IEEE 802.11 WG

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| Proposed LS to WFA on reserved usage | | |
| Date: January 2019 | | |
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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 the IEEE Std 802.11™-2016 standard and its approved amendments.

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

The IEEE 802.11 WG maintains an Assigned Numbers (ANA) database and procedure by which assignment to external organizations may be approved upon request. IEEE 802.11 WG strongly urges Wi-Fi Alliance to provide IEEE 802.11 WG with a request to allocate reserved IEEE 802.11 standard fields and/or identifiers before using them in Wi-Fi Alliance Technical Specifications.

I request that this information be forwarded to relevant Task Groups within Wi-Fi Alliance.

Regards,

/s/

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IEEE 802.11 Working Group Chair