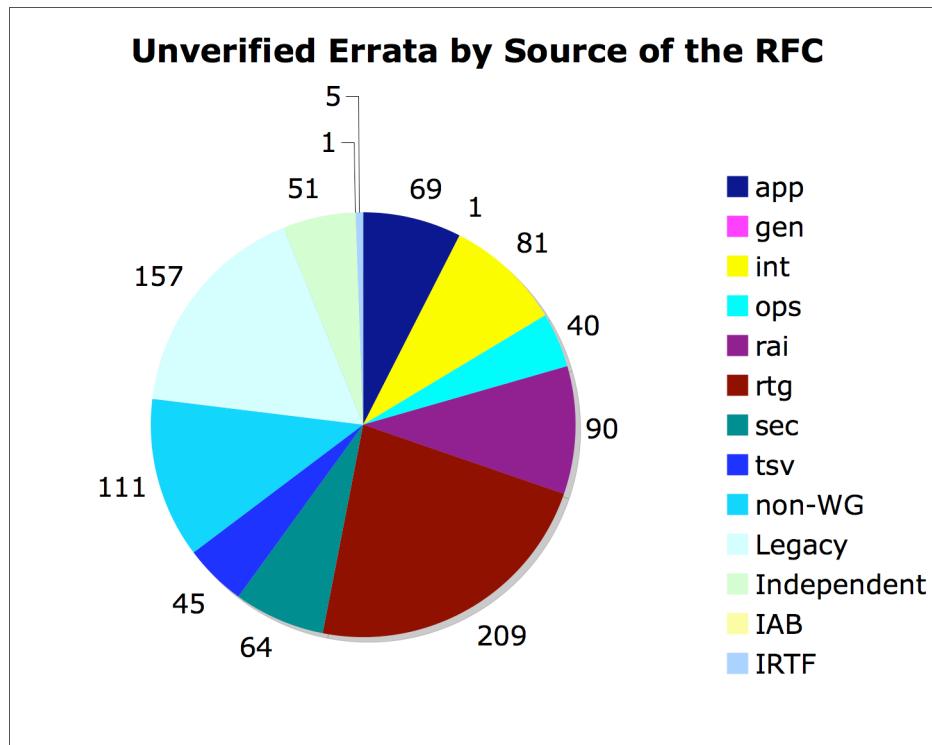
Updates to the Errata System since July 2008

- Added status (Hold for Document Update).
- Added search functionality, in order to search by
    - Type (Editorial, Technical)
    - Status (Reported, Verified, Held for Document Update,
      Rejected)
    - Source of the RFC (Area, WG, other)
    - Submitter name, submitter date
- Streamlined verification screens.