

DRAFT NOT FOR PUBLICATION
Draft v4.0, July 26, 2011

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IEEE ADVANCES DELIVERY OF 100 GB/S ETHERNET WITH LAUNCH OF IEEE P802.3bj™ TASK FORCE

New group to explore definitions and parameters for Ethernet operations over backplanes and copper cables to enable lower-cost, higher-density 100 Gb/s solutions

PISCATAWAY, N.J., USA, [DATE] – IEEE, the world's largest professional association advancing technology for humanity, today announced the launch of its new IEEE P802.3bj™ Task Force. Aimed at expanding infrastructures needed to support the next generation of high-rate Ethernet speeds, the group will ~~define~~ physical layers (PHYs) for 100 Gb/s Ethernet operations over backplanes and copper cable assemblies. When finalized, the new specifications will help facilitate the development and delivery of lower-cost, higher-density 100Gb/s solutions.

“From the challenges of ever-increasing front-panel capacities to continuing advances in processors, high-performance computing, and server virtualization technologies, the ability of systems to meet spiraling bandwidth demands remains problematic,” said John D’Ambrosia, chair, IEEE P802.3bj Task Force and chief Ethernet evangelist, CTO Office, Force10 Networks. “By expanding on the solid foundational standards work already underway, the IEEE P802.3bj Task Force will help prevent potential bottlenecks and ensure the robust frameworks needed to support 100Gb/s Ethernet are ready and available.”

With the launch of the task force, members are ready to begin collaboratively defining four-lane, 25Gb/s electrical signaling architectures for backplane operations up to a minimum of one meter in length, and copper cable operations up to at least five meters in length. Additionally, IEEE P802.3bj will be designed for maximum upstream and downstream compliance and compatibility with other IEEE 802.3x standards and technologies.

With Ethernet emerging as one of the most preferred backplane solutions for applications like modular servers and telecom networks, and over twinaxial copper cables for both intra- and inter-rack connections, IEEE P802.3bj will enable users to stay apace of rapidly increasing

demand. By facilitating higher speeds and greater densities, it will have broad implications for various ~~purposes and settings~~, such as blade servers and data centers. The task force has already achieved support ~~and consensus~~ from a diverse array of stakeholders, including semiconductor, server, and network storage device manufacturers, component vendors, and telecommunications carriers.

“The industry and consumers alike are looking for innovative solutions that will allow them to leverage ~~both~~ today’s cutting-edge technologies as well as those frontier technologies, such as 100Gb/s Ethernet and beyond, that are still emerging,” said David Law, chair, IEEE 802.3 Working Group and distinguished engineer, HP Networking. “As we continue forward with the next generation of Ethernet technologies and speeds, the breadth and depth of knowledge, resources, expertise, and leadership that are the hallmarks of IEEE will be critical to their success.”

For more information about the IEEE P802.3bj Task Force, please visit <http://www.ieee802.org/3/100GCU/index.html>. To learn more about IEEE-SA visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/ieeesa>, follow @ieeesa on Twitter, or connect with us on the Standards Insight Blog at <http://www.standardsinsight.com>.

About the IEEE Standards Association

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