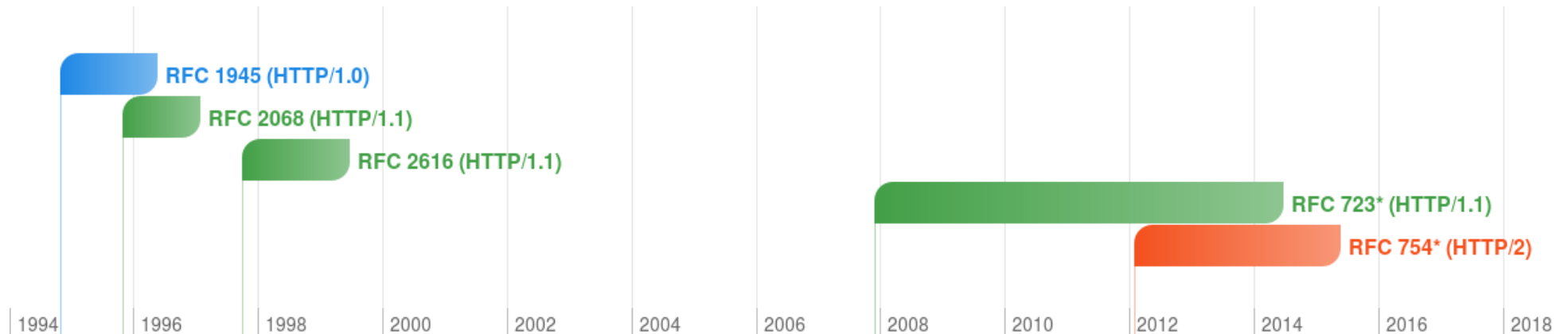




IETF ~~99~~101 - HTTPtre

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History of HTTP in the IETF



Observations:

- It took long to restart work on HTTP/1.1 (~8 years)
- It took long to finish the last revision of HTTP/1.1 (~ 6 years)
- There are **two** current HTTP specifications (HTTP/1.1 and HTTP/2)
 - ...not to mention [HTTP over QUIC](#), started in November 2016

Why and when to update

- RFCs are immutable documents
- We collect errata and occasionally revise
 - ...but the errata are incomplete and hard to discover (RFC-Editor???)
- If we start now, we won't be ready before ~~2018~~2019, which would be 45 years after publication of RFC 723x
- Eventually, the new RFC format will allow us to make the officially published versions more readable

Current Status

We created a (temporary) workspace to resurrect the 723x drafts with complete change history going back to RFC2616:

<https://github.com/dwid-org/http11ter>

With minimal edits to reflect status, we posted a set of 00 drafts:

1. [draft-fielding-httpbis-http-messaging-00](#) ([HTML](#), [diffs from RFC 7230](#))
2. [draft-fielding-httpbis-http-semantic-00](#) ([HTML](#), [diffs from RFC 7231](#))
3. [draft-fielding-httpbis-http-conditional-00](#) ([HTML](#), [diffs from RFC 7232](#))
4. [draft-fielding-httpbis-http-range-00](#) ([HTML](#), [diffs from RFC 7233](#))
5. [draft-fielding-httpbis-http-cache-00](#) ([HTML](#), [diffs from RFC 7234](#))
6. [draft-fielding-httpbis-http-auth-00](#) ([HTML](#), [diffs from RFC 7235](#))

Scope - the obvious

- Apply errata (see [RFC 7230 errata](#) etc)
- Update references (not too many, it seems)
- Resolve issues reported at <https://github.com/httpwg/http11bis/issues>, currently ~~~30~~50
- Minimal changes to guide readers to HTTP/2 spec

Scope - the less obvious

Re-organize once more?

- Split information specific exclusively to HTTP/1.1 into a separate document and relabel everything else just "HTTP"
 - ...see [draft-bishop-decomposing-http](#)
- Recombine some or all of RFC7231..RFC7235 into a single document

Include stuff that should have been part of HTTP in the first place?

- Status 308 ([RFC 7538](#))
- Authentication-Info and Proxy-Authentication-Info ([RFC 7615](#))
- Client-Initiated Content-Encoding ([RFC 7694](#))
- ...? Maybe [draft-ietf-httpbis-rand-access-live](#)?

...advance to full standard? (**may****might** conflict with other goals)

Today:

- Confirm that we want to start - adopt draft-fielding-httpbis-*-00?
- Decide scope & timing
 - Relation to QUIC work (people overlap, potential effects for HTTP over QUIC)
 - Scope will affect how we do things, as potential re-organizations would need to be done very carefully
- Time permitting, talk about individual issues
- Work mode: resolving issues, communicating progress (process different from other HTTPbis work???)

Afterthought: annotating HTML versions of RFCs

We **can** inline some errata information [already](#) (in unofficial variants, that is):

4. Transfer Codings

Transfer coding names are used to indicate an encoding transformation that has been, can be, or might need to be applied to a payload body in order to ensure "safe transport" through the network. This differs from a content coding in that the transfer coding is a property of the message rather than a property of the representation that is being transferred.

```
transfer-coding    = "chunked" ; Section 4.1
                   / "compress" ; Section 4.2.1
                   / "deflate" ; Section 4.2.2
                   / "gzip" ; Section 4.2.3
                   / transfer-extension
transfer-extension = token *( OWS ";" OWS transfer-parameter )
```

[Erratum 4683](#) ✖
[Erratum 4839](#) ✓

...and we could extend that to information in Github issues.