

Making an RFC in Today's IETF

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Just how long...

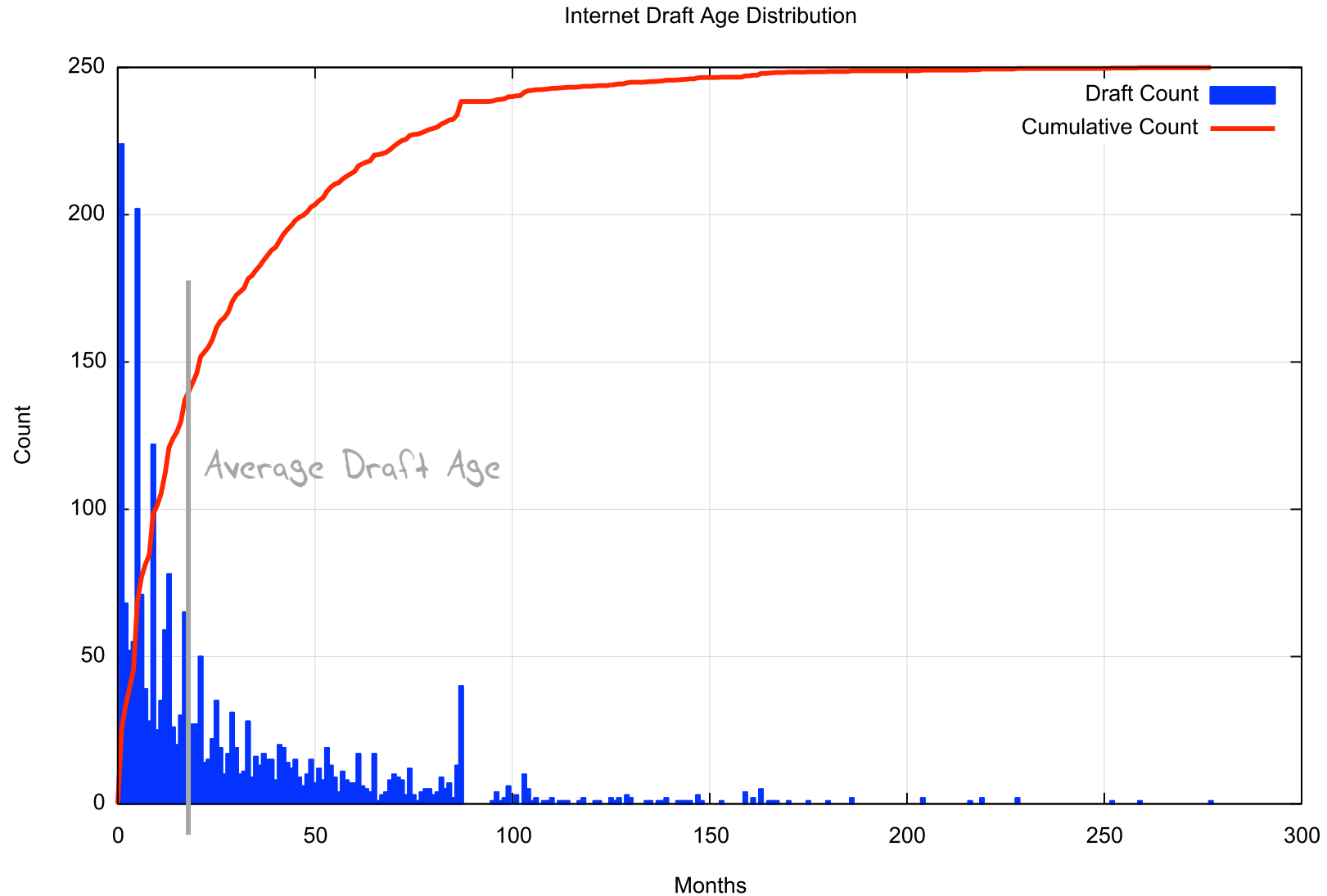
- Does it take to produce an RFC these days?
- Is it taking longer than before? Or is the process getting faster?
- What's the “success rate” for Internet drafts?

Internet Drafts

February 2024 status:

- Current drafts in the Internet-Drafts repository: **2,185**
- Average version count: **6**
- Average time in the repository: **825 days** (2 Years, 4 Months)

