

Inclusive Language

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November 2021

An example, from IEEE Std 802.1AS-2020

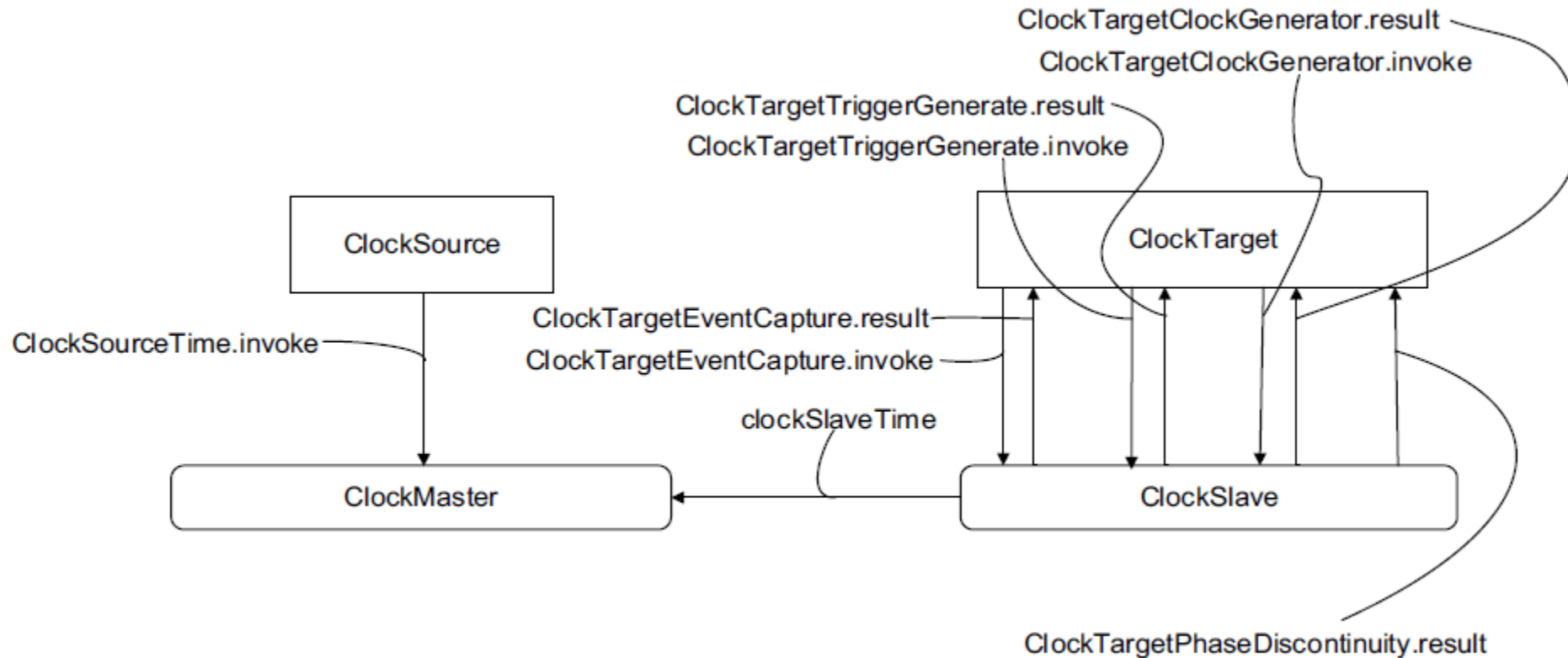


Figure 9-1—Application interfaces

IEEE SA Standards Board

Resolution – December 2020

IEEE standards (including recommended practices and guides) shall be written in such a way as to unambiguously communicate the technical necessities, preferences, and options of the standard to best enable market adoption, conformity assessment, interoperability, and other technical aspirations of the developing standards committee. IEEE standards should be written in such a way as to avoid non-inclusive and insensitive terminology (see IEEE Policy 9.27) and other deprecated terminology (see clause 10 of the IEEE SA Style Manual) except when required by safety, legal, regulatory, and other similar considerations. Terms such as master/slave, blacklist, and whitelist should be avoided.

IEEE SA PAR scopes

- [P1588g](#) – IM/ST
 - This amendment adds an optional alternative suitable and inclusive terminology to the terms “master” and “slave” but it does not replace the terms “master” and “slave” In addition, the amendment fixes errors in the standard and clarifies unclear passages.
- [P802.1ASdr](#) – C/LMSC
 - This amendment changes the non-inclusive, insensitive, and deprecated terminology including those identified by IEEE P1588g and IEEE editorial staff, replacing them with their suitable terminology wherever possible.
- New – BOG/SEScom
 - This standard provides requirements for technical terminology and communications using the English language that are inclusive and inoffensive. These requirements apply to technical information such as in standards; technical and scientific policies, plans, procedures, reports, and specifications; machine-readable languages; and text presented electronically. The standard includes recommendations on how to replace such deprecated technical terminology and provides examples of alternatives.

Other SDOs – directives

- ISO/IEC

- Whenever possible, inclusive terminology shall be used to describe technical capabilities and relationships. Insensitive, archaic and non-inclusive terms shall be avoided. For the purposes of this principle, "inclusive terminology" means terminology perceived or likely to be perceived as welcoming by everyone, regardless of their sex, gender, race, colour, religion, etc.
- New documents shall be developed using inclusive terminology. As feasible, existing and legacy documents shall be updated to identify and replace non-inclusive terms with alternatives that are more descriptive and tailored to the technical capability or relationship.

- 3GPP

- While there are potentially numerous language issues that could be considered offensive, there are two that are most acknowledged and focused on in the industry and applicable to the 3GPP Specifications. These terminologies are “Master / Slave” and “Whitelist / Blacklist” that are often used in 3GPP and other telecommunications / technical documents. There is a general trend in society and a broad consensus within the industry to avoid such terms.

Other SDOs – policy in development

- [IETF](#)

- The IESG hence encourages IETF participants to use the guidance in [[NISTIR8366](#)] when making contributions to the IETF. Although developed for use within the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the IETF community expressed strong support for the sentiment that the guidance on inclusive language in [[NISTIR8366](#)] is suitable for the IETF as well. Using the same terminology as other standards organizations and industry initiatives also contributes to overall coherence in the industry.

- [ITU](#)

- Considering that that the use of inclusive language in ITU is a cultural issue that should not be addressed only within the technical groups, but at a higher level where institutional linguistic policy could be discussed, the Consultation Committee for Terminology kindly asks for advice from the Council WG on Language