

Liaison Statement from IEEE 802.11 Working Group to Wireless Broadband Alliance

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From: Dorothy Stanley Chair, IEEE 802.11 WLAN Working Group
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Subject: Reply to WBA re: P802.11bh work on operation with randomized and changing MAC addresses

Dear Bruno and WBA members,

Thank you for the liaisons sent to us over the last two years:

- a) "Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11", WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification Group, 04/14/2023, <https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/21/11-21-0703-00-0000-2021-april-liaison-from-wba.docx>
- b) "Wi-Fi Devices Identification, A Way Through MAC Randomization", WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification, March 2022
- c) "Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11", WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification Group, 02/23/2022, <https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/22/11-22-0668-00-0000-liaison-statement-from-wba-re-wi-fi-devices-identification-group.pdf>
- d) "Wi-Fi Identification Scope, In a post MAC Randomization Era", WBA Testing & Interoperability Work Group, April 2021

These documents have raised and described concerns regarding device identification issues when randomized MAC addresses are used. We are very appreciative of the WBA liaisons, and the liaison documents were used to help to formulate the scope of the P802.11bh amendment, to address the impacts that are within the scope of the 802.11 Standard.

¹ This document represents the views of the IEEE 802.11 Working Group and does not necessarily represent a position of the IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association, or IEEE 802.

The P802.11bh D1.0, "Randomized and Changing MAC Addresses" amendment is under development and recently completed 802.11 Working Group Letter Ballot with over 92% approval. The draft defines two mechanisms to enable private device identification of IEEE 802.11 devices that use a randomized or changing MAC address. P802.11bh D1.0 is available in the "IEEE Store", here: https://www.techstreet.com/ieee/standards/ieee-p802-11bh?product_id=2569955

We are working on an analysis of the use cases and scenarios described in the received liaisons, and an evaluation of how (or if) those use cases are covered by the mechanisms in P802.11bh Draft 1.0. We expect to complete this analysis in September 2023 and subsequently to provide our results to you.

We encourage WBA members interested in this topic to obtain a copy of P802.11bh D1.0 from the store and review the material. We welcome your comments on the draft, as well as any considerations for how the mechanisms map to the concerns raised in your liaisons, for comparison with our analysis mentioned above.

For your reference, [IEEE Std 802.11-2020](#) is the current version of the IEEE 802.11 Standard. See http://www.ieee802.org/11/Meetings/Meeting_Plan.html for Future meeting dates of the IEEE 802.11 Working Group.

Best Regards,

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