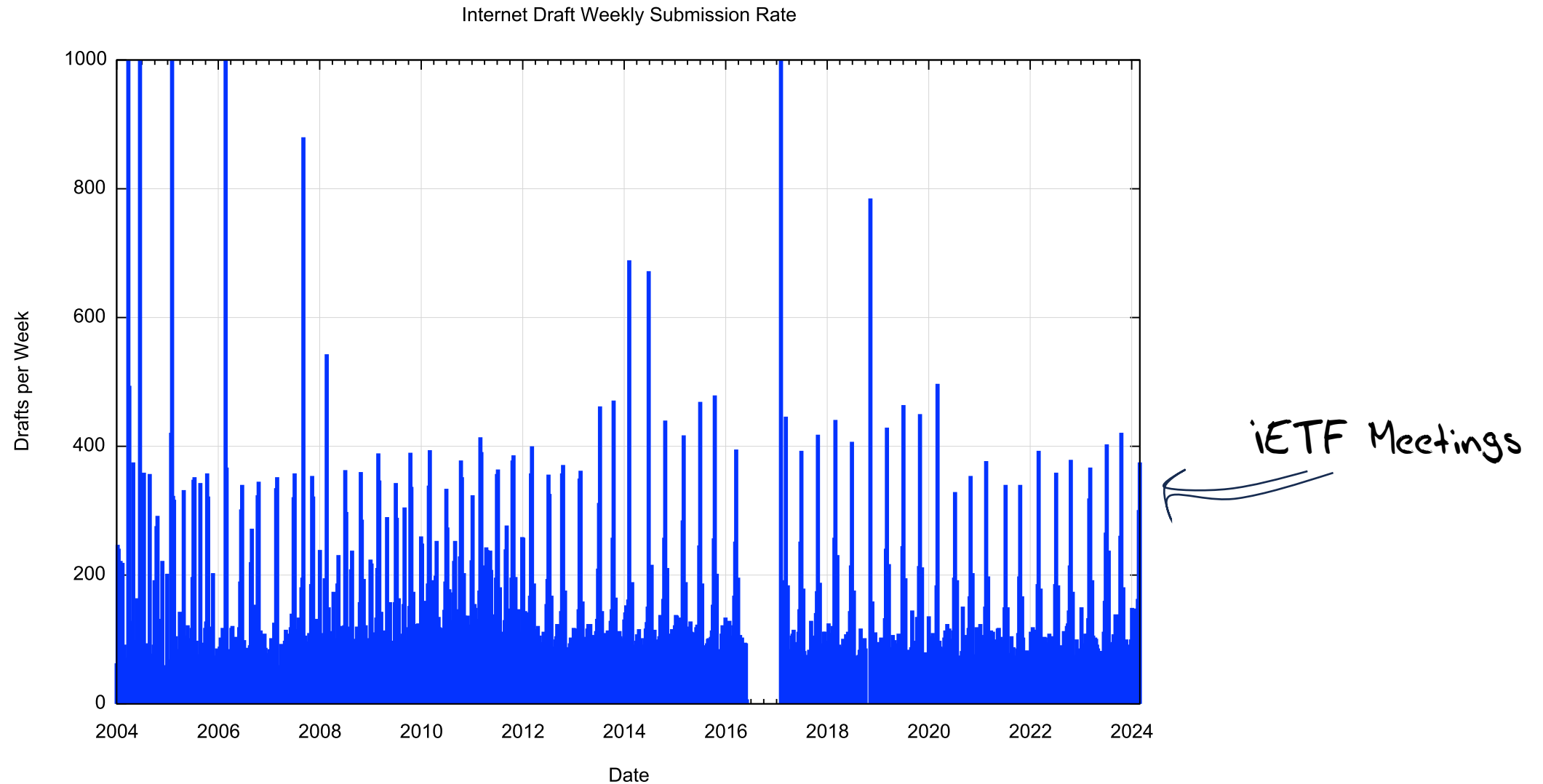
Current Draft Age Distribution



Outliers

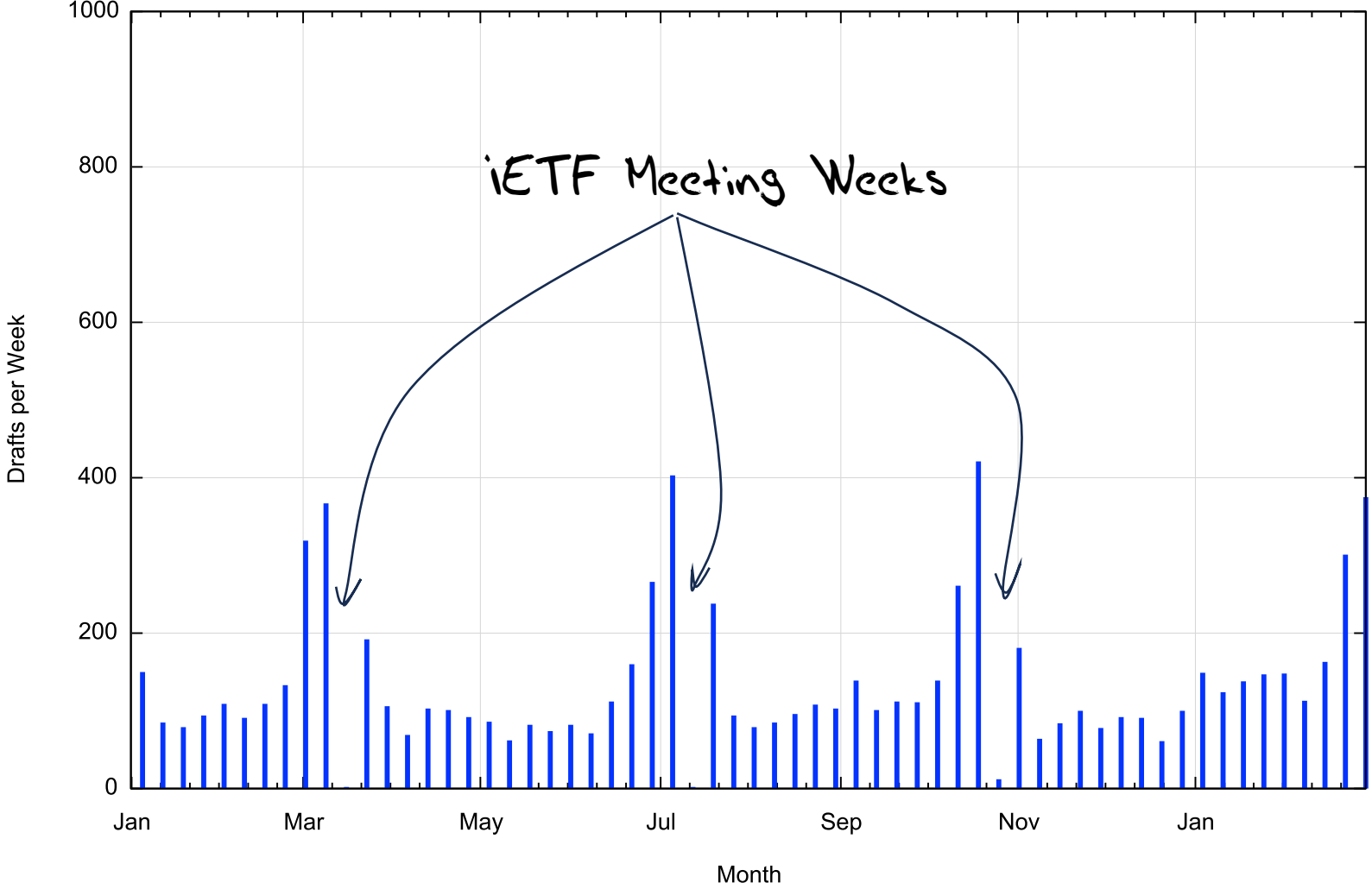
draft-edwards-telnet-xon-xoff-state-control-00.txt	13 Years 11 Months
draft-spinosa-urn-lex-21.txt	14 Years 4 Months
draft-hoehrmann-cp-collation-01.txt	14 Years 9 Months
draft-palanivelan-bfd-v2-gr-13.txt	15 Years 2 Months
draft-dreibholz-rserpool-enrp-takeover-30.txt	15 Years 2 Months
draft-dreibholz-rserpool-delay-32.txt	16 Years 9 Months
draft-dreibholz-rserpool-asap-hropt-33.txt	16 Years 9 Months
draft-haluska-sipping-directory-assistance-11.txt	17 Years 8 Months
draft-dreibholz-rserpool-score-33.txt	17 Years 11 Months
draft-dreibholz-rserpool-applic-mobility-34.txt	17 Years 11 Months
draft-hohendorf-secure-sctp-36.txt	18 Years 8 Months
draft-dreibholz-rserpool-applic-distcomp-35.txt	18 Years 8 Months
draft-lior-radius-prepaid-extensions-22.txt	20 Years 8 Months
draft-dreibholz-ipv4-flowlabel-38.txt	21 Years 3 Months
draft-kunze-ark-38.txt	22 Years 8 Months

