

# 802.1CB FRER maintenance/improvements



## Reset of Sequence Recovery Function

IEEE 802.1 Maintenance TG  
May, 2025

# 802.1CB FRER maintenance

## Overview



- **Problem:**  
the reset of sequence recovery function defined in 802.1CB-2017 may cause stream anomalies
- **Target:**  
minimize the impact of sequence generation function's reset
- **How:**  
to be discussed, e.g., fine-tune reset functionality

# Summary

## Impact of SequenceRecoveryReset

### — Identified Issues of SequenceRecoveryReset

#### — Duplicates

- Caused by “too fast” reset procedure (“SequenceHistory” array is cleared during reset (filling with “0”)), where replicas of already received (before reset arrived) packet are still “in flight” in the network

#### — Incorrect Loss Counter: frerCpsSeqRcvyLostPackets

- Caused by clearing the “SequenceHistory” array (filling with “0”)
- If no loss then “frerCpsSeqRcvyLostPackets” is increased by “#HistoryLength-1” else it is increased more

Note: Counters of LatentErrorDetection are not changed during Reset

Analysis of 802.1CB  
Result: duplicate delivery

— After the reset,  
— Packet with sequence\_number=4 arrives over the fast path. It is accepted by the Elimination function due to the true value of “TakeAny”.

— Packets received over the slow path after the reset (i.e., packet-1, packet-2 and packet-3), are also accepted as they are in the history window and the reset has cleared the “SequenceHistory”. But these packets were already delivered before the reset so duplicate delivery happens.

— Duplicate delivery (even temporarily) is not acceptable for TSN networks as it breaks one of the basic design rules, namely a TSN Stream is not allowed to consume more than the resources reserved for it. Consuming more than the designated resources via duplicate delivery may cause violation of QoS requirements for some of the Streams, e.g., delay or loss violation.

Balázs Varga, János Farkas | 2020-05-16 | TSN - FRER (SeqRecovReset) | Open | Page 6

# Summary

## Impact of SequenceRecoveryReset



- 802.1CB-2017 defines three reasons to reset the Sequence recovery function:
  1. BEGIN event (initialization/reset), i.e., Node reboot
    - Issues: Duplicates, Incorrect Loss Counter  
Note: duplicates depends on initialization duration, if “TIME\_init >> network latency”, then no duplicates are expected
  2. Management event (frerSeqRcvyReset=true) and i.e., Operator action
    - Issues: Duplicates, Incorrect Loss Counter  
Note: this is just a reset of the recovery function what is pretty fast
  3. RECOVERY\_TIMEOUT event (timeout mechanism expired). i.e., Stream issues
    - Issues: Incorrect Loss Counter  
Note: duplicates are not expected if RECOVERY\_TIMEOUT is properly designed

# Summary

## Towards a solution



- 802.1CB-2017 defines three reasons to reset the Sequence recovery function:
  1. BEGIN event (initialization/reset), i.e., Node reboot
    - Issues: Duplicates, Incorrect Loss Counter
  2. Management event (frerSeqRcvyReset=true) and i.e., Operator action
    - Issues: Duplicates, Incorrect Loss Counter
  3. RECOVERY\_TIMEOUT event (timeout mechanism expired). i.e., Stream issues
    - Issues: Incorrect Loss Counter
    - Note: duplicates are not expected if RECOVERY\_TIMEOUT is properly designed
    - **A possible solution (other may exist):**
    - Replace :
      - “7.4.3.3 SequenceRecoveryReset” sets the “RecovSeqNum” to “RecovSeqSpace - 1”, **clears** the “SequenceHistory” array and sets “TakeAny” to true.
    - With:
      - “7.4.3.3 SequenceRecoveryReset” sets the “RecovSeqNum” to “RecovSeqSpace - 1”, **sets** the “SequenceHistory” array and sets “TakeAny” to true.

