Notes from *Call for Interest on 802 Handoff* of 11 March 2003

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This document represents a set of notes regarding the Call for Interest on 802 Handoff of 11 March 2003.

Background

802 held a tutorial on "Handoff Mechanisms and their Role in IEEE 802 Wireless Standards" at the November 2002 plenary (11 November 2002, 6:30-9:30 pm). The tutorial was organized by Roger Marks and Brian Kiernan and co-sponsored by IEEE 802.16, 802.11, 802.15 . Approximately 250 attendees were reported. Seven people made presentations. The Tutorial Request Form is at <http://ieee802.org/16/tutorial/T80216-02_03.pdf>. The slides are at <http://ieee802.org/16/tutorial/T80216-02_04.zip>. An informal Call for Interest was held the next night for approximately 45 minutes, with about 50 people in attendance. Marks asked those interested to notify him by email so he could involve them in future email discussions.

Roger Marks reported at the SEC Closing Meeting that, based on the discussion, he would organize a formal Call for Interest for the March Plenary and that a likely result would be a request for an Executive Committee Study Group.

Marks initiated an 802 Handoff email reflector (stds-802-handoff) on 25 November 2002. He initially subscribed those who had requested to be on the list; others later joined voluntarily. The list archives are available <http://ieee802.org/16/arc/802-handoff/thrd1.html>.

Marks used the handoff reflector to announce plans to formulate the March Call for Interest and to stimulate input to it. He filed a formal request for time at the March LMSC Plenary using the Tutorial Request Form.

Call for Interest of 11 March 2003

The Call for Interest on 802 Handoff was held 12 March, 6-7:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency DFW. Approximately 150 people attended.

Roger Marks, as Convener/Chair, opened the meeting, reviewing activities at the November 2002 802 session, and since.

David Johnston presented a document submitted in response to the Call for Interest announcement. He said that he preferred the term "Seamless Roaming" to "Handoff" in the title of a Study Group. He indicated a preference to locate the work in 802.1. He answered many questions.

Brian Kiernan took the podium and spoke in favor of an overall 802 interface that allows other networks, or other 802 networks, to know what to expect.

Mark Klerer took the podium and stated that it was too early to begin development of an "abstraction layer" because some Working Group projects were not well defined. He introduced Samir Kapoor, who presented some slides shown to 802.20 earlier in the day.

Richard Payne showed a diagram and spoke in favor of a simplicity in the handoff mechanism.

Marks showed a tentative proposal to open a Study Group, authored by Marks and Kiernan. He indicated several areas in which the proposal on the screen indicated alternative text as compared to

the version posted on the server before the meeting. The alternative text was that indicated by earlier presentations: namely, the optional replacement of "Handoff" with "Seamless Roaming" and the optional change from an Executive Committee Study Group to an 802.1 Study Group. Marks noted that he believed that 802.1 might be too busy with Link Security to handle a new Study Group at this time, pointing out that the tentative proposal suggested that the Study Group be chartered to consider whether eventual standardization work should be placed in 802.1.

Marks suggested that the questionable issues should be decided by straw poll, after which a vote be held on submitting the result as a whole.

Klerer dissented with this plan, requesting that a straw poll be held first on the general question of proceeding with a request for a Study Group.

Marks agreed to Klerer's request and conducted the straw poll on the group's general interest in proceeding with a Study Group request. The result was 47 yes, 19 no. On this basis, the straw polls continued.

It was suggested that "Seamless Roaming" be replaced by "Roaming" as a candidate title keyword. No objections were raised. It was suggested that "Interworking" be added as a candidate title keyword. A straw poll was held, in which participants were invited to vote more than once. The results were:
   "Handoff":   36
   "Roaming":   7
   "Interworking":   27

On this basis, "Handoff" was selected.

A straw poll was held on the Study Group placement. The result was ExCom: 25, 802.1: 12. On this basis, the proposal was structured for an ExCom Study Group.

A straw poll was held on submitting the resulting Study Group proposal. The result was 44 yes, 17 no.

Paul Nicolich asked whether a proposal would be made to the SEC to form a Study Group. Mr. Marks answered in the affirmative and asked for participants willing to help organize it. Five people volunteered: Hani Elgebaly, David Johnston, Brian Kiernan, Roger Marks, and TK Tan. Marks asked that group to meet after the completion of the Call for Interest Session, which ended at 7:30 pm

Followup

Elgebaly, Johnston, Kiernan, Marks, and Tan met immediately after the Call for Interest to discuss plans. Johnston volunteered to chair the Study Group if this would be of assistance, and if his sponsor was agreeable. The others volunteered to participate as required. Johnson later determined that his sponsor would support him as a Chair, if so appointed.