Incoming Draft Rate



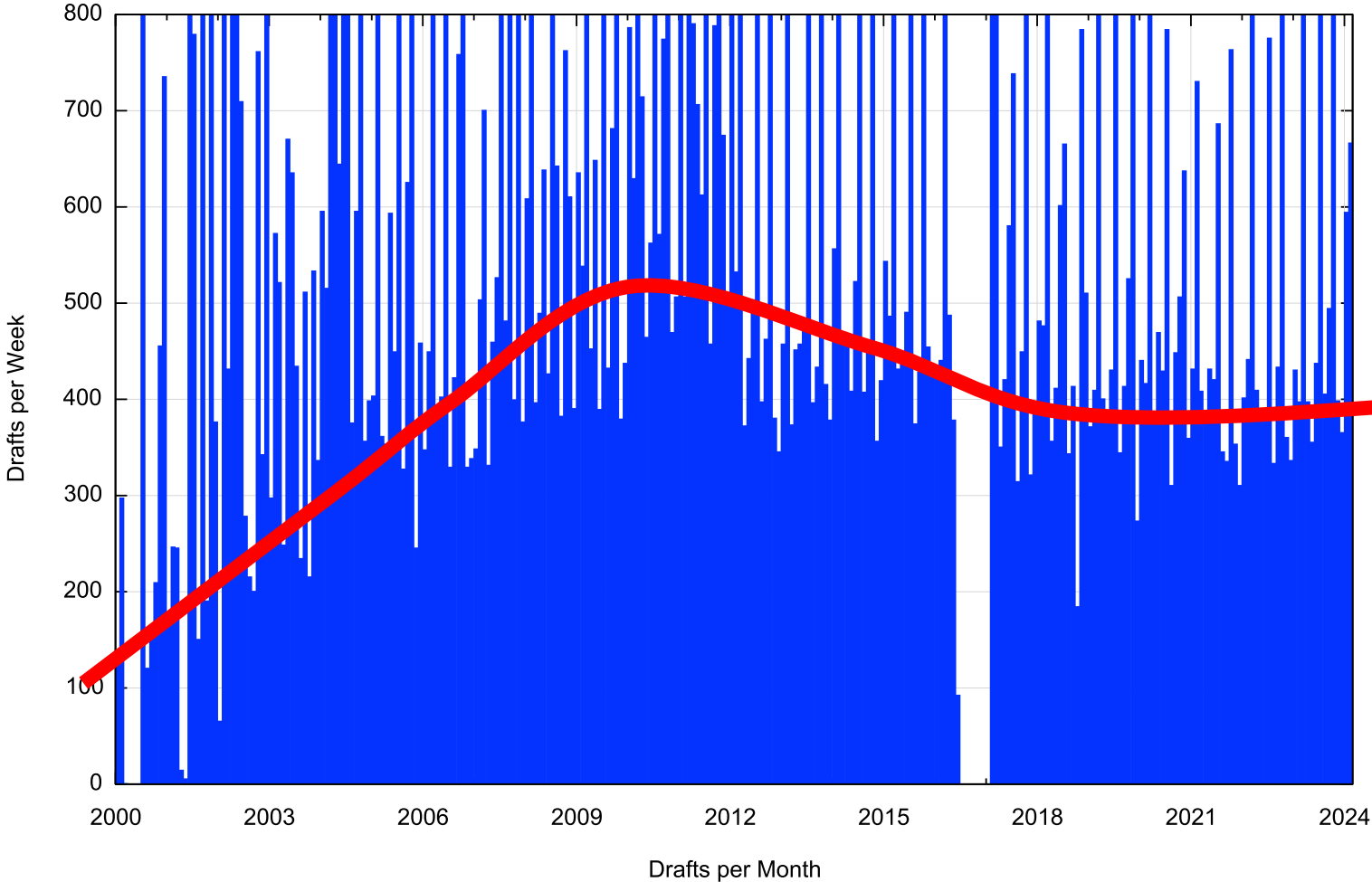
Draft Submission Rate through 2023

Internet Draft Weekly Submission Rate for 2023



Drafts per Month

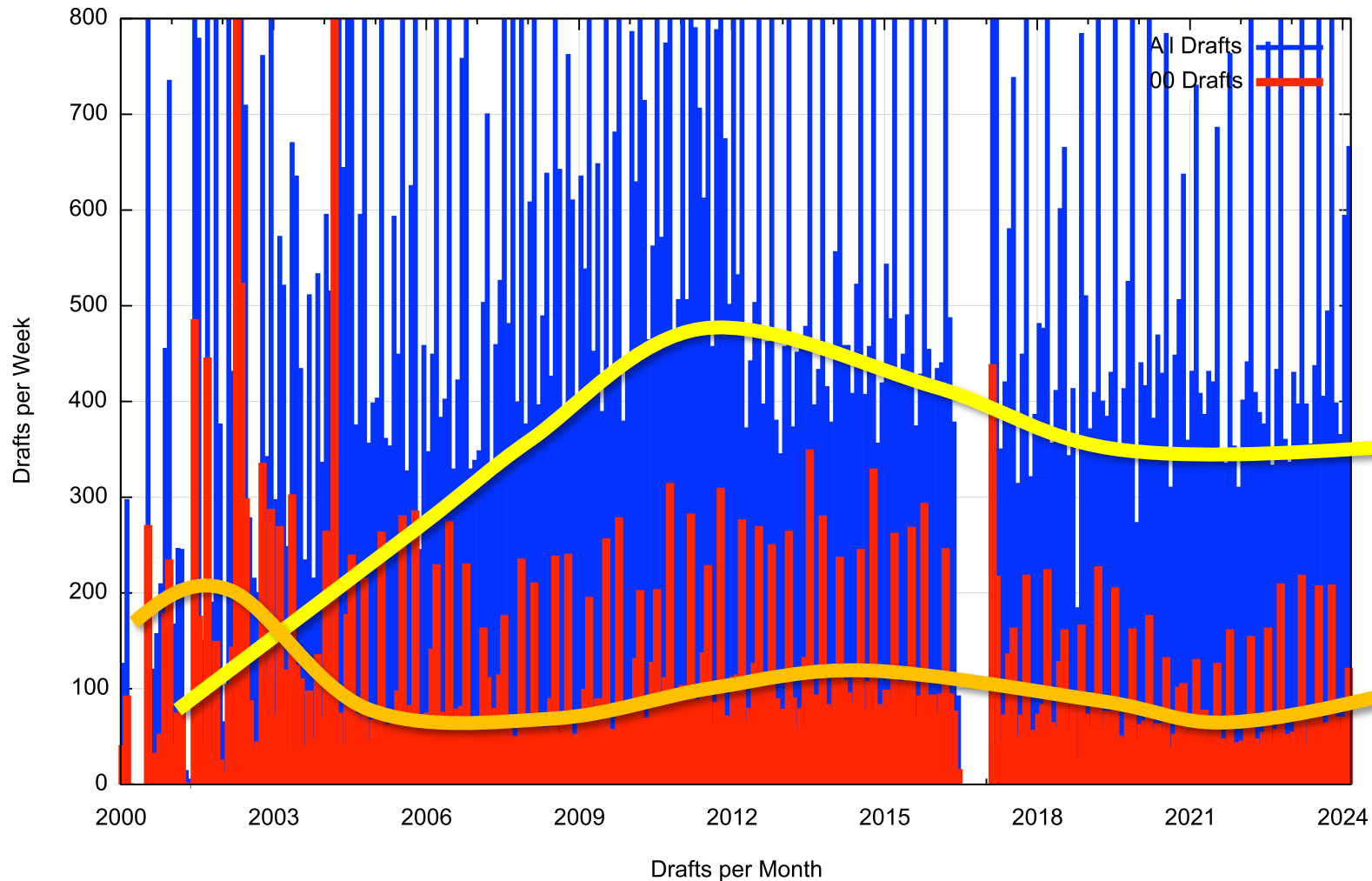
Internet Draft Monthly Submission Rate for 2000-2024



The draft submission rate has been steady at