IEEE 802.11 WG

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| Proposed LS to WFA on reserved usage | | |
| Date: January 2019 | | |
| Author(s): | | |
| Name | Affiliation | Email |
| Thomas Derham | Broadcom | [thomas.derham@broadcom.com](mailto:thomas.derham@broadcom.com) |
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Abstract

*This document presents a proposal for a Liaison Statement to Wi-Fi Alliance regarding use of reserved fields/values in WFA specifications*

## Proposed liaison letter

TO: Edgar Figueroa, CEO, Wi-Fi Alliance efigueroa@wi-fi.org

SUBJECT: **Usage of IEEE 802.11 Reserved fields and values in Wi-Fi Alliance Specifications**

DATE: XX January 2019

Dear Mr Figueroa

The IEEE 802.11 WG is aware of certain Technical Specifications developed by Wi-Fi Alliance that define the usage of fields and/or values that are marked as Reserved in IEEE 802.11 specification.

A recent example is bits B14 and B15 of the FILS Discovery Frame, which are marked as Reserved (and therefore set to 0) in IEEE 802.11-2016, but have been specifically defined in the Wi-Fi Alliance Optimized Connectivity Technical Specification section 3.7 (and therefore are set to 1 under certain conditions).

Wi-Fi Alliance should note that Reserved fields and/or values might be redefined at any time in future amendments of the IEEE 802.11 specification. IEEE 802.11 WG is concerned about the risk of interoperability issues resulting from mutually incompatible definitions in IEEE 802.11 and Wi-Fi Alliance Technical Specifications.

IEEE 802.11 WG strongly requests Wi-Fi Alliance to provide IEEE 802.11 WG with advanced notice of any intentions to (re)define the usage of fields and/or values in its own Technical Specifications. This notice can be communicated in accordance with the existing Liaison Agreement between our respective organizations. IEEE 802.11 WG maintains an Assigned Numbers (ANA) database and procedure by which assignment to external organizations may be approved upon request.

We would appreciate that this information is forwarded to relevant Task Groups within Wi-Fi Alliance.

Regards,

/s/

Dorothy Stanley ([dstanley1389@gmail.com](mailto:dstanley1389@gmail.com))

IEEE 802.11 Working Group Chair