

**Action Item: 802 Mission and Purpose**  
**Roger Marks**  
**2021-07-23 (Rev. 1, adds pages 4-5)**  
**2021-06-25 (Rev. 0)**

**Summary**

This document summarizes the background of the 802 Action Item: 802 Mission and Purpose, including the version of the statement that has been circulated. Under “New Proposal” (p. 3), it proposes a new version of the statement and requests comment. Finally, under “Proposed way forward,” it proposes a consensus development process.

**Action Item assignment**

From the minutes of the 1 June 2021 802 LMSC EC meeting:  
<https://mentor.ieee.org/802-ec/dcn/21/ec-21-0107-00-00EC.pdf>

*Action Item - Marks - lead the building of consensus for the 802 LMSC Mission/Purpose text in the 802 Chair’s Guideline*

A goal is to arrive at a consensus position before the 802 EC meeting of 3 August.

**Background**

(1) On 28 April 2021, Paul Nikolich wrote:

<https://www.ieee802.org/secmail/msg25913.html>

*Per the IEEE 802 Restructuring ad hoc recommendation, I have the action to add the Mission/Purpose statement to the 802 Chair’s Guideline. It was drafted by Roger and Geoff, reviewed and accepted by the ad hoc on 16 February 2021. I suggest the text be placed at the very beginning of the Chair’s Guideline as part of your Guideline restructuring action item.*

*The 802 Restructuring ad hoc also recommended it be placed on the [ieee802.org](https://www.ieee802.org) home page to increase its public visibility. I will place this on the agenda of the upcoming 04 May 2021 EC telecon as an information item.*

***Title: Mission and Purpose of the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee  
IEEE 802 develops and maintain standards specifying data link and physical layer protocols to support packet transmission and delivery among network-layer clients.***

- ***Protocols are specified for various physical channels with sufficient detail to allow multivendor interoperability across the interfaces to the communication medium.***
- ***Interoperability is also specified for transmission of network-layer packets via a set of data links.***
- ***Supplementary specifications detail related functionality, including control, management, channel coexistence, and power distribution.***
- ***Supporting outputs include future-looking documentation, standards body interactions, and regulatory contributions.***

- (2) From the minutes of the 4 May 2021 802 LMSC EC meeting:  
<https://mentor.ieee.org/802-ec/dcn/21/ec-21-0106-00-00EC.pdf>

3.04 802 Scope language for Chair's Guidelines

*Chair noted that proposed text had been given to Mr. Gilb for inclusion into Chair's Guidelines. Gilb noted the Chair's Guidelines would be considered at the June 2021 EC Teleconference. There was further discussion regarding the proposed text.*

*It was requested that Gilb hold a rules meeting to review the proposed policies.*

*Action Item - Gilb to schedule a rules meeting the week of 5/17.*

- (3) From the minutes of the 1 June 2021 802 LMSC EC meeting:  
<https://mentor.ieee.org/802-ec/dcn/21/ec-21-0107-00-00EC.pdf>

3.04 Mission and Purpose of LMSC

*Gilb presented Slide #3 from attached document, ec-21-0116-00-00EC.*

*There was discussion regarding the proposed text.*

*Action Item - Marks - lead the building of consensus for the 802 LMSC Mission/Purpose text in the 802 Chair's Guideline*

Slide #3 of the cited ec-21-0116-00-00EC.

***Mission and Purpose of LMSC***

***IEEE 802 develops and maintain standards specifying data link and physical layer protocols to support packet transmission and delivery among network-layer clients.***

***1) Protocols are specified for various physical channels with sufficient detail to allow multi-vendor interoperability across the interfaces to the communication medium.***

***2) Interoperability is also specified for transmission of network-layer packets via a set of data links.***

***3) Supplementary specifications detail related functionality, including control, management, channel coexistence, and power distribution.***

***4) Supporting outputs include future-looking documentation, standards body interactions, and regulatory contributions.***

Note: Apart from minor editorial changes, this is identical to the proposal of (2).

## New Proposal

In an effort to advance the discussion, Marks and Thompson, considered the discussion at the prior venues (the 802 Restructuring ad hoc, the two EC meetings, and the rules meeting of 17 May), along with additional informal discussions. They also reviewed IEEE Std 802 for potentially useful definitions, identifying the “access domain” concept, which is used 22 times in IEEE Std 802, as a useful one to express the mission. Per IEEE Std 802-2014:

"access domain: A set of stations in an IEEE 802 network together with interconnecting data transmission media and functional units (e.g., repeaters), in which the stations use the same medium access control (MAC) protocol to communicate over a common physical medium."

