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Information Technology

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Proposed Procedures for ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 and IEEE 802 LMSC Cooperative Working

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Title:	**Proposed Procedures for ISO/IEC SC6 and IEEE 802 LMSC Cooperative Working**
Status:	**This text is a revision of 6N11235 as modified by the comments shown in 6N11373 resulting from the circulation of 6N11235 for NBC**
Source:	**Robin Tasker (SC6 WG1 and WG3 liaison to IEEE 802)**
Date:	**6 January, 2000**

1. Introduction

Resolution SC 6.8 of the final resolutions of the SC 6 Meeting in January 1999 (found in 6 N 11079) instructed me to submit the agreed SC 6 response (6 N 11046) to the IEEE 802 Internationalization Survey, and this was done.

In 6 N 11046 it was also stated that "The JTC 1/SC 6 Chair has requested that Robin Tasker review these procedures and propose improvements for review at the next meeting of JTC 1/SC 6". This work was subsequently reviewed at the June 1999 SC6 meeting and a suggested procedure was developed for cooperative work which was circulated as 6N11235 for National Body comment. The comments received may be found in 6N11373 and are the basis for this revised text which outlines the proposed new procedures for cooperative working.

2. Review

The association between ISO/IEC and IEEE 802 does, in its present form, introduce a number of additional, and at times, difficult hurdles to be overcome in the process that produces joint ISO/IEC and IEEE 802 Standards. This largely arises because the two organisations quite reasonably operate with differing timetables and inevitably this introduces delay into the publication process. With time delay comes frustration that whilst technical discussion is complete the entire process is not finished. This combined with the undoubted standing of IEEE 802 as the international body that makes LAN standards led to the debate within the IEEE 802 as to the value of additional processing through ISO/IEC.

The main value of making use of ISO/IEC in the development cycle is to benefit from the wider audience that SC 6 is able to offer for the review process. This ensures that in addition to the usual rigorous technical appraisal carried out by IEEE 802 WGs, the opportunity exists for account to be taken of regional and national perspectives which may otherwise be ignored. The end result is a specification about which there is overwhelming - global - consensus. To lose this element of the development process would be significant and in some way diminish the final product.

3. Proposal accepted by IEEE 802

The proposal presented below describes a new procedure for this joint work that solves the problems identified whilst retaining the essential benefits outlined above.

This proposal has been presented at the March 1999 IEEE 802 meeting where it was favourably received at their Closing Executive meeting. Indeed, 6 N 11164 contains a request from the IEEE 802 for Category C Liaison to SC 6 WGs 1 & 3 as a part of this process.

1. IEEE 802 needs to be in position to become a Liaison organisation to ISO (i.e. to SC6).

2. As a part of the ballot process of each IEEE 802 WG draft, a liaison is sent to SC6 (a single email) inviting its National Bodies to review and comment on the attached draft and respond directly to the specified email address. The comments can then be addressed in the normal way as a part of the 802 WG ballot resolution process.

3. When an IEEE 802 WG draft goes for sponsor ballot, i.e. the IEEE 802 WG is content that the technical work is done, a liaison is sent to SC6 (a single email) providing status information and inviting SC6 to endorse the work.

4. SC6 needs a single Technical Report which catalogues both those 802 standards it has already published, together with those that it now endorses. It is proposed that ISO/IEC TR 8802-1, Overview of LAN Standards, is used in this regard. This Technical Report is currently under JTC 1 DTR ballot and revised text to accommodate such usage has been proposed against a received comment. This will be reviewed by ISO/IEC JTC 1 National Bodies as a part of the second DTR ballot of this Technical Report. The SC6 process is then straightforward. It produces a new edition of the Technical Report to include endorsement of the new work (together with any commentary it wishes to add) which is published by ISO/IEC.

5. On completion of the Sponsor ballot, IEEE 802 publishes its own standard.

4. Additional issues for consideration by SC 6

1. The Category C liaison request from IEEE 802 contained in 6 N 11164 has been accepted.

2. SC 6 needs to establish a process for responding to IEEE 802. Typically, liaison responses would be generated out of the appropriate WG meeting. Due to balloting deadlines and meeting schedules, SC 6 WGs 1 & 3 might want to consider delegating authority to an approved liaison representative for collecting comments and forwarding them to IEEE 802.

3. SC 6 would need to approve the use of ISO/IEC TR 8802-1 for the purpose of recording its involvement in the cooperative work. The Technical Report would be revised and re-issued as additional IEEE 802 standards are endorsed. Approval of subsequent editions of the Technical Report would be via a normal three-month ballot within JTC 1.

4. On completion of the DTR ballot, the ISO/IEC Technical Report is published.

5. General Issues for ISO/IEC SC6 and IEEE 802 LMSC

The use of a Technical Report which catalogues ISO/IEC JTC 1 NBs involvement in the development of IEEE 802 standards as proposed in this document has been discussed. One issue that has been raised is whether a more formal Standard is needed or if a Technical Report is sufficient. If cases arise where a Technical Report is not deemed sufficient, SC 6 has the option to revert to other mechanisms, such as the Fast Track procedure or the use of normative referencing.

The opportunity exists for ISO/IEC JTC 1 NBs to request that an IEEE 802 standard is subject to Fast Track procedures. This process is of course dependent upon the prior approval of the IEEE 802 LMSC and with prior agreement from the IEEE with regard to copyright release. At their meeting in November 1999, the IEEE 802 LMSC indicated that they would continue to recommend that such actions be approved to enable National Bodies to make use of this procedure.

