
IEEE P802.11

Wireless MAC and PHY specifications

News Release

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Draft Standard for Wireless Local Area Networks approved by the IEEE 802.11 working group.

Washington, DC, July 15, 1996 - The members of the IEEE Computer Society Working Group for Wireless Local Area Networks (LANs, IEEE 802.11), accepted its draft standard and is proceeding toward LMSC (IEEE P802) sponsor ballot. Users can expect to see interoperable products from many vendors by end of 1997.

Wireless LANs provide the last link to complete mobility to the modern workforce. Battery powered notebook and laptop computers already allow the use of computer power wherever tasks are to be performed: the office, conference rooms, hallway or waiting room. Still unleashed, Wireless LANs provide the capability to send documents to a printer, access the central databases, surf internet or send and receive e-mail even while moving from one room to another.

"I am very pleased with this achievement," says Vic Hayes, Chairman of the Working Group since its establishment in July 1990, "We faced a lot of challenges with the unique characteristics of our medium. The protocol must be robust even though the medium has to be shared with both other Wireless LAN users and devices permitted to use the same spectrum. Further, due to the motion of persons and objects causing changes in the physical environment, we have to accept links with varying characteristics. Last but not least we wanted to limit the power consumption to keep the battery life as long as possible."

Approval by Sponsor Ballot Group is expected to occur in the beginning of 1997, with the final approval expected at the June 1997 meeting of the IEEE Standards Board. Users can expect to see interoperable products from many vendors by end of 1997.

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Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the IEEE Computer Society is the oldest and largest association of computer professionals in the world. It offers its 100,000 members a comprehensive program of publications, meetings, and technical and educational activities, fostering an active exchange of information, ideas and innovation. The society is the largest technical society within the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE).

The IEEE Computer Society Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee (LMSC) is the successful committee that produced 24 IEEE/ANSI standards and 9 International Standards (ISO/IEC) and 1 International Technical Report.