

Best Practices for Industry Group Interaction with IEEE 802

Summary

- SIGs, Alliances and industry groups can be important part of the IEEE 802 standards development process.
- IEEE 802 wants these groups to work cooperatively with the IEEE standards process, respecting the 5 fundamental principles of open standards
 - Due process
 - Broad consensus
 - Transparency
 - Balance
 - Openness
 - <http://open-stand.org/about-us/principles>

Levels of cooperation

- To encourage the development of standards according the open standards principles, IEEE 802 has identified the following levels: best practice, questionable practice, bad practice.
- The following definitions are used:
 - Group: a SIG, alliance or other similar industry group that is associated with IEEE 802 standards.
 - Group Member: An entity that is a member, voting or not, of a Group.
 - IEEE 802 Participant: An individual who attends an IEEE 802 meeting or contributes on an email reflector.

Best practice

- Participation in meetings of the Group and decisions is open to all who meet nominal membership requirements. The method and requirements for joining the Group are readily available to all interested parties.
- The Group publicly states that IEEE 802 Participants affiliated with a Group Member are not required to vote or act on behalf of the Group as a condition of the Group Member's participation in the Group. The Group reminds its Group Member's on a regular basis that IEEE 802 participation is on an individual expert basis.
- The Group has a publicly stated policy that no action will be taken by the Group against a Group Member in response to the voting or participation of IEEE 802 Participants who are affiliated with a Group Member
- While IEEE 802 Participants affiliated with Group Members may vote the same on a particular motion, the IEEE 802 Participants are not instructed or pressured to vote in a particular manner.

Questionable practice

- It is not clear how to join a Group. While it is possible to attain voting membership, the rules or practice make it difficult to do in a timely manner.
- The Group is silent on its policies for IEEE 802 participation by IEEE 802 Participants affiliated with its Group Members
- Membership of the Group is secret and IEEE 802 Participants are not allowed to state that the organization with whom they are affiliated is a Group Member.
- IEEE 802 Participants affiliated with Group Members (if that can be determined) always vote the same way on contentious issues.

Bad practice

- Group membership is closed and/or new Group Members cannot obtain voting and/or leadership rights
- The Group encourages IEEE 802 Participants associated with Group Members to vote/support Group positions within IEEE 802 regardless of the individual's expert opinion.
- The Group has taken punitive action against a Group Member for whom an IEEE 802 Participant associated with the Group Member has voted or acted against a Group position/decision in IEEE 802.
- An IEEE 802 Participant has received voting instructions for IEEE 802 matters from the Group or Group Member.
- **These items may result in action by IEEE 802 to restore openness and balance in the standards process.**