Useful RFCs

INTERNET STANDARDS ARE specified in Requests for Comments (RFCs). There are several useful resources for searching and retrieving RFCs on the Internet. One of the most useful is `http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/`.

The official RFC home page is `http://www.rfc-editor.org/`, which provides many useful resources, including a searchable RFC archive. The history of the RFC documents is itself described in an RFC. For more information, see RFC 2555.

Not all RFCs are of relevance to a Web server administrator, and many have been superceded by more recent RFCs. Possibly the most important RFC from a Web server administrator's point of view is RFC 2616, which covers HTTP/1.1. You can find RFC 2616 at the previous URLs and also on the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web site as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file (`http://www.w3.org/Protocols/HTTP/1.1/rfc2616.pdf`).

The W3C also carries a number of Web technology specifications that fall outside the scope of RFCs or are only draft proposals, such as the HTML and XML standards.

Table A-1 lists some of the most useful RFCs in numerical order.

Table A-1. Useful RFCs

RFC Number	Subject
768	User Datagram Protocol (UDP)
791	Internet Protocol (IPv4)
792	Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP)
793	Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)
821	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)
826	Ethernet Address Resolution Protocol (ARP)
854	Telnet protocol
950	Internet standard subnetting procedure
959	File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
1013	X Window System Protocol
1034	Domain Name System (DNS)
1101	DNS encoding of network names and other types
1180	A TCP/IP tutorial
1157	Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)
1661	Point-to-Point Protocol
1700	Assigned numbers

(Continued)

Table A-1. Useful RFCs (Continued)

RFC Number	Subject
1866	HTML 2.0
1867	HTML form-based file upload
1918	Address allocation for private Internets
1939	POP3
1945	HTTP/1.0
2045–2049	MIME
2069	HTTP Digest authentication
2136	Dynamic updates in DNS
2137	Secure DNS dynamic update
2145	HTTP version numbers
2151	A primer on Internet and TCP/IP tools
2295	Transparent content negotiation in HTTP
2460	Internet Protocol v6 (IPv6)
2500	Internet official protocol standards
2518	HTTP extensions for Distributed Authoring (WebDAV)
2535	DNS security extensions
2555	30 Years of RFCs
2616	HTTP/1.1
2617	HTTP authentication
2660	Secure HTTP (SHTTP)
2640	Updates FTP
2685	Virtual private networks identifier
2756	Hyper Text Caching Protocol (HTCP)
2774	An HTTP extension framework
2936	HTTP MIME-type handler detection
3000	Internet official protocol standards
3143	Known HTTP proxy/caching problems
3237	Requirements for reliable server pooling
3253	Version extensions to WebDAV (delta-v)