**IEEE P802.15**

**Wireless Personal Area Networks**

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| Project | IEEE P802.15 Working Group for Wireless Personal Area Networks (WPANs) | |
| Title | **<IETF 6tisch IE Information>** | |
| Date Submitted | [13 November 2015] | |
| Source | [] [] [address] | Voice: [ ] Fax: [ ] E-mail: [ ] |
| Re: | Response to a request for information from IETF 6tisch | |
| Abstract | [Information on request procedure for SDOs to obtain IE IDs and recommendation on IE sub-typing | |
| Purpose | [This document has been approved by the IEEE 802.15 for release to IETF.] | |
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**Introduction**

This document is in response to requests from IETF 6tisch for an assignment of an IEEE 802.15.4 Payload IE ID and guidance on sub-typing the ID to prevent the need for additional requests in the future.

This document consists of three sections:

# Procedure for requesting IDs from 802.15 ANA

# IEEE 802.15.4-2015 rules on the use of IEs

# Recommended practice of formatting Payload IE sub-types



**Procedure for requesting IDs from 802.15 ANA:**

As stated in  [https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-wang-6tisch-6top-sublayer-03](https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-wang-6tisch-6top-sublayer-03#appendix-A), “If the specification described in this document is supported by the 6TiSCH WG, the authors of this document ask the 6TiSCH WG chairs to liaise with the IEEE to request a Payload Information Element Group ID to be assigned to the IETF (Group ID IANA\_6TOP\_IE\_GROUP\_ID described in the [following paragraph].

This [paragraph] contains a proposal for the specification of an IETF IE. If this proposal is supported by the 6TiSCH WG, the authors of this draft recommend for the specification of the IETF IE to be its own draft, possibly developed in the 6TiSCH WG. The reason for having it a separated document is that the scope of the IETF IE is wider that the 6P protocol defined in this document. The IETF IE is a IEEE802.15.4 Payload Information Element with the Group ID set to IANA\_6TOP\_IE\_GROUP\_ID. The value of IANA\_6TOP\_IE\_GROUP\_ID is defined by the IEEE, communicated to the IETF, and noted by IANA. The format of the IETF IE is exactly the same as the format of an MLME Information Element, as specified in [IEEE802154e], Section 5.2.4.5. The difference is that the space of Sub-IDs is managed by the IETF/IANA.”

## ANA Request Procedure for other standards development organizations (SDOs)

A limited number of numbers may be assigned to allow SDOs to extend the use of IEEE 802.15. Currently, this is only allowed for IEEE Std. 802.15.4, but it may be applied to other IEEE 802.15 standards in the future at the discretion of the WG Chair.

Only the following categories of IDs may be assigned for IEEE Std. 802.15.4:

1. Frame Extension ID
2. Header Information Element (IE) Element ID
3. Payload IE Group ID

Only one number shall be assigned to an SDO from an ID category. The SDO is responsible to create a method for sub-typing that would prevent the need for an additional ID.

To request an ID, the SDO shall send an official request to the IEEE 802.15 WG Chair that includes, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name of the SDO and its accreditation
2. The reason for the request
3. The ID categories that are requested
4. A description of the protocol format that shows that there is sufficient subtype capability withstand enhancement by the originator without the need for the assignment of a further ID in the future.
5. A statement that the SDO understands that only one ID number will be issued to the SDO in an ID category and that the SDO is responsible to create a method for sub-typing the ID to prevent the need for additional requests in the future.

If the request from the SDO contains the required information, the IEEE 802.15 WG Chair shall appoint a committee of experts to review the request. The WG ANA lead shall be the Chair of the committee and the WG 802.15 Chair is an ex-officio member. The committee should decide on the request within three months of the request. This is to allow the consideration of the request at an interim or plenary session.

The committee shall refuse the request if:

1. The SDO is not an accredited SDO
2. The SDO has already been assigned a number in a requested ID category.
3. The SDO has not adequately described a subtyping method to prevent the need for the SDO request a further ID in the future.
4. There is a technical reason why a number cannot be allocated.

If the committee approves the request, the WG ANA lead will assign a number for the requested ID categories and update the ANA database document. The assignment of the number should also be submitted for inclusion in the next revision of the standard.



