IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

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| DSSS Parameter Set element  |
| Date: 2015-07 |
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Abstract

The DSSS Parameter Set element is used in Beacons, Probe Requests and Probe Responses to indicate the channel. There is a problem, maybe two problems, as will be explained.

**CID 166**

Background

DSSS Parameter Set descriptions:

P621 L8 and L14 Table 8-27 Beacons

P633 L20, L28, L33, L40 Table 8-33 Probe Requests

P634 L38, L44 Table 8-34 Probe Response

Clearly indicates the channel number only in 2.4GHz band only.

THEN,

Clause 8.4.2.4 DSSS Parameter Set element, P719 L46

“The Information field contains a single parameter containing the dot11CurrentChannel (see 16.4.4.3 (Channel Numbering of operating channels), 17.3.6.3 (Channel Numbering of operating channels), 18.3.8.4.2 (Channel numbering) and 20.3.15 (Channel numbering and channelization) for values).”

BUT

Clause 20.3.15.3 (P2359 L55) is **Channel allocation in the 5 GHz band** and specifies the 5GHz channel numbers.

***In addition, I sniffed several 5GHz Beacons and checked that the DSSS Parameter Set element was present and indicating the 5GHz channel***.

**Discussion:**

It is clear that Clause 8.4.2.4 DSSS Parameter set element specifies that 5GHz channels are to be indicated in this element. Hence, the “2.4GHz” restriction on Clause 20 devices needs to be removed from the Tables.

Another, maybe bigger question is whether the naming of this element should be changed as it is used for both DSSS and OFDM. As suggested name is “Current Channel element”? Then it is clear.

**PROPOSED CHANGES**

Delete “in the 2.4GHz band” at the following locations:

P621 L14

P633 L27 and L40

P634 L44

Change “DSSS Parameter Set element” to “Current Channel element” in 28 places