some 350 drafts per month (outside of IETF meeting months) since ~2012

Drafts per Month

Internet Draft Monthly Submission Rate for 2000-2024



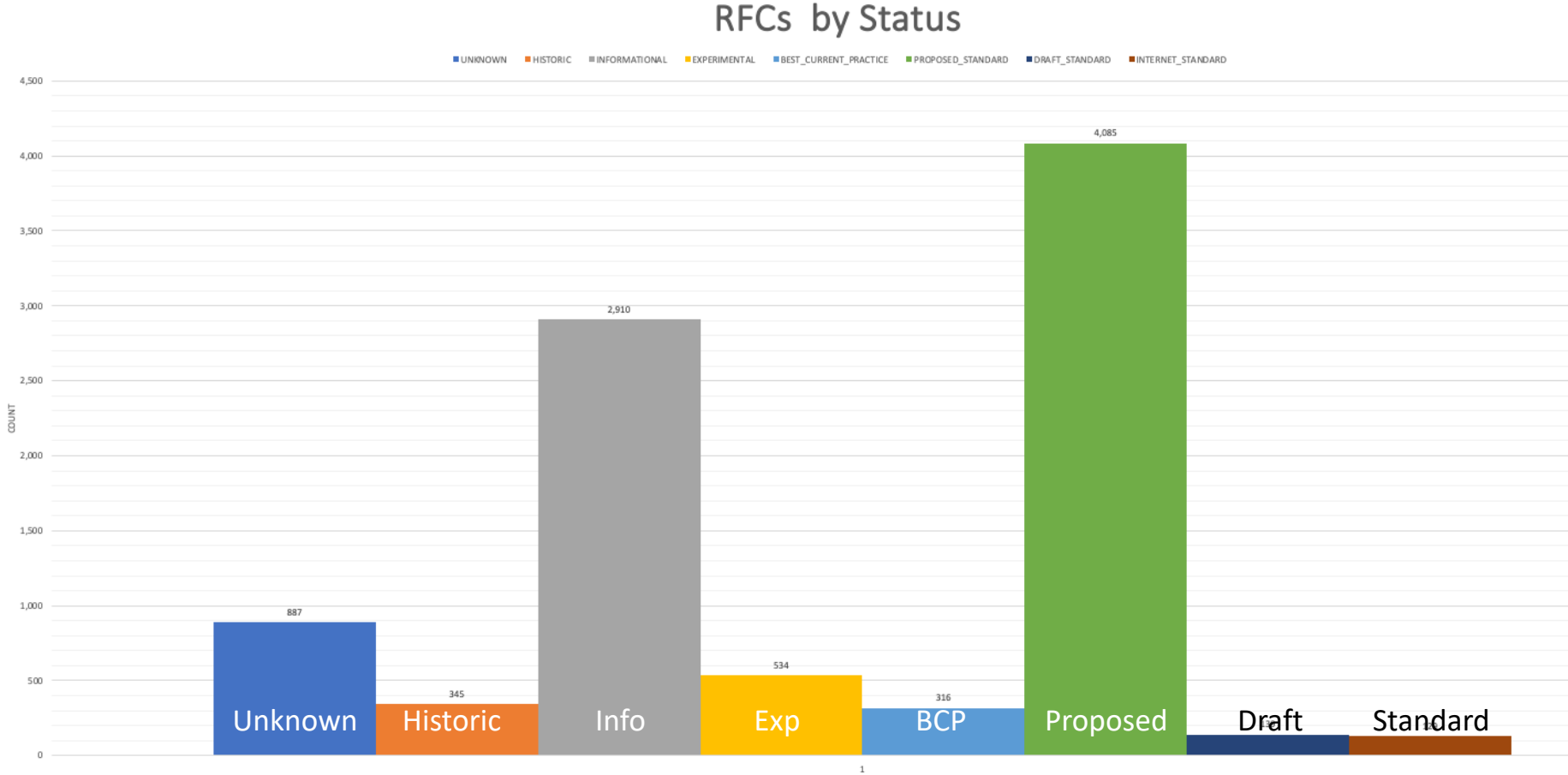
The -00 draft submission rate has been steady at some 50-80 -00 drafts per month (outside of IETF meeting months) since ~2003

