IEEE P802.11  
Wireless LANs

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| Draft Liaison response to WBA regarding P802.11bh | | | | |
| Date: 2023-07-13 | | | | |
| Author(s): | | | | |
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Abstract

Draft liaison statement to WBA in response to incoming liaisons relevant to P802.11bh activities.

**Instructions for the preparation of a Liaison Communication from 802.11**

1. Prepare a submission for consideration by a subgroup of 802.11 using this template.
2. Insert the proposed text of the liaison replacing ‘[Content]’ below.
3. The secretary of the IEEE-SA standards board is copied on communications to government bodies (including the ITU) as described in the LMSC OM “Communications with government bodies”, and for statements to external bodies, per 5.1.3 of the IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual, <http://standards.ieee.org/develop/policies/opman/sb_om.pdf> .”Statements to external bodies”.
4. Insert any discussion or rationale replacing ‘[Discussion and/or rationale can go here]’ below.
5. Prior to approval by the working group, post a clean version with all changes accepted
6. After approval by the working group, the WG chair will post a revision with the ‘[Discussion and/or rationale can go here]’ section deleted and the details related to approval filled in. This enables the WG chair to provide a link to the content of the liaison absent any content not intended for the recipients.

[Discussion and/or rationale can go here]

IEEE 802.11 WLAN Working Group  
DRAFT Liaison Communication

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| Source: | IEEE 802.11 Working Group[[1]](#footnote-1) | |
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| To: | WBA | Position, organization [email@address.something](mailto:email@address.something) |
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|  |  |  |
| CC: | Konstantinos Karachalios | Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board Secretary, IEEE-SA Board of Governors [sasecretary@ieee.org](mailto:sasecretary@ieee.org) |
| Paul Nikolich | Chair, IEEE 802 LMSC [p.nikolich@ieee.org](mailto:p.nikolich@ieee.org) |
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| Mark Hamilton | Chair, IEEE P802.11bh Task Group [mark.hamilton2152@](mailto:mark.hamilton2152@)gmail.com |
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| From: | Dorothy Stanley | Chair, IEEE 802.11 WLAN Working Group [dorothy.stanley@hpe.com](mailto:dorothy.stanley@hpe.com) |
|  |  |  |
| Subject: | Liaison communication reply to WBA regarding P802.11bh activities on randomized and changing MAC addresses | |
| Approval: | Approved by the IEEE 802.11 Working Group at IEEE 802.11 plenary meeting, Berlin, Germany, 07/14/2023 | |

Dear WBA members,

Thank you for the liaisons sent to us over the last couple years:

* Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11 [1]
* Wi-Fi Identification Scope [2]
* Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11 [3]
* Wi-Fi Devices Identification [4]

These have raised and described concerns regarding device identification issues when randomized MAC addresses are used.  As you know, we are very appreciative of your liaisons, and they were used to help to formulate the scope of an activity within IEEE 802.11 (project P802.11bh), to address these impacts where they are within the scope of our Standard.

The P802.11bh D1.0, "Randomized and Changing MAC Addresses" amendment is under development, and recently completed 802.11 Working Group Letter Ballot with over 92% approval. The draft defines two mechanisms to enable private device identification of IEEE 802.11 STAs that use a randomized or changing MAC address. P802.11bh D1.0 is available in the “IEEE Store”, here: <https://standards.ieee.org/search/?q=802.11>.

We are working on an analysis of the use cases and scenarios described your liaisons, and an evaluation of how (or if) those use cases are covered by the mechanisms in the P802.11bh Draft 1.0. We are targeting to have this analysis complete by the end of our September face-to-face meeting, and to provide our results to you at that time.

In the meantime we would like to encourage WBA members interested in this topic to obtain a copy of P802.11bh D1.0 from the store, and review the material.  We welcome your comments on our draft, as well as any considerations you have for how these mechanisms map to the concerns raised in your liaisons to us, for comparison with our analysis mentioned above.

Future meeting dates:

See: <http://www.ieee802.org/11/Meetings/Meeting_Plan.html> for Future meeting dates of the IEEE 802.11 Working Group]

References

[1] “Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11”, WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification Group, 04/14/2023, <https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/21/11-21-0703-00-0000-2021-april-liaison-from-wba.docx>

[2], “Wi-Fi Identification Scope, In a post MAC Randomization Era”, WBA Testing & Interoperability Work Group, April 2021

[3] “Liaison Statement to IEEE 802.11”, WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification Group, 02/23/2022, <https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/22/11-22-0668-00-0000-liaison-statement-from-wba-re-wi-fi-devices-identification-group.pdf>

[4] “Wi-Fi Devices Identification, A Way Through MAC Randomization”, WBA Wi-Fi Devices Identification, March 2022

Sincerely,

Dorothy Stanley

Chair, IEEE 802.11 WLAN Working Group

1. This document represents the views of the IEEE 802.11 Working Group,and does not necessarily represent a position of the IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association, or IEEE 802. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)