

Examples of RFC Citations when using LaTeX and BibTeX

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Abstract

This paper seeks to compare and contrast differences in how RFCs and Internet-Drafts are cited by folks using LaTeX and BibTeX.

1 Differences in Citation Formatting

In this first case, we cite an RFC using an *misc* BibTeX entry.[1]. In the second case, we cite an RFC using a *techreport* BibTeX entry.[2]. In the third case, we cite an RFC using a *article* BibTeX entry.[3] Last, and mostly for completeness, we also cite an old, yet very widely cited, Internet Draft.[4]

With a *bibliographystyle* of "alpha", equivalent output is produced in the References, where the Institution field is included for both *misc* and *techreport* citation methods.

With a *bibliographystyle* of "acm", "abbrv", "IEEEtran", or "plain", the *misc* entry [2] omits the Institution field, while the *techreport* entry [1] includes the Institution field.

This PDF shows the "acm" bibliography style's output, as that does show a different citation output between a *misc* entry and a *techreport* entry.

Thanks to Brian Carpenter for sharing a sample of the *article* BibTeX format that he has been using.

2 Institution

Separate from the difference above, there is very wide variance in what the "institution" field of a BibTeX file contains for Internet RFCs. It is unclear whether there is a preferred approach to using the "Institution" field.

Examples of commonly used values include:

- RFC Editor
- Internet Society
- IETF
- IAB
- IRTF

References

- [1] D. Bobrow and W. R. Ruter, "Binary Message Forms in Computer Networks," IETF, RFC 31, Feb. 1968. [Online]. Available: <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc31.txt>
- [2] B. Carpenter, "Architectural Principles of the Internet," RFC 1958, June 1996. [Online]. Available: <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1958.txt>
- [3] Leslie Daigle (ed.), "The RFC Series and RFC Editor," *Internet RFC 4844, ISSN 2070-1721*, 2007.
- [4] M. O'Dell, "GSE - An Alternate Addressing Architecture for IPv6," IETF, Internet-Draft draft-ipng-gseaddr-00.txt, Feb. 1997.