2012 RFC Production Center and Publisher Self Review

In 2011, the number of submissions was a record high (364). Despite the volume, the RPC/Publisher, with the help of additional editor funding from the IAOC, was able to outpace the submission rate, ultimately publishing 390 RFCs. During that same year, because the ARSE was only addressing issues that focused directly on keeping documents moving through the queue, other issues were tabled until a more permanent RSE was on board. This allowed the staff to focus largely on document production in 2011.

In 2012, the number of submissions was a bit lower (323), allowing the RPC/Publisher to again outpace submissions, publishing 338 RFCs. (This is possible because of the documents that were released from MISSREF.) At the same time, the RPC was getting closer to reaching the existing SLAs (publishing 67% of RFCs with an RFC-ED time -- EDIT + RFC-EDITOR -- of fewer than 30 work days). Below are graphs showing 1) the total number document submissions/publications per year and 2) the total number of documents published per month since 2011 broken down by RFC-Ed times.

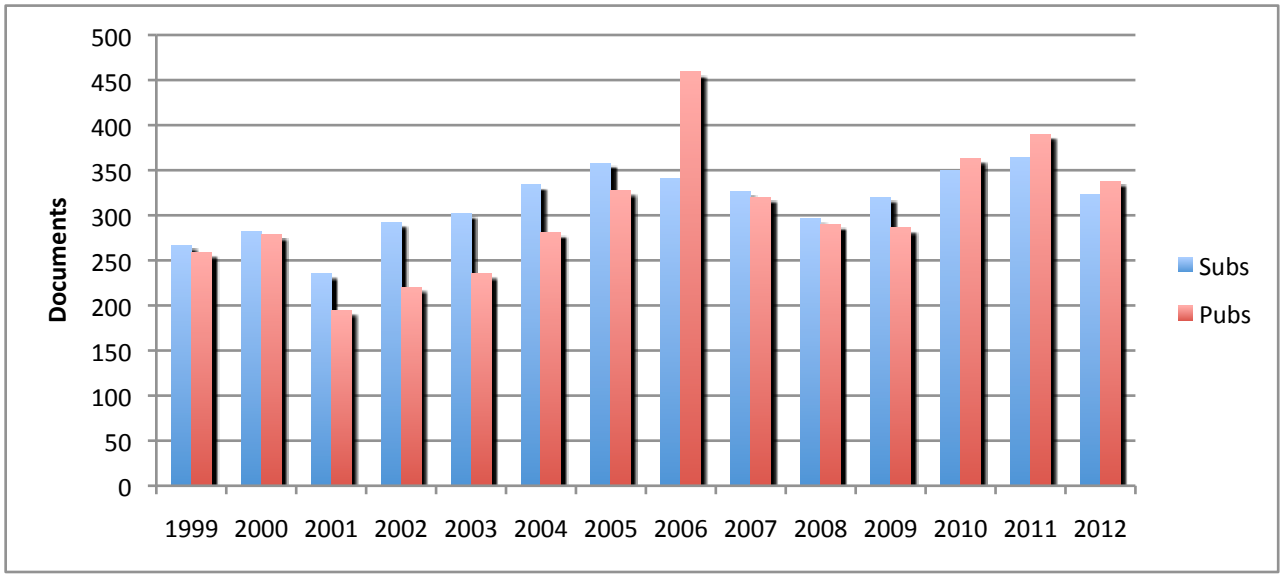

Figure 1. Annual Submission and Publication Rate since 1999

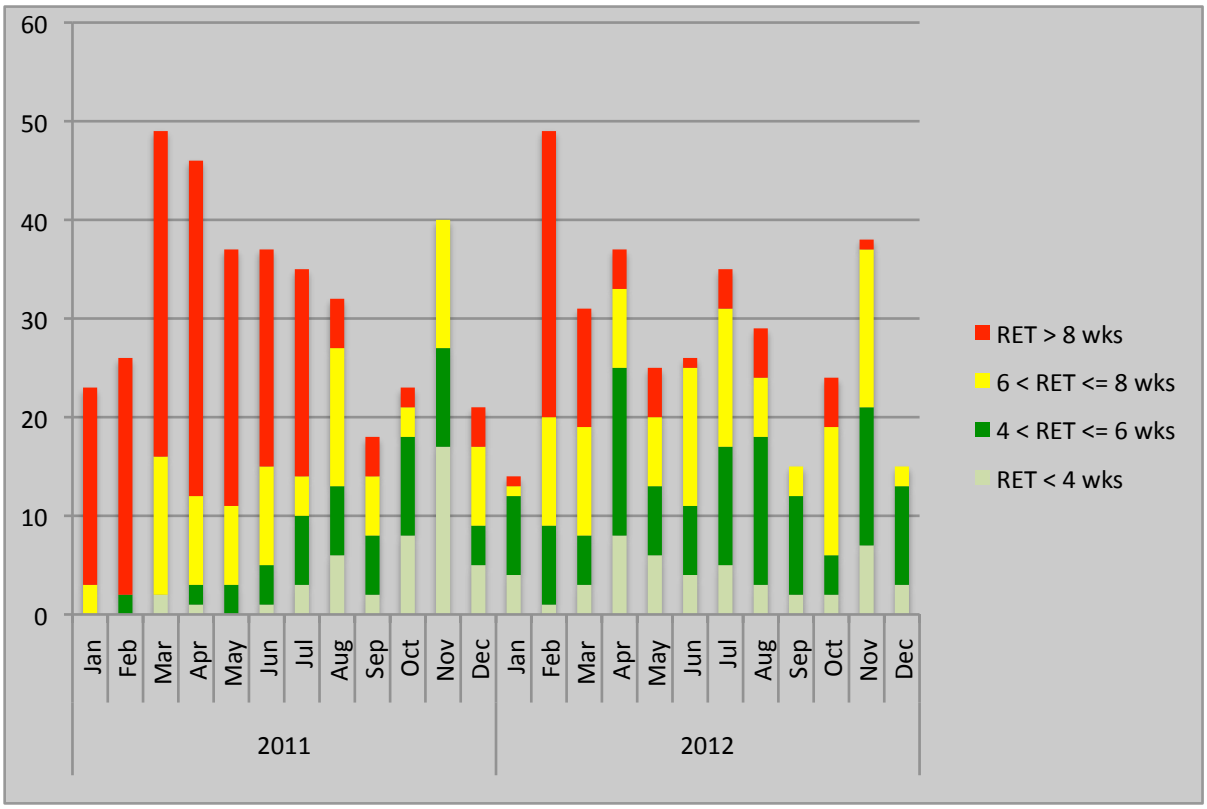

Figure 2. RFC-ED Time of Documents Published per Month since January 2011

The slightly lower submission rate has also allowed the RPC/Publisher to make significant progress in other areas. Below, we describe some areas that need improvement and some areas of success in more detail.

Works in progress:

- define a process that will ensure that copyright statements, other than the ones defined in the TLP, do not slip by. For example, RFC 6716 includes a copyright statement within the codec that is different from the one defined in the TLP.

- analyze publication rates and stream feedback to define an appropriate SLA target.

- continue to develop and understand legal issues as we handle more subpoenas. In 2012 we completed 4 subpoenas, and began work on another. Approximately 32 hours of RPC/Publisher staff time was spent on subpoena-related issues during 2012 (includes IT department hours).

Completed:
- VirnetX, Inc. vs. Cisco Systems
- VirnetX, Inc. vs. Mitel Networks Corp.
- Realtime Data, LLC D/B/A IXO vs. Morgan Stanley, et al.
  Realtime Data, LLC D/B/A IXO vs. CME Group Inc., et al.
  Realtime Data, LLC D/B/A IXO vs. Thomson Reuters Corp., et al.
- Nomadix, Inc. vs. Hewlett-Packard Company, et al.

Started on:
- HTC's subpoena -- in the matter of certain electronic imagine devices

- This past year we encountered fairly few issues that required escalation to the RSE for review and discussion, as compared to the number of authors we work with per year. Based on the discussions that did take place, we are:

