Dear Tony and Mick,

We would like to clarify the previous Liaison from CCAMP with respect to Ethernet bridging behavior.

We have received requests to evaluate the use of GMPLS protocols for the control of bridging in Ethernet networks. At this time we have not initiated any work.

We recognise IEEE's authority to define and maintain the Ethernet data plane, and fully understand IEEE's concern for other SDOs to adhere to the IEEE's specifications. We would like to assure you that within the IETF's CCAMP working group we have the understanding that any Ethernet work shall only be based on IEEE specified data planes.

For your information, we have defined the following rules and process for advancing this work within CCAMP:

Rules:

A. Data plane (i.e. the data forwarding of established flows) specification is out of scope and must not be discussed within CCAMP.

B. CCAMP will not work on the specification of GMPLS except for data planes that are already approved by an SDO with responsibility for the Ethernet data plane. It is expected that the primary SDO in this case is the IEEE.

Process steps:

1. Decide upon the data plane behavior to be controlled using GMPLS.

2. Ensure that the data plane to be controlled is approved and documented by an SDO with responsibility for Ethernet (i.e., the IEEE). This may be a null op in the case of existing standards, but might require work in the other SDO for new standards or for profiles of existing standards.

3. Start protocol work in CCAMP with an explicit pointer to the approved data plane.
4. When it is clear that protocol work is progressing, CCAMP will liaise with the other SDO to get their blessing for using a control plane for the nominated data plane and to confirm that that data plane is really approved.

In addition, we expect to liaise our status during the development of any control plane extensions.

Best regards,
Deborah Brungard and Adrian Farrel
IETF CCAMP Working Group Co-Chairs