**IEEE 802.15.4-2015 standard on the use of IEs**

**7.4.3 Payload IEs**

The general format of the Payload IE is shown in Figure 7-46.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bits: 0-10** | **11-14** | **15** | **Octets: 0-2047** |
| Length | Group ID | Type = 1 | Content |

**Figure 7-46—Format of Payload IEs**

The Length field specifies the number of octets in the Content field.

The Group ID values are defined in Table 7-15 for each of the Payload IEs. In the table, an X in the columns for frame indicates that the IE may be used in that frame. If there is not an X in the column, then the IE shall not be used in that frame. In the table, UL refers to the layers above the MAC.

**Table 7-15—Payload IE Group ID**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group ID value** | **Name** | **Enhanced Beacon** | **Enhanced ACK** | **Data** | **Multipurpose** | **MAC Command** | **Format Subclause** | **Use Description** | **Used by** | **Created by** |
| 0x0 | Encapsulated Service Data Unit (ESDU) IE | X |  | X | X | X | 7.4.3.1 | 7.4.3.1 | UL | UL |
| 0x1 | MLME IE | X | X | X | X | X | 7.4.3.2 | 7.4.3.2 | MAC | MAC |
| 0x2 | Vendor Specific Nested IE | X | X | X | X | X | 7.4.4.30 | — | UL | UL |
| 0x3 | Multiplexed (MP) IE | As per IEEE 802.15.9 | | | | | | | | |
| 0x4 | Omnibus Payload Group IE | Assigned to WiSUN | | | | | | | | |
| 0x5–0xe | IEEE 802.15 ANA assigned | | | | | | | | | |
| 0xf | Payload Termination IE | X | X | X | X | X | 7.4.3.3 | 7.4.1 | MAC | MAC |

**7.4.3.3 Payload Termination IE**

The Payload Termination IE shall have a zero length Content field.



**Recommended practice of formatting Payload IE sub-types**

In a response to a 23 Oct 2015 email from Thomas Watteyne (co-chair of IETF 6tisch) requesting a recommendation from IEEE 802.15 interest group 6T for a mechanism to manage that IE space via sub-types, the IEEE 802.15 interest group 6T has arrived at a consensus on the following mechanism.

As per IEEE 802.15.4, a Payload IE has a format as shown in Figure 7-46.

The length field is an 11-bit value (allowing a length of up to 2047 octets).

The Payload IE Group ID (an assignment from IEEE 802.15 ANA) is a 4-bit value.

The type field shall be set to 0b1.

The current 802.15.4-2015 standard allows multiple nested IEs within the Payload IE. However this method either limits the number of sub-types that can be allocated or their length due to the 2-octet overhead.

Accordingly, the 802.15 IG 6T recommends that external SDOs use an alternate scheme that reduces the overhead to 1 octet by limiting only one sub-type IE to each Payload IE. This mechanism allows the Payload IE’s length to be used to determine the end of the Payload sub-type IE, allowing the length and type fields used in nested IEs to be eliminated.

Thus the content field of the Payload IE shall consist of only 1 sub-type IE which is formatted as shown in the following Sub-Itype IE Format figure.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Octets: 1** | **Variable = Content length of Payload IE -1** |
| Sub-ID | Content |

**Sub-type IE Format**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bits: 0-10** | **11-14** | **15** | **16-23** | **Octets: 0-2046** |
| Payload IE Content Length | Group ID | Type = 1 | Sub-type ID | Sub-type Content |
| Payload IE | | | Payload IE Content | |

**Example of single payload IE part of MAC payload without frame payload**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bits: 0-10** | **11-14** | **15** | **16-23** | **Octets: 0-2046** | **Bits: 0-10** | **11-14** | **15** |
| Payload IE Content Length | Group ID | Type = 1 | Sub-type ID | Sub-type Content | Length  = 0 | Group ID | Type = 1 |
| Payload IE | | | Payload IE Content | | Payload Termination IE | | |

**Example of single payload IE part of MAC payload followed by frame payload**

Multiple Payload IEs can be concatenated in a frame as shown in the following figure:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payload IE | Payload IE Content | Payload IE | Payload IE Content | … | Payload Termination IE |

**Example overview of multiple concatenated payload IEs**

Finally, the IEEE 802.15 6T believes that the name “The IETF IE is a IEEE802.15.4 IANA\_6TOP\_IE\_GROUP\_ID” is inappropriate since Payload Group IE will be assigned to IETF. The naming should be sufficiently general to allow other work groups use this IE