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# ****IEEE 802.11™ EXPANDED TO SUPPORT FASTER, HIGHER-QUALITY,**** ****SIMPLER WIRELESS LAN COMMUNICATIONS in more environments****

IEEE-SA Standards Board Approves New Revision of Wireless LAN Standard   
Leveraged in Devices and Networks Around the World

**PISCATAWAY, N.J., USA, 30 April 2012** – IEEE, the world's largest professional association advancing technology for humanity, today announced the publication of IEEE 802.11™-2012, which defines the technology for the world’s premier wireless LAN technology.

The new IEEE 802.11-2012 revision[[1]](#footnote-1) has been expanded significantly by supporting devices and networks that are faster and more secure, while offering improved Quality of Service and improved cellular network hand-off. IEEE 802.11 standards, which underlie all “Wi-Fi ®” equipment, already underpin wireless networking applications around the world, such as wireless access to the Internet from offices, homes, airports, hotels, restaurants, trains and aircraft. The standard’s relevance continues to expand with the emergence of new applications, such as the smart grid, which augments the facility for electricity generation, distribution, delivery and consumption with two-way, end-to-end networks for communications and control.

“IEEE 802.11 is obviously a standard of tremendous impact for developers and users of wireless LAN devices, service providers, the global smart-grid community, manufacturers, healthcare workers, retail service providers and many others globally,” said ANALYST, TITLE with FIRM. “In the 13 years since the standard’s original publication, we’ve seen wireless networking evolve from a curiosity, to a nice-to-have capability and now a vital necessity for doing business in a wide range of industries around the world. It’s a capability that today is expected to be embedded in almost any communications device, and it’s a service that’s expected to be available to employees and customers almost anywhere in the world.”

IEEE 802.11 defines one medium access control (MAC) and several physical layer (PHY) specifications for wireless connectivity for fixed and portable stations. IEEE 802.11-2012 is the third revision of the standard to be released since its initial publication in 1999. In addition to incorporating various technical updates and enhancements, IEEE 802.11-2012 consolidates 10 amendments to the base standard that were approved since IEEE 802.11’s last full revision, in 2007. IEEE 802.11n™, for example, defined MAC and PHY modifications to enable much higher throughputs, with a maximum of 600Mb/s; other amendments that have been incorporated into IEEE 802.11-2012 addressed direct-link setup,  fast roaming, radio resource measurement, operation in the 3650-3700 MHz band, vehicular environments, mesh networking, security, broadcast/multicast and unicast data delivery, interworking with external networks, and network management.

“The new IEEE 802.11 release is the product of an evolutionary process that has played out over five years and drawn on the expertise and efforts of hundreds of participants worldwide. More than 300 voters from a sweeping cross-section of global industry contributed to the new standard, which has roughly doubled in size since its last published revision,” said Bruce Kraemer, Chair of the IEEE 802.11 Working Group. “Every day, about two million products that contain IEEE 802.11-based technology for wireless communications are shipped around the world. Continuous enhancement of the standard has helped drive technical innovation and global market growth. And work on the next generation of IEEE 802.11 already has commenced, with a variety of project goals including extensions that will increase the data rate by a factor of 10, improve audio/video delivery, increase range, and decrease power consumption.”

IEEE Std 802.11 is available for purchase for $5 at the [IEEE Standards Store](http://www.techstreet.com/ieee/cgi-bin/detail?vendor_id=4523;utm_source=external;utm_medium=pr;utm_campaign=2012_04_802.11_pr). For more information about the IEEE 802.11 working group, please visit http://standards.ieee.org/develop/wg/WG802.11.html.

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**About the IEEE Standards Association**

The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body within IEEE, develops consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. The IEEE-SA has a portfolio of over 900 active standards and more than 500 standards under development. For more information visit <http://standards.ieee.org/>.

**About IEEE**

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1. IEEE 802.11™-2012 “Standard for Information technology--Telecommunications and information exchange between systems Local and metropolitan area networks--Specific requirements Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)