

Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11



Document Title	Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11	Page 1 of 1
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Date	23 rd February 2022	Meeting Time	Wednesday 8am PT, 11am ET, 4pm GMT, 5pm CET
WG / Project	WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification Group		
To	IEEE 802.11		
Project chaired by	Tim Twell (BT); Alex Meub (Eleven Software); Luther Smith (CableLabs)		
Topic	WBA Work Status on Wi-Fi Devices Identification		

Dear IEEE 802.11 Chairs,

The WBA's Wi-Fi Device Identification project would like to share with you the results of their 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 whitepaper outlines the following:

- The functions for which MACs have been used across various Use-Cases;
- Requirements for replacement identifiers in different types of network;
- Mechanisms that may be used in place of MAC addresses in many instances;
- How various mechanisms apply to use-cases.

The purpose of the project was to identify and recommend Wi-Fi Device Identification mechanisms that can be used to replace the MAC address. These uses focus on existing and future standards to provide privacy. Where appropriate, we contributed information so that those creating the standards can understand the requirements that WBA members have for identifying users and devices. In addition, the paper outlines mechanisms that WBA members may use to obtain the identity of devices.

There was 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. Within the paper we present and promote best practice in the use of existing standards whilst noting any limitations.

The WBA will be happy to clarify and discuss any of the topics within the paper. 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

Filename	Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11	Version	1.0
Status	Final	Revised On	1/3/2022