

Key Issues stemming from review of Clauses 1 – 4 (from Bob Sultan) 7/10/02

This is a list of issues that surfaced at the clause 1-4 review. Some may belong in the key issues list you are constructing... Bob

1. Does the ring have a maximum circumference? A circumference 'guideline'? If so, what is it? What is the justification for it?
2. What is the maximum number of stations on the ring? 255? 127? 63? What is the limiting factor or justification?
3. What is the proper naming for ringlets? ringlet 0/1, clockwise/counterclockwise, inner/outer, etc. (I thought this was stable at ringlet 0/1 but there are people who have a problem with this).
4. What is the naming for PHYs? east/west? left/right? (I thought left/right was agreed, but again, there are people who disagree).
5. What is the method of multicast distribution? source strip? TTL-based strip? one ringlet? both ringlets?
6. Is there a requirement that all links operate at the same data rate? Has there been a motion to this effect?
7. Can OIF documents be referenced in clause 3 or should all OIF material be replicated in the body of the standard. In the latter case, is there some procedure for insuring that this material is included systematically.
8. The document currently contains state machine diagrams and state machine tables for the same state machines. It must be made clear which form takes precedence if both appear. What is normative? What is informative?
9. There is currently no systematic way to identify the variables used in state machine descriptions, making the state machines very difficult to interpret. It has been suggested that every variable (or identifier) be expanded/explained. This can be done in a section of clause 3 (variables global to document), in an individual clause for variables global to a clause, or (3) near the state machine where the variable is local to the state machine. The format for these definitions should be specified in clause 3.