IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

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| Liaison from Wireless Broadband Alliance (WBA) |
| Date: 2021-04-20 |
| Author(s): |
| Name | Affiliation | Address | Phone | email |
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Abstract

This document contains a liaison received from WBA regarding device identification issues when randomized MAC addresses are used. The received liaison document is embedded below, and copied on the following pages. The referenced “Wi-Fi Identification Scope” document is also embedded below.



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|  | **Liaison Statement to IEEE**  |   |
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| **Date**  | 14th April 2021  | **Meeting Time**  | **Wednesday** 8am PT, 11am ET, 4pm GMT, 5pm CET  |
| **WG / Project**  | WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification Group  |
| **To**  | IEEE 802.11 Randomized and changing MAC address Study Group  |
| **Project chaired by**  | Tim Twell (BT); Alex Meub (Eleven Software); Hai Shalom (Google); Ilya Volynkin (Maxima); Luther Smith (CableLabs)  |
| **Topic**  | WBA Work Status on Wi-Fi Devices Identification  |

Dear IEEE 802.11 Chair, Dorothy Stanley,

The WBA's Wi-Fi Device Identification project would like to share with you their initial investigation into the problems of device and user identification posed when the MAC address is no longer used as an Identifier – find the document attached to this message, liaised with IEEE 802.11.

The main sections describe:

* The functions for which MACs have been used;
* Some initial requirements for replacement identifiers in different types of network;
* And a brief section on mechanisms that might be used in place of MAC addresses in some instances.

The information is very much a work in progress, and we welcome any comments, revisions or corrections you may like to provide.

The purpose of the project is to identify and recommend Wi-Fi Device Identification mechanisms that can be used to replace the MAC address uses but in a more private manner, focusing on existing and future standards, and to contribute information where appropriate so that those creating the standards can understand the requirements that WBA members have for identifying users and devices.

There is no intention on the part of this project to create new or rival standards where adequate ones already exist or where we can assist with making them adequate. Ideally, we would only need to present and promote best practice in the use of existing standards.

The WBA would appreciate any feedback you may have on these and any related issues and would welcome any information you may like to provide on projects related to these issues.

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| **Filename**  | Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11  | **Version**  | 1.0  |
| **Status**  | Final  | **Revised On**  | N/A  |

We will also be happy to clarify and discuss any of the issues. The WBA further thanks the IEEE 802.11 for its previous liaisons and looks forward to future co-operation.

For more information, please contact the WBA PMO (pmo@wballiance.com).

Thank you in advance,

The WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification Group

OP02 Release 1.0

**References:**