There was a small decline in the COVID period, but it appears to be rising again in the past 12 months

RFCs

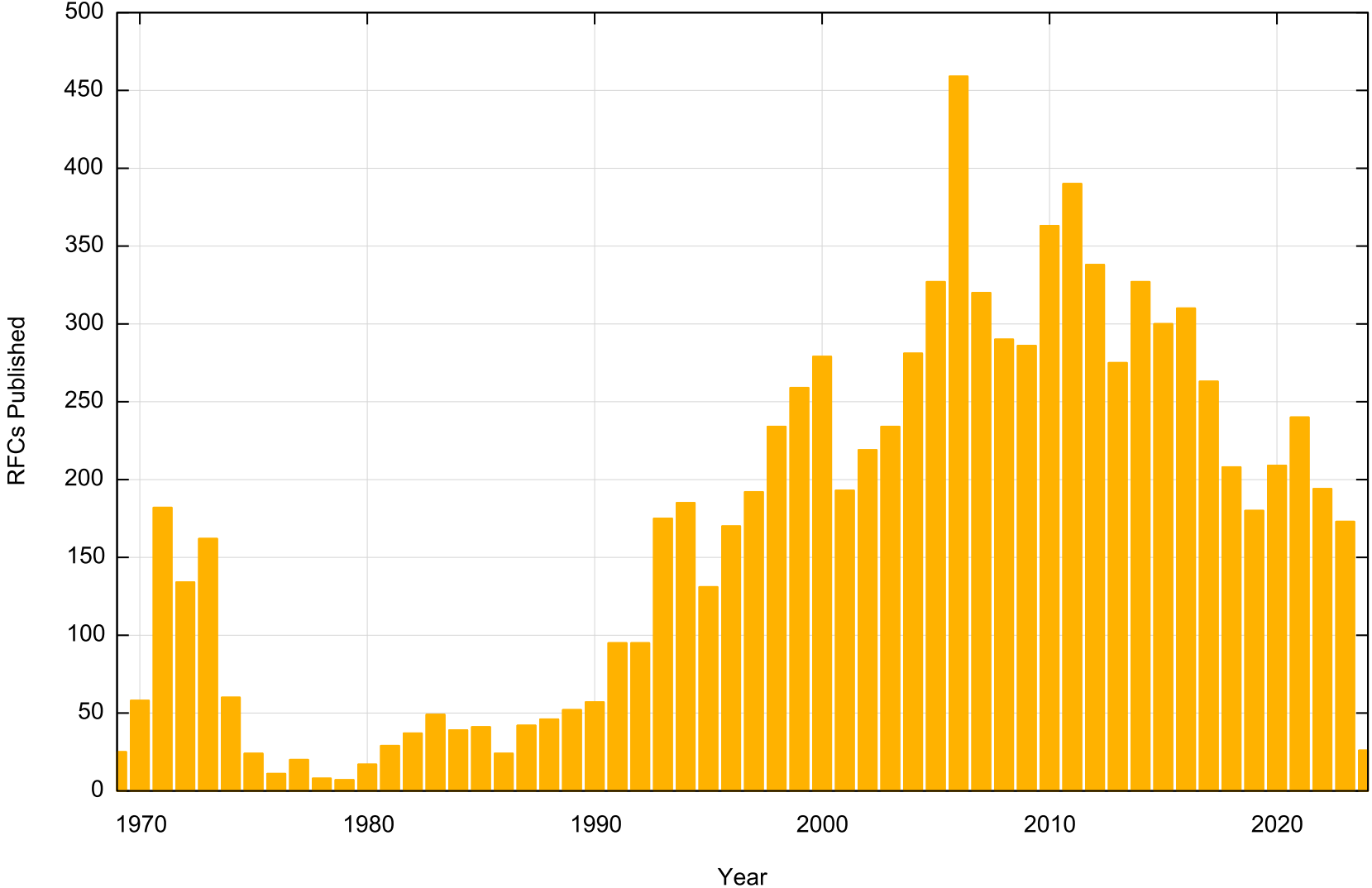
- Internet Drafts since 1 June 1989 : **39,719** (watersprings.org)
 - RFCs since April 1969: **9,338**. (8,225 since 1 June 1989)
 - Draft to RFC “conversion rate”: 21%
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- Obsoleted RFCs: **1,130**
 - Updated RFCs: **1,168**
 - Verified Errata: **1,681**

