Portland, Oregon, July 12-15, 2004

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group
Title: Communication to IEEE 802.1 and 802.3

Communication Statement

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APPROVAL: Agreed to at IEEE 802.3 Closing Plenary, July 15, 2004
FOR: Information
DEADLINE: N/A
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Dear Mr. Jeffree,

Thank you for the project request from IEEE 802.1 dated 18 March 04.

In addition to the IEEE 802.1 project request, IEEE 802.3 has received a similar request from ITU-T Q9, Q12/15 requesting support for larger Ethernet frame sizes and more specifically to indicate the maximum frame size possible.

At its recent July 2004 plenary, IEEE 802.3 convened the Frame Expansion ad-hoc to investigate the topic of frame expansion. The ad-hoc reviewed proposed frame format extensions, a presentation on impacts to existing networks and created a list of future topics to research:

- Frame size limitations of:
  - Existing equipment – below MAC (elasticity buffers, block coding, delimiters)
  - Existing equipment – above MAC (FIFO, fabric)
  - Links with FEC (EPON)
  - Rate compensation (WAN PHY, EFM Copper)
- Effect of increased overhead on performance, especially in aggregation
- Feasibility of reducing MTU of installed base of clients
- Tutorial on IEEE 802.1AB
- Straw man frame format modifications

A status update was provided during the July IEEE 802.1/802.3 Joint Technical Plenary held on July 14, 2004.

IEEE 802.3, based on the progress of the ad-hoc, created the IEEE 802.3 Frame Expansion Study Group. This study group will meet this fall to set objectives and create the Project Authorization Request (PAR) that would define the output of this study

group.

The IEEE 802.3 Frame Expansion Study Group will provide updates on progress.

Regards,

Bob Grow