As a part of the liaison, the IEEE 802 would be responsible to ensure that SC6 were informed of the outcome of the 5 yearly review of their standards to ensure that the most recent IEEE 802 documents were referenced by ISO/IEC.

6. Conclusion - the Benefits

1. The development on an individual standard follows the IEEE 802's timetable (where the majority of technical work is carried out) and is published by the IEEE Standards Board (and they alone). It does however accommodate input - in a timely manner - from ISO/IEC National Bodies such that by the finish the work has been widely reviewed and agreed.

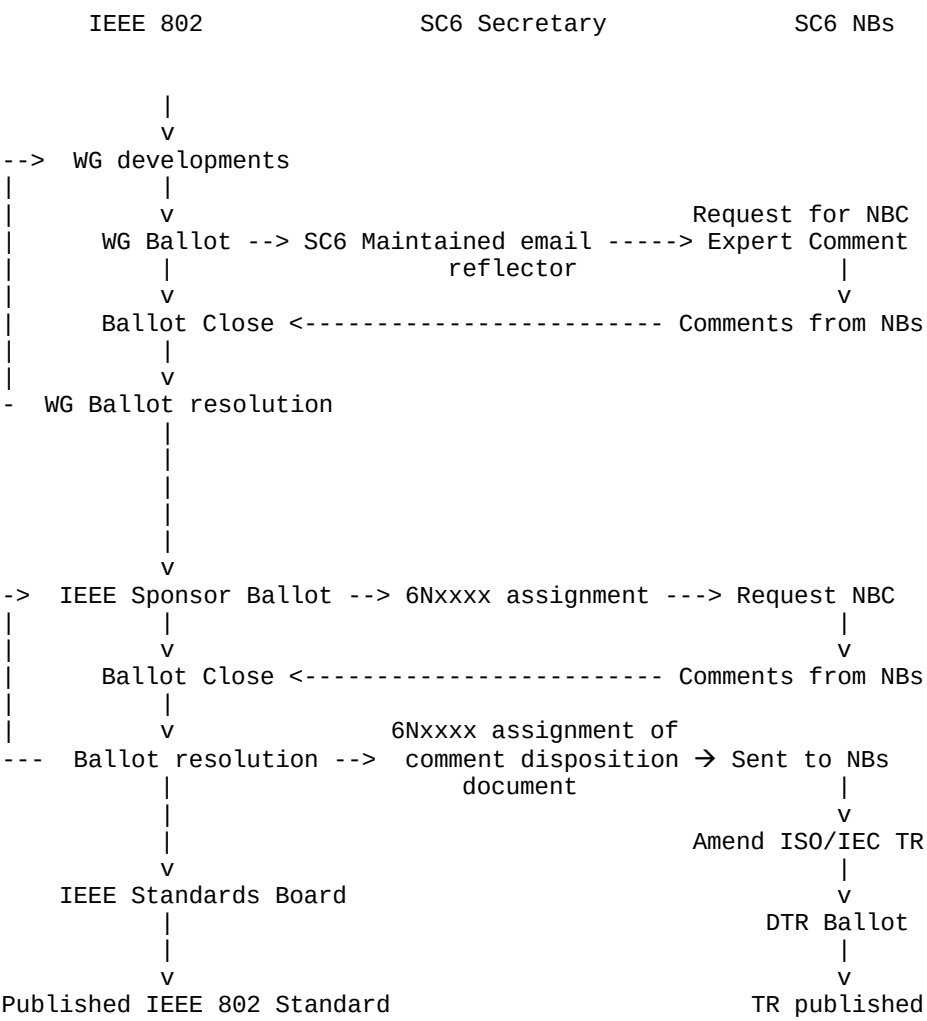
2. ISO/IEC SC6 and its National Bodies have a document (the Technical Report) to record endorsement of (and involvement in) the work. This is published following the timetable of ISO/IEC SC6.

That is to say both organisations are able to contribute their particular and unique strengths to the standards making process without introducing time delays into the other's procedures, and each has output for which they are responsible which records their involvement in the process.

7. **Proposed Procedure for Cooperative Working**

The following diagram provides a timeline for the proposed new procedures for the cooperative working of ISO/IEC SC6 and IEEE 802, and follows the proposal presented above. There are two elements, the first provides the means whereby SC NBs are able to contribute to the technical work of the IEEE 802 developments; the second, via the IEEE Sponsor ballot, provides the more formal mechanism whereby SC6 NBs can review IEEE 802 work which is nearing completion of the standards process. The latter will also form an essential part in the revision of the ISO/IEC Technical Report which records this cooperative work.

It is proposed that the existing Technical Report, ISO/IEC TR 8802-1, Overview of LANs, is further developed to form the basis of this recording mechanism.



Notes:

1. The involvement of NBs/experts in the technical development cycle of IEEE 802 WG work with International Observer status as detailed in SC6 Berlin Resolution 6.3.1 is essential to the process to ensure very broad technical review.

2. This element of the process is enabled by SC6 maintaining an email reflector where the IEEE WGs may post their ballot information. This email reflector will contain only email addresses provided by NBs once the Category C liaison with IEEE 802 has been approved.

3. The IEEE Sponsor ballot is the formal process, recorded as an official SC6 document, when NBs respond to formal liaison requests from IEEE 802. The disposition of comments from the IEEE Sponsor ballot process will be recorded as an official SC6 document

4. The ISO/IEC TR development cycle provides the formal SC6 mechanism to record involvement and any endorsements to particular IEEE 802 work items.