IEEE P802.11  
Wireless LANs

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| Resolution of Comments Received from China NB during 60-day ballot on IEEE 802.11aj | | | | |
| Date: 2019-07-09 | | | | |
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Abstract

IEEE 802.11aj was submitted to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 by IEEE 802 for adoption under the ISO/IEEE PSDO Agreement as 6N16817.

The 60-day ballot passed (N16897), with no negative votes and a single comment from the China NB. This submission proposes a LS to SC with resolution to the comment.

The IEEE 802.11 WG thanks the China NB for their comment in the 60-day ballot ballot on IEEE 802.11aj, conducted according to the PSDO process agreed by IEEE-SA and ISO.

The China NB’s comment (which was not associated with a negative vote) is:

**China NB’s comment**

*Clause 12.2.2 states “The RSN operations in a CMMG BSS shall be the same as the RSN operations in a DMG BSS.” However, this clause is irrelevant with the subject “Enhancements for Very High Throughput to Support Chinese Millimeter Wave Frequency Bands (60 GHz and 45 GHz)”. Selection and using of security mechanism should NOT be bound with CMMG BSS. Besides, China NB has pointed out the technical problems about RSN mechanism for several times during the past ballots.*

**China NB’s proposed change**

*Change the sentence in 12.2.2 to “The RSN operations in a CMMG BSS can be the same as the RSN operations in a DMG BSS. Other security methods can be implemented in a CMMG BSS.”*

The IEEE 802.11 Working Group would like to inform ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 that it has decided not to make any changes to IEEE 802.11aj as a result of the China NB’s comment:

* ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-11 defines a default security mechanism for the purposes of interoperability, but implementers are always free to define and use additional methods. The sentence in question in clause 12.2.2 does not change this situation, or impose any additional restrictions. Rather, it emphasizes that if an implementer chooses to implement RSN operations in a CMMG BSS, they shall be the same as the RSN operations in a DMG BSS. On this basis, the change proposed by the China NB is unnecessary.
* The language in clause 12.2.2 in IEEE 802.11aj was proposed and approved by the members of IEEE 802.11 TGaj, who were almost all individuals affliated with a variety of Chinese companies and universities. They chose the language based on their assessment of the requirements of the Chinese market. The IEEE 802.11 Working Group does not feel it is appropriate to overrule their judgement at this late stage, without a compelling justification.
* The justification provided by the China NB is based on the same allegations the China NB has asserted many times over multiple years relating to the security mechanisms specified in the IEEE 802.11 standard and its amendments. The IEEE 802.11 Working Group have addressed similar issues in previous comment responses liased to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 as part of the PSDO process. IEEE 802 experts have also participated in many discussions on similar issues over multiple years within ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6. The IEEE 802.11 Working Group continues to believe that the allegations asserted in the China NB’s comment are not currently supported by any known evidence.