a possible future for 802.1 standard development

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Problem

- **I can't read 802.1Q … it's too big, not organized really well**
  - not just 802.1Q, but also 802.3, 802.11, 1588, IETF rfc's, ITU recommendations, any "PDF creating SDO"
- **It's too hard to tell if it's internally consistent or whether it really describes how a bridge really works**
  - or how the various bits of technology relate to each other

but I'm not stupid

- or really lazy, or ….
- I'm ***busy***!
  - and I bet there are a lot of other busy people out there, too
- … but I think it's important that I understand what is in that spec
  - and everyone else that builds a bridge needs to know, too
- How can we make this better?

Solutions

- **Refactor the document**
  - as a very well documented simulation
    - nicely layered with useful and well documented interfaces
  - as a set of tests
    - so we can validate the simulation as we do updates
- **The "source code" is stored in a repository**
  - like github
- **The IEEE can still sell the PDF documentation**
  - anyone can get the "code" … so it's got be cheap

What do we get?

- **As standards architects …**
  - something that we can validate with machine help instead of just grey matter
  - faster, more reliable update cycle
  - more satisfaction that we've done our job right
- **As standards consumers …**
  - a much better assurance of interoperability of designs since we have validation tools
- **As the IEEE SA …**
  - maintaining relevance in an "open source" world

What's next

- **Nothing, right now**
  - Just think about it
- **Talk to me and Norm Finn and …**
  - maybe we'll get something organized