"Bridges are stations that interconnect multiple access domains... A bridged IEEE 802 network consists of one or more bridges together with the complete set of access domains that they interconnect. A bridged IEEE 802 network provides end stations belonging to any of its access domains with the connectivity of a network that contains the whole set of attached end stations."

Consequently, Marks and Thompson propose the following alternative mission/purpose text:

***IEEE 802 develops and maintain standards specifying data link layer and physical layer protocols to support packet transmission and delivery among network-layer clients.***

***(1) Protocols, developed by Working Groups responsible for medium access control, are specified for transmission of frames within an access domain with sufficient detail to allow multivendor interoperability across the interfaces to the communication medium.***

***(2) Interoperability is also specified for transmission of frames via a network of such access domains, including bridging.***

***Supplementary specifications detail related functionality, including control, management, discovery, synchronization, security, channel coexistence, and power distribution. Supporting outputs include future-looking documentation, standards body interactions, and regulatory contributions.***

### Proposed way forward (2021-06-25)

This “New Proposal” is proposed by Marks and Thompson. Comments and discussion on the 802 EC reflector are encouraged, with an intention to develop rough consensus before the EC meeting of 23 July. Marks will provide a report at that time. If warranted, an additional consensus-building meeting will be scheduled at that time, to meet before the 802 EC meeting of 3 August.

**Reflector Comments****(a) Paul Nikolich 2021-07-01**

Thank you for the background and status update on the 802 LMSC Mission/Purpose action item.

The alternative mission/purpose text you and Geoff have crafted looks good (copied below). I am interested to hear what our 802 EC colleagues think.

Regards,

--Paul

**(b) George Zimmerman 2021-07-05**

Paul & Roger –

I appreciate the work that went into the new proposal; however, I do not find myself supportive of it, and, in fact, somewhat opposed. This comes primarily from the first point below, which is fundamental to the new proposal; however, I also have concerns about the proposal overstepping its bounds.

The new proposal relies heavily on a definition which is 802 jargon. It is extremely important that the scope and purpose be understandable to those outside the group itself. More specifically, it must be well-defined outside jargon which might be used in a group – otherwise the scope and purpose become at best difficult to understand, and at worst self-referential. “access domains” as you state, is a term used in 802. It was such an obscure usage that you had to cite how many times it was used. Therefore, it doesn’t provide clarity at all.

The second issue is that I believe the proposal goes well beyond scope and purpose of 802 and attempts to impose a structure on the 802 working groups. The scope and purpose of the overall standards committee is not the place to define its structure or governing principles. That is for other parts of the governing documents. Perhaps this is a mistake, perhaps it is on purpose; however, if the phrase (“developed by Working Groups responsible for medium access control, are specified for transmission of frames *within an access domain*”) was intended in any sense to state that the organization of a working group was along “medium access control”, and “an access control”, both in the singular, was meant to define what the coverage of a working group would be, I would say that is inappropriate. There seems no need to mention “Working Groups” within the scope and purpose at all. They are an organizational aspect of how the standards committee (under the IEEE-SA) organizes its work, and, the scope of WGs is subject to review and may be changed by the standards committee & working group (with approval by the standards committee) under our P&Ps. The scope of the overall standards committee is just the wrong place to mention this.

It is important that a scope and purpose statement be just specific enough to limit let people outside know WHAT the group does, and not so-specific that it steps into the

HOW the group does it – that is the realm of policy and procedure. I feel that the ‘new proposal’ provides far more detail than is warranted, and does so in an internally-encoded way that reduces clarity when viewed outside of specific 802 documents.  
-george

**(c) Clint Powell 2021-07-05**

All,  
I have to agree with George.  
I think the first sentence is more than enough. It’s short and to the point without being imposing.

BR,  
Clint

**(d) David Law 2021-07-09**

Dear Colleagues,

I agree George and Clint. I think the first sentence is sufficient, and we shouldn’t be embedding organizational aspects in a Mission and Purpose statement.

Best regards,  
David

**Options for 2021-07-23**

(1) agree on:

***IEEE 802 develops and maintain standards specifying data link layer and physical layer protocols to support packet transmission and delivery among network-layer clients.***

(2) schedule another meeting before August 3