

What does RFC mean?

RFCs (*Request For Comments*) are a collection of documents which are referred to by the Internet community and which describe, specify and assist in the implementation, standardisation and discussion of the majority of norms, standards, technologies and protocols related to the Internet and networks in general.

Who writes these RFCs?

The TCP/IP protocol suite represents a collection of norms drawn up by an organisation called the *IETF* (Internet Engineering Task Force). This organisation officially publishes their reports in the form of requests, available to all, making it possible to clarify a great number of subjects relating to TCP/IP.

Each of these documents represents a specification proposal which can be made obsolete at any time by a new RFC document. So, RFCs are text files where the name is "rfcxxx.txt" where xxx is a number incremented for each new RFC. There are currently more than 2000, representing a size of approximately 130MB (25MB once compressed). However a number of these files have been replaced by more recent files.

In reality, anyone can write a RFC and submit it to the IETF by sending it to the coordinator: rfc.editor@rfc.editor.org. If it is accepted, it will appear after having been appraised by the coordinators. RFC1543, entitled *instructions to RFC authors*, explains how to compose an RFC.

What are the interesting RFCs?

The most interesting RFCs are the recent RFCs which talk about the most common protocols or services:

Specification	RFC
UDP protocol	RFC768
IP protocol	RFC791
ICMP protocol	RFC792
TCP protocol	RFC793
FTP protocol	RFC959
Webmail	RFC822
Telnet protocol	RFC854
NNTP protocol	RFC977
Netbios	RFC1001
SLIP protocol	RFC1055
MIB	RFC1156
TCP/IP	RFC1180
FAQ for beginners	RFC1206
FAQ for experienced users	RFC1207
Network glossary	RFC1208

RFCs	RFC1325
MIME (<i>MultiPurpose Mail Extension</i>)	RFC2045 , RFC2046 and RFC2047
Allocation of IP addresses for intranets	RFC1597
PPP protocol	RFC1661
Port numbers	RFC3232
HTTP protocol	RFC2068
LDAPv3 protocol	RFC2251
SMTP protocol	RFC2821