RFC Status



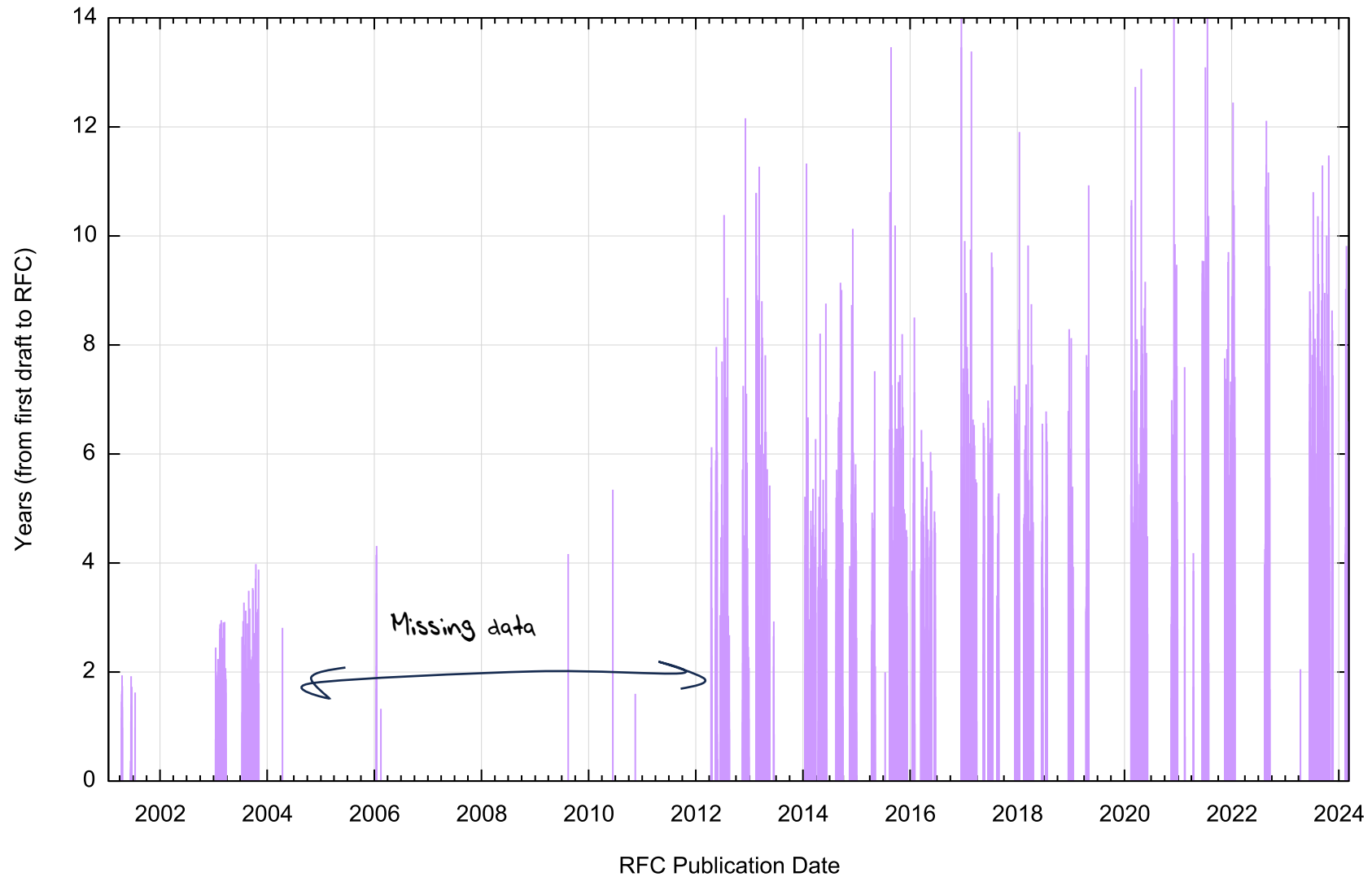
RFC Publication Rate

RFC Publication Rate

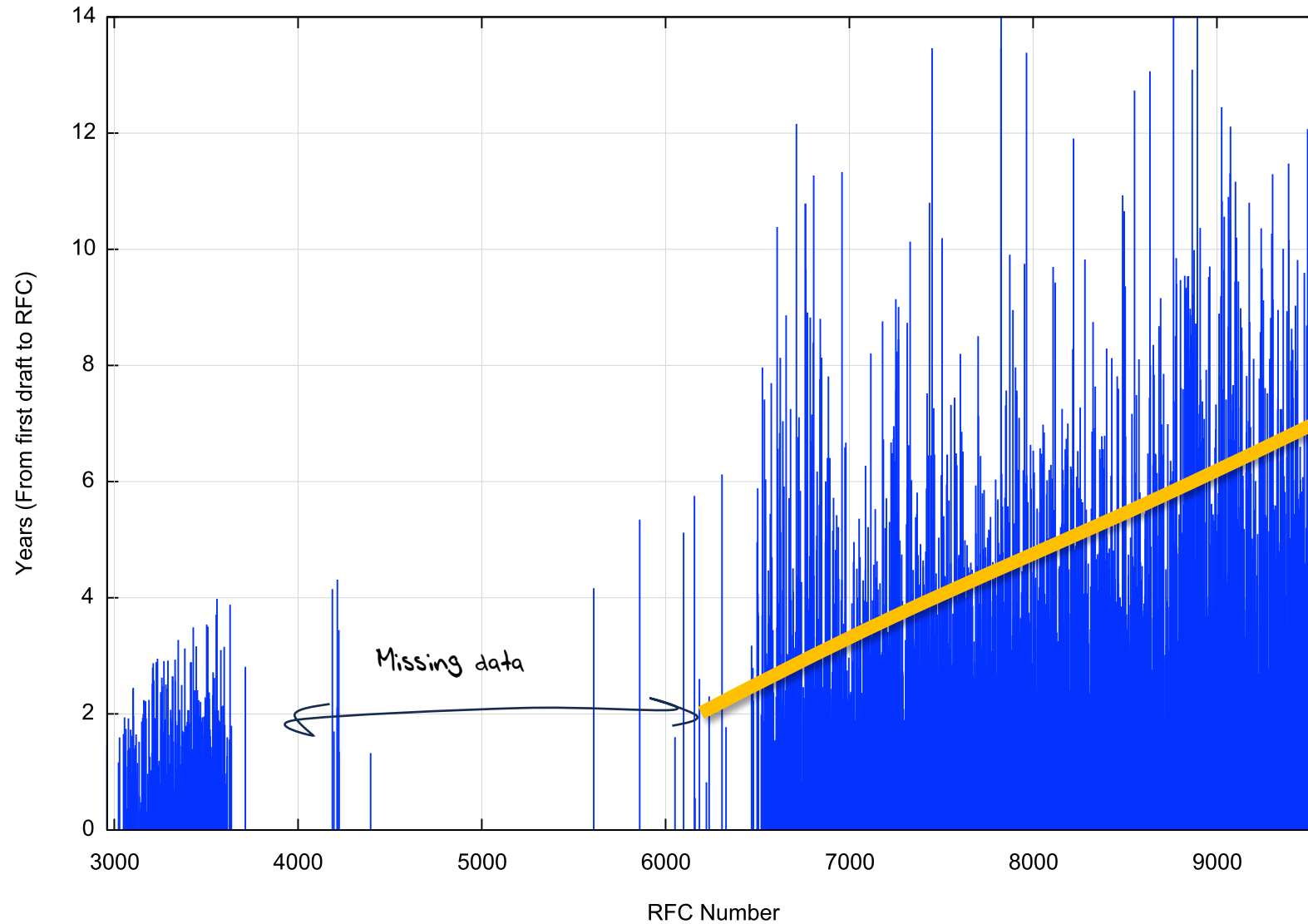


Time from Draft to RFC

From ID to RFC



Time from Draft to RFC



Just how long...

- Does it take to produce an RFC these days?

6 – 8 years

- Is it taking longer than before? Or is the process getting faster?

It's taking around 4x longer than 20 years ago!

- What's the “success rate” for Internet drafts?

Around 20%, or 1 in 5

See also

RFC8963 - Evaluation of a Sample of RFCs Produced in 2018

Christian Huitema, published Jan 2021

Thanks!