- continuing to define the correct level of editing; more specifically, the amount of editing needed on a bis document. A couple of authors were unhappy with the number of edits and the amount of review required to get RFC 6675 published.

- continuing to discuss when a document is considered uneditable and should be returned to the originating stream for additional work.

2012 successes:

- processed over 300 documents with a total of 7 editors (5.5 FTEs) at a record pass-through time. Through this process, only received 3 serious concerns regarding 2 documents that required escalation to the RSE.

- made significant improvement in achieving SLA targets

- received positive feedback from all of the Stream Managers regarding RFC Editor efforts

- successfully transitioned from ARSE to RSE

- have worked well with the RSE to make progress on
  - format
  - style guide
  - RPC and Publisher split
  - SoWs associated with the RPC and Publisher
  - digital signatures on RFCs

    - RSE web pages and wiki

- provided input to 5620bis discussion

- made improvements to RFC Editor website
    - added site map
    - added contact page
    - revised page of copyright-related information
    - revised list of definitions of queue states and flags

- successfully implemented the following programming tasks
    - added AUTH48-DONE state
    - completed time-in-state project
      This project was a major overhaul to how queue-related data is recorded and displayed. Its effects included:
        - a new sortable view of the queue, which includes time-in-state.
        - automation of a report that was previously created manually (RFC-ED Time).
        - replacement of reports that were previously made from parsing text files (e.g., Current queue, State Change Summary).
        - movement away from plaintext to more web-based reporting.

- improved search engine (beta)

- tested xml2rfcv2; reported bugs

- reviewed, discussed, and tested the functionality of the backend extensions

- continued maintenance of errata system and review of entries. Ongoing maintenance has been effective in that:
    - most errata have now been processed by the verifiers. (Unprocessed errata is 5% of total errata.)
    - Authors have been incorporating corrections based on errata when writing new RFCs.
    - Users continue to submit errata at a steady rate (approx. 30/month), documenting errors in old and new RFCs.

- handled updated Status of This Memo text from IAB stream (new consensus statement)

- responded to 4 subpoenas/declarations (see details under "Work in progress")

- moved to web-based procedures manual

- moved to web-based training material

- made progress on xx00 and xx99 docs

- Participated in IETF meetings
    - office hours
    - tutorial presentations
    - AR helped inspire new tutorials for IETF