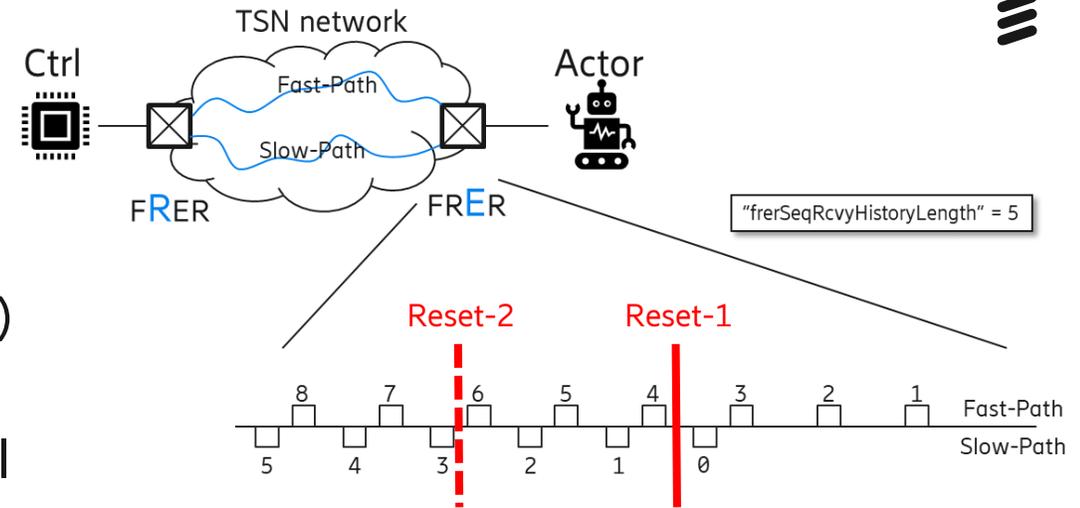


# Questions ...



Ericsson

# Recap: Which knob is what for?



- Proper sizing of `frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength` (SequenceHistory)
  - is a network engineering task
  - impacts the design of `frerSeqRcvyResetMSec` as well (timeout period in milliseconds for the `RECOVERY_TIMEOUT` event)
- There are contradicting requirements on sizing (can be also use-case specific)
  - `frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength`: Proper sizing is based on the (1) TSN Stream characteristics AND (2) FRER topology (latency difference of the paths used by the Member Streams)
    - As small as possible: e.g., to protect against failures / malicious nodes
    - As big as possible: e.g., to provide flexibility in case of short network failure(s)
  - `frerSeqRcvyResetMSec`: Proper sizing is based on the (1) TSN Stream characteristics AND (2) latency difference of the paths used by the Member Streams AND (3) value of `frerSeqRcvyHistoryLength`
    - As small as possible: e.g., to react fast to failure(s) and avoid unnecessary out of "history window" drops
    - As big as possible: e.g., to avoid unnecessary `RECOVERY_TIMEOUT` events
- A good design needs to find a trade off ...

# Background slides



- Details of the problem and solution directions

# History on Contributions for Cloudification (e.g., vPLC)

## 2019-2020



### — Reset causing duplicate delivery

- <https://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2020/maint-varga-FRER-sequence-recovery-reset-0320-v02.pdf>

### — Seamless Reset

- <https://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2020/new-varga-FRER-seamless-reset-0320-v02.pdf>

### — Explicit signaling of Reset via "SeqResetFlag"

- <http://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2019/new-varga-FRER-improvements-0719-v01.pdf>

802.1CB maintenance/improvements

FRER  
Fixing the Elimination function  
(Sequence Recovery Reset)

IEEE 802.1 Maintenance TG  
March, 2020

Balazs Varga, János Farkas

802.1CB maintenance Overview

- Problem: reset of Sequence recovery function defined in 802.1CB-2017 may cause temporary duplicate delivery
- Target: ensure that no duplicate delivery happens due to reset of sequence generation function
- How: change reset, two ways are proposed
  1. Adding a reset-guard period after the reset, where received packets are dropped.
  2. Modifying the reset procedure to be root-cause dependent.
- Which one is preferred?
  - implementation of the reset-guard solution is simpler, but the reset-guard solution somewhat increases the outage because packets are dropped after the reset event for a while.
  - implementation of the solution where the root-cause of reset is distinguished is more complex, but it can minimize the impact of the reset event.

802.1CB improvements

FRER  
Improvements of Replication and Elimination functions  
(to achieve Seamless Reset)

IEEE 802.1 TSN TG  
March, 2020

Balazs Varga, János Farkas

NEW Sequence Number Space  
Basics of operation

- Solution: introducing a new additional sequence number space "InitSeqNumSpace", which is used after initialization/reset of the sequence generation function.
- InitSeqNumSpace is illustrated by the red linear sequence number space.
- The sequence\_number of the next packet is stored in a new variable, namely the "InitSeqNum".
- When this new number space is exhausted the sequence generation function starts to use the original sequence number space, which is illustrated by the blue cyclic sequence number space.
- New flags:
  - Usage of the new Sequence Number Space is marked by a

802.1CB improvements Overview

- Problem: high probability of packet loss due to reset of Sequence Generation function
- Target: seamless reset of Sequence Generation function
- How: change Sequence Number Space characteristics
  1. explicit notification of the reset event, and
  2. extending the sequence number space (additional new linear initial sequence number space)
- Explicit notification of the reset event is based on the flag included in the R-TAG, namely the "SeqResetFlag" (see former contribution on history slide). The usage of the new linear initial sequence number space ("InitSeqNumSpace") is noted via a new flag included in the R-TAG, namely the "InitSeqFlag". Sequence values of the new number space ("InitSeqNumSpace") are also included in the R-TAG (using the existing sequence number field).

