

DTE Power via MDI Draft Minutes

Minutes for the DTE Power via MDI IEEE 802.3 Call for Interest Meeting  
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March 10, 1999  
Austin, TX

David Law opened the meeting at 1:12 pm.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Bill Quackenbush volunteered to take minutes.

David presented the agenda.

David stated that everything presented today will be put on the IEEE 802.3 web site. The URL will be

[http://grouper.ieee.org/802/3/power\\_study/public/index.html](http://grouper.ieee.org/802/3/power_study/public/index.html)

Presentations

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DTE Power via MDI - David Law, 3Com

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Presentation on the Needs, Benefits and Problems of DTE Power via the MDI.

There are no standards in the area, but multiple proprietary solutions are appearing in the marketplane.

The presentation included a possible schedule for a study group to prepare a PAR.

Interim meeting to set scope objectives and plan  
Present tutorial in July  
Interim meeting for initial draft of PAR, 5 criteria and objectives  
November for EC approval of PAR

The objectives for this meeting were presented.

DTE Power via MDI Call for interest - Nick Stapleton, 3COM

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Comments and discussion -

Comment made that even though there is no net magnetizing current when a pair is connected to a dc source through the center tap of the line transformer, there is a net magnetizing current in the common mode choke which can saturate the choke's core.

Question as to degree of signal degradation with phantom power.

Question as to which end of the link provides the power. Answer was the client end would be powered and the other end would supply the power. Since this relationship might at times be difficult to determine, perhaps some form of autonegation could be used to determine which end of the link supplies the power. Devices that can supply power should be able to check

for short circuits, etc.

Comment made that a form of autonegotiation would be done with low currents before full current is made available.

Question as to whether reliable power will be part of the scope. Response was that this is primarily about getting power in the connector. Reliable power is a topic that can be considered when discussing the scope of the groups work. The issue being raised here is the reliability of Ethernet telephony versus conventional telephony.

Power Over Ethernet - Amir Lehr, PowerDsine  
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Comments and discussion -

Comment that the cost of powering the phone should be associated with the phone and not the hub so that the hub vendor does not have to provide power in case a ethernet phone is attached to one of the ports/lines. If we have such a standard, then the customer will expect that every port/line will comply with the standard and that will be expensive.

David Law said that the purpose of this meeting is to see if there is agreement that

"this is the appropriate time to initiate a DTE power via MDI standards activity"

A desire for some sense of the market and time line was expressed.

Arim Lehr thinks the purpose of the group is to detemrine how much power can be supplied. Also since proprietary solutions are coming to market, this is the time to develop a standard. The driving application is ethernet telephony.

Comment made that with out a standard,

Commnet made that if supplying power is only a patch panel function, that it may not be appropriate for 802. If the hub is involved, then it is.

Another view is that 802 is involved regarless because of the potential for signal degradation.

Question raised as to the number of companies and individuals that would be committed to do the work.

Comment made that this is not really a networking problem and that we may not have the experts required to do the work.

Providing power for phones has been a problem for the PBX vendors and they have no standard today.

Question as to whether there are any other standards that we could borrow rather than do it ourselves.

Comment that we do have the experts in 802 to deal with the signal quality

issues that supplying power raise.

Comment that a standard would benefit the industry.

Comment that today phone and ethernet exist side by side without a problem in the market and that today supplying power for phones cable tv boxes adds something like 10% to the system cost..

David Law suggested that an ad hoc meeting could be held without a study group being formed.

Discussion as to whether a study group should be formed at this point. Especially in light of the fact that study groups are in practice for the purpose of preparing the PAR and 5 criteria.

Question as to the size of the potential market. One opinion expressed was expressed that in the next few years the market will be several million units a year.

Opinion expressed that the issue belongs in 802 due to the signal quality issues it raises.

Opinion expressed supporting another ad hoc to learn more before forming a study group.

Comment from an 802.11 member that they are interested in this to power their wireless LAN access points. The cost of power wiring is greater than stringing ethernet cable.

Opinion expressed that this is a new area for 802.3.

Comment made that another ad hoc meeting would likely be welcomed by 802 management in light of the recent issues raised by the QoS/FC study group.

David Law proposed the following position statement for presentation to 802.3 Plenary.

"Request one more DTE Power via MDI ad hoc meeting during the July plenary"

This was voted on with the following result. Y/N/A: 30/0/4

Question raised as to who might make presentatinos at the July Meeting.

Ian McLeon agreed to approach some one expert on power to make a presentation and that he would make a presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Quackenbush

Secretary de jour