

MAC Status and CFM

Relating the 802.1aj MAC Status shim to 802.1ag Connectivity Fault Management

Version 1

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IEEE 802.1 liaison issue 2

- The relationship of the MAC Status shim (802.1aj subclause 23.2) and the physical MEPs (802.1ag) is undefined.

(This is primarily for IEEE 802.1's information. MEF has no particular interest in the MAC Status shim.)

If MAC Status is above all of the physical MEPs, a MEP pair that spans multiple 802.1aj TPMRs will prevent the 802.1aj MAC Status protocol from working properly, because the the end-most MAC Status shims will see the whole end-to-end status, not the local link status.

If MAC Status is below all of the physical MEPs, it can occasionally trigger spurious local link failures, and MEPs cannot be used to signal local link failures to the MAC Status protocol.

So, local link MEPs should be below the MAC Status shim, and longer-range MEPs should be above the MAC Status shim.

Whether or not this is specified in IEEE 802.1aj or the rolled-up 802.1Q, the issue could be noted in that document.

Physical MEPs and the MAC Status shim