802.1CB improvements Overview

- Target: integration of FRER and Virtualized domain (Cloud) specific redundancy technologies
- How: via free modification of the "GenSeqNum" parameter
  - Replication node
    - modification of the "GenSeqNum" parameter to any valid value during "BEGIN" event and "SEQUENCE\_CHANGE" event
  - Target: avoid unnecessary drops during Elimination
  - How: via explicit notification
    - Replication node
      - send a new flag "SeqResetFlag"
    - Elimination node
      - interpret the new flag "SeqResetFlag"
      - trigger the "SequenceRecoveryReset" function based on the notification

# History on Reset Related Maintenance Items 2025



- <https://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2025/maint-arunarthi-CB-2017-item-378-0310-v02.pdf>
- <https://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2025/maint-mangin-CB-2017-item-378-0125-v01.pdf>
- <https://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2025/maint-mccall-cb-2017-item-378-v01.pdf>

# Problem with existing reset mechanism





# Analysis of 802.1CB FRER Reset of Sequence Recovery Function

- 802.1CB-2017 defines three reasons to reset the Sequence recovery function:
  1. BEGIN event (initialization/reset),
  2. Management event (frerSeqRcvyReset=true) and
  3. RECOVERY\_TIMEOUT event (timeout mechanism expired).
- Current procedure:
  - “7.4.3.3 SequenceRecoveryReset” sets the “RecovSeqNum” to “RecovSeqSpace - 1”, clears the “SequenceHistory” array and sets “TakeAny” to true.

# Analysis of 802.1CB FRER Notes



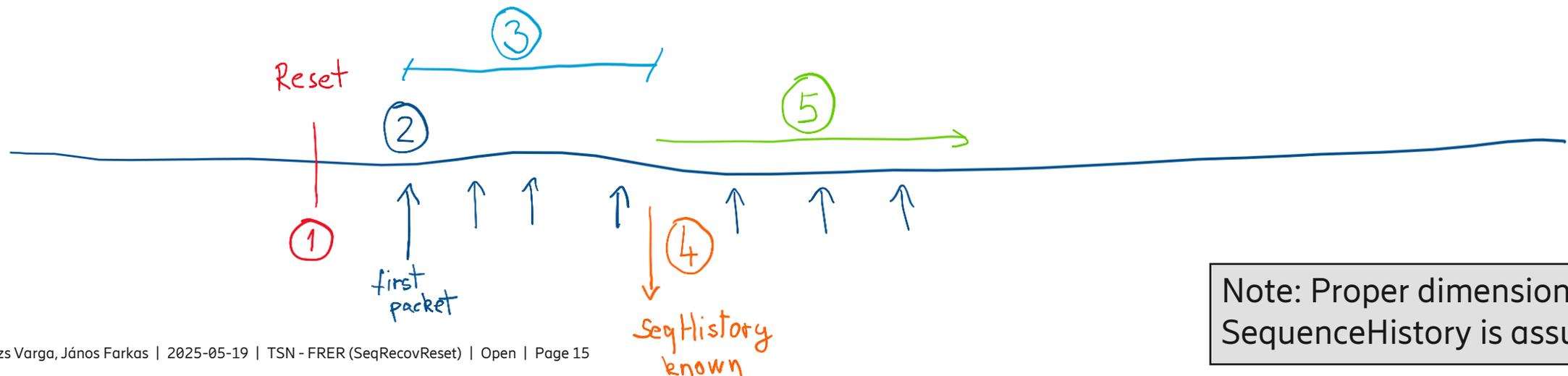
- Reset is an invasive network event
  - A transient on the operation of the system is expected, and such a transient SHOULD be treated as business as usual
  
- Reset (usually) happens in case of an “out-of-normal-operation”
  - 802.1CB-2017 defines three reasons to reset the Sequence recovery function:
    1. BEGIN event (initialization/reset), i.e., Node reboot
    2. Management event (frerSeqRcvyReset=true) and i.e., Operator action
    3. RECOVERY\_TIMEOUT event (timeout mechanism expired). i.e., Stream issues

# Analysis of 802.1CB FRER

## Optimal operation in case of reset



- Seems to be quite complex
  1. RESET happens
  2. First packet of the stream received (path not known!) with SeqNum=N
  3. Packet with SeqNum  $\leq N$  may arrive for a time (PathsMaxDiffLatency), wait and collect SeqNums of incoming frames
  4. All information about frame sequence numbers is known to properly fill in the SequenceHistory and e.g., identify missing frames
  5. Back to normal operation



Note: Proper dimensioning of SequenceHistory is assumed

# Analysis of 802.1CB FRER Scenarios



Scenarios where RESET impacts e.g., stream counters

- Stream is off/pause --> RECOVERY\_TIMEOUT event --> Stream on --> e.g., incorrect loss counter

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- Stream on + RESET event --> possible duplicate delivery, incorrect loss counter, etc.
  - Stream on + Loss on some Member Streams + RESET --> possible duplicate delivery, incorrect loss counter, etc.
  - Stream on + Fast-path is back from failure + RESET --> possible duplicate delivery, incorrect loss counter, etc.
  - ...



normal network operation



failure(s) in the network

# Towards a solution ...





# Analysis of 802.1CB FRER

## What do we intend to solve ???

Before discussing the solutions

- What do we intend to solve?
  - Under normal operation we do not want to have either false or false positive alarms!
  
- Can we live with some “multiple temporary anomalies at the same time” cases?
  - Transient after the RESET in single/multiple failure scenarios ...
  - Some duplicates/false loss alarms/etc. during the transient
  - Wait for correct operation/alarms/counters e.g., 2 x “frerSeqRcvyLatentErrorPeriod” time