

MSC meeting  
Monday 2004Apr12  
Starting at 18:30  
Chef Chus  
Mountain View, CA  
Dr. David V. James, MSC secretary

DRAFT 1.0

Attending:

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Present:

Bob Davis	bob@scsi.com
Bob Ferguson	bobf@air-internet.com
Martin Freeman	martin.freeman@philips.com
David B. Gustavson	dbg@SCIzzL.com
David James	dvj@alum.mit.edu
Richard Karpinski	dick@cfcl.com
John Lemon	jlemon@luminous.com
Mike Smolin	adrmike@yahoo.com
Geoff Thompson	thompson@ieee.org
Dan Zuras	r754@nonabelian.com
Tom Mathey	tmathey@concentric.net
Bruce Nordman	bnordman@lbl.gov 510 486-7089

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Teleconference facilities

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We tried to connect a cell phone to the car-speaker, plugged into a battery booster. It seemed to work, but the last minute preparations meant no one was able to connect.

This will be tried again, given the partial success. An attempt to find a quiet dinner room (banquet facilities) will also be attempted.

John Lemon noted the secretary's laptop could also run off of the battery, since restaurants are sometimes AC wall-outlet challenged.

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Meeting minutes

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Approval of agenda - no objection.

Approval of last meeting minutes - no objection.

Discussion of next-meeting conflicts.

Geoff Thompson noted the next meeting conflicts with 802.

David Gustavson noted the meeting dates have been fixed and consistent for years, second Monday evening of the month, and stability is desired.

Conclusion: next meeting continues on the second Monday of the month.

The Chair presented a call for patents:

Geoff Thompson noted that Nortel has essential patents on 1000BT, and those patents permissions do not necessarily apply when P1394C transports frames over 1000BT.

David James noted this may also be a concern for p802.17.

Action item: inform the appropriate chairs

(status - P1394C: Michael Johas-Teener informed via email)

(status - P802.17: Mike Takefman to be included in minutes)

Chair report

A new nomenclature was adopted for PAR suffix notations, such as p1596.1, p802.3ah, etc. This will apply to new groups of standards. Existing sequences will remain unchanged. The 1155 VXI standard has been accepted as a stabilized standard ("stabilized" is a new term for what was informally nicknamed Senior Standard, in some previous MSC meetings).

The Chair noted that Ethernet on the backplane is a project within 802 that seems to overlap with the MSC charter.

Geoff Thompson noted that a request for coordination is inappropriate, since coordination requirements between groups have been abandoned.

David James noted that coordination with RBR and RPR had been assumed in the last P802.17 meeting. The P802.17 Chair will be informed this formal requirement thus cannot be provided, although informal coordination will be attempted.

The IEEE considered Sponsor ballot operations, as the Chair reported.

- \* There was a proposal to make the Sponsor ballot lists be open documents; that proposal was rejected. The concern was that this would allow others to lobby for their opinions.
  - \* Bob Davis noted he is working on Standards Board adhoc committees, to address concerns with the BRC process.
    - announcement of the meeting
    - eliminate the royal "we" in responses.
- right now, the royal "we" could be a group of one.

#### IEEE/RAC discussions

The Chair (Bob Davis) noted that Peter Johansson had requested an EUI-48 number assignment, based on the MSC's assigned OUI value. Peter had requested a number corresponding to the hex value of 1394; Bob Davis had provided the first sequential number (excluding 0 and 1), responding on behalf of the MSC adhoc for RAC subassignments, since that group has not yet completed its work.

Peter has afterwards confirmed the printed assignment number can be changed in a recirculation ballot.

Bob Davis requested an opinion on whether specific number requests should be allowed.

Unanimous agreement was that specific number assignments will not be entertained. Assigned numbers will be provided in a sequential fashion.

Geoff Thompson and DVJ noted that the IEEE/RAC discussed collection of royalty fees at the last meeting. The proposal was to support a protocol where the IEEE gets number ranges from a particular vendor, and collects royalty fees for that vendor (its patent license fees, done on a per-number basis) as the numbers are assigned.

Geoff and DVJ noted this was flatly rejected by the IEEE/RAC, due to a variety of conflict-of-interest and implied patent-validity implications.

Geoff and DVJ noted that discussions are continuing on the topic of OUI formats and the implications on 802 standards. An adhoc task group of DVJ, Geoff Thompson, and Bob Davis is to meet and generate a proposal in the next week or two.

#### P1621 to Sponsor ballot

The P1621 draft was provided to the MSC, with a request to form a Sponsor ballot team. The MSC approved sending it too Sponsor ballot, with the provision that editorial review would be allowed by MSC members in the next week. DVJ noted the presence of some editorial errors (ed note: these have since been fixed, by mutual consent, via offline emails). Others also volunteered to proof-read the draft.

This raised the topic of the MSC's responsibility in approving a WG draft. Bob Ferguson noted that we have never had to reject a submission, so specific criteria are not exactly specified.

Geoff Thompson asked whether the MSC considered negative votes in the Sponsor ballot approval application. Others noted that the MSC meetings are announced, and anyone with objections is free to come, and will be seriously considered. Since this rarely happens, this procedure seems to suffice.

Geoff Thompson noted that Xerox Parc may be a source for useful Sponsor ballot reviewers, since they have performed extensive human interface studies in the past. Geoff will try to provide the p1621 Chair with a list of experts, so they can be added to the Sponsor ballot pool.

Several members requested that Sponsor balloting requests should be preceded by a 1-week draft availability period, so that MSC members can (if desired) preview drafts before approval. The Chair concurred, and this will be attempted in the future.

IEEE P754r

A lengthy discussion on IEEE floating point ensued. There appears to be strong pressure to remain compatible, but similar pressures to enhance. So, the standard really is two parts. Also, it's taking longer than planned.

Motion - 2 year extension of PAR for P754

Motion by Dan Zuras

2nd by Richard Karpinski

unanimous

General discussion: The MSC Chair noted the importance of this standard, since it is the way math will legally be done for the next 10 to 20 years. It is imparitive that two standard-conformant machines get the same answer, as well as correct answers.

Splitting the draft into two parts, both within the numbered clauses, would make sense. Putting an entire part-II into the Annex would seem to obfuscate its presence, although normative annexes are allowed and (in theory) would suffice.

Side notes:

The word Appendix has been deprecated. These are now called Annexes.

Memory channel interface.

Bob Davis pass the Chair responsibilities to vice-chair David Gustavon. He then distributed a written proposal for a PAR. After brief discussion, a motion to accept the PAR proposal was generated:

Moved by Bob Davis

passes by lack of objection

Geoff Thompson abstains

Resilient backplane ring (RBR)

David James discussed the desire of the RBR study group to get a PAR. The scope and purpose were reviewed and iterated on the laptop, in an attempt to eliminate concerns of associated groups. In particular, the standard will not claim to be a form or variant of p802.17 RPR, although it is based on concepts from this, as well as 1596 and 1394 standards.

DVJ noted that Bob Grow had that afternoon expressed concern with directly referencing an 802 standard. DVJ also noted that inclusion by cross-reference plus listed differences is difficult (as per p802.3ah), so doing so probably was a bad idea, independent from Bob Grow's maintenance-based concerns.

After discussion and revisions, the motion to approve the RBR PAR was proposed.

Moved by David V. James

2nd by David B. Gustavson

5 for

3 abstain

Motion passes.

Bob Davis noted that a meeting is necessary to discuss the internationalization of standards. Thus, proposed time for review of Bob's emailed TAG material is:

1pm SC25 JTC1 MSC meeting, 2004Apr18, (408) 857-1273

22685 Summit, Los Gatos

DVJ