

Useful information on current 802.1 projects and activities

Tony Jeffree, November 3, 1997

1. About this document

This document provides a simple, Web-enabled interface that allows “point-and-click” access to IEEE 802.1’s current set of working drafts and the ballot disposition documents that relate to them. In addition to providing pointers to these documents, the interface also provides information and/or links to the 802.1 Email and FTP archives, to some of the “officers” of 802.1, and to sources of information regarding participation in 802.1 activities.

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This document has been prepared primarily for use in conjunction with Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.0. You will find that the “hot links” in this document, indicated by highlights, either link to other parts of the document or provide Web links to other documents and/or Web pages via your browser.

In order to operate correctly, Acrobat Reader should be configured to make use of your favourite Web browser. If the Web links do not function correctly, then it is highly likely that the reason for this is that your configuration of Acrobat Reader and/or the Web browser needs fixing - sorry, I can’t help you there, other than observing that if all else fails, read the manuals!

This document is also moderately useful in printed-on-paper form, as the details of the external hypertext links are readable in the printed text and can therefore be configured manually in your Web/Email/FTP software as desired. Unfortunately, Information Technology has yet to develop to the point where “point and click”-enabled paper documents can be printed, but I guess this is just a matter of time...

Disclaimers and such

The information contained in this document has been compiled by the Author for the assistance of participants and would-be participants in 802.1 activities, and to pre-answer questions that are regularly raised; it is not an “official” 802.1 document. The material presented shall in no way be construed as a statement of IEEE, 802 or 802.1 policy.

While I have attempted to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, I can provide no guarantees of such accuracy. If you come across information in this document that is out of date or inaccurate, please contact me as indicated above.

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2. Participation in 802.1 activities

Meetings of IEEE 802 working groups are open to all (provided that the appropriate meeting registration fee is paid, in the case of meetings taking place during the regular IEEE 802 plenary meetings).

Plenary meetings of the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee (LMSC) take place in March, July and November, almost invariably during the week that contains the second Wednesday of the month. Registration is usually open from the Sunday night; the closing plenary session is held on the Friday morning. Information on venues, pre-registration, travel concessions, hotel discounts, bulk purchase of 10th anniversary lapel pins, etc. can be had from the 802 Conference Organizers:

Classic Consulting International
PO Box 41147
2529 Shaughnessy Street
Port Coquitlam
British Columbia V3C 5Z9
Canada
Tel: +1 (604) 464-6033
Fax: +1 (604) 464-6034
[Email:702630.107@compuserve.com](mailto:702630.107@compuserve.com)

Further info on IEEE 802/LMSC, including dates/venues of upcoming meetings, is available on the LMSC Web site:

<http://stdsbbs.ieee.org/>

The 802.1 working group meets during Plenary meetings of 802 (see above), generally starting at 9:00 AM on the Monday, with business finishing around 5pm on the Thursday. At present, 802.1 also meets for an Interim meeting between Plenaries; dates and venues are announced via the 802.1 Email exploder (see below).

Individuals wishing to participate in 802.1 activities can achieve voting status in 802.1 as a result of attendance at three meetings. However, the lack of voting status is not a barrier to an individual's participation in the technical work of 802.1, as that work relies on the development of technical consensus in the working group, rather than on adversarial voting or the mechanics of "Parliamentary procedure".

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3. 802.1 Email and FTP access details

Individuals who wish to contribute by Email to the activities of 802.1 can do so via the 802.1 Email exploder that is used for general technical discussion between all 802.1 participants and liaisons:

p8021@hepnrc.hep.net

Further Email exploders are used to distribute ballot comments on specific working drafts, in order to allow individuals to reduce the level of ambient noise caused by ballot responses on documents in which they have no interest. The ballot exploders are as follows:

- p8021oa@hepnrc.hep.net - Ballots on P802, Overview and Architecture
- p8021d@hepnrc.hep.net - Ballots on P802.1D, Revision of the MAC Bridges standard
- p8021p@hepnrc.hep.net - Ballots on P802.1p, Traffic Class Expediting and Dynamic Multicast Filtering
- p8021q@hepnrc.hep.net - Ballots on P802.1Q, Virtual LANs.

The Email distributed by all of these exploders is archived in a searchable form at the following Web site:

<http://www.hep.net/mail/p8021.html>

This site also carries details of how to add/remove your Email address to/from the exploder(s) if you so wish.

The text of new 802.1 working drafts and other working group papers is made available to working group participants via the 802.1 FTP site:

Host: [p8021.hep.net](ftp://p8021.hep.net)
Account: [p8021](ftp://p8021)
Password: [go_wildcats](ftp://go_wildcats)

The current set of subdirectories is reasonably self-explanatory, as indicated below. Most of the recent documents in this FTP site are either in text or PDF format; the latter will require use of Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.0 or later. If you need a (free) upgrade, visit the Adobe Web site at:

<http://www.adobe.com>

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4. FTP site file structure

The 802.1FTP site carries a variety of subdirectories:

- a) Subdirectories named “docsXX” contain working papers, presentations, etc.. that were submitted during the year XX. An index file gives some hints as to the contents;
- b) Subdirectories named “XX-drafts” contain working drafts for project XX (e.g., q-drafts carries drafts of P802.1Q);
- c) Subdirectory “incoming” is a write-only directory that allows working group members to submit files to be placed on the server. If you wish to submit a file for placement on the server, FTP it into an appropriate subdirectory of the “incoming” directory and notify one of the “officers” of 802.1 by Email (see details in [802.1 “officers”](#) below);
- d) Various others that carry miscellaneous material.

The “XX-drafts” directories contain further subdirectories, numbered for each draft, “dNN” where NN is the draft number. There may also be other subdirectories at this level, carrying specific working papers related to the project. Within each “dNN” subdirectory, there are the following possibilities:

- a) For very old drafts, there may only be Postscript files for the text of the document;
- b) For moderately old drafts, there may be subdirectories “ps” and “pdf”, carrying Postscript and PDF versions of the draft text, respectively;
- c) For recent drafts, there will be a PDF file carrying the PDF version of the draft text;
- d) If a ballot disposition document exists for that draft, it will appear in a subdirectory “ballot”;
- e) There may be other related subdirectories, in particular, there may be a “c-code” subdirectory if “C” code embedded in the document is available as text files (for compilation purposes).

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5. 802.1 “officers”

NAME	TITLE/FUNCTION	EMAIL CONTACT
Bill Lidinsky	Chair of 802.1	lidinsky@hep.net
Alan Chambers	Vice-Chair of 802.1, Editor of P802, P802.1G and P802.1j	alan@archway.demon.co.uk
Mick Seaman	Chair of the 802.1 Inter- working Task Group	mick_seaman@3com.com
Jeff Dietz	Membership Secretary	jdietz@acacianet.com
Michael Wright	Recording Secretary	mwright@mhz.com
Tony Jeffree	Editor of P802.1D, P802.1p and P802.1Q	tony_jeffree@compuserve.com

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6. Current Working Drafts

Note: The following table contains details only of working drafts for currently active projects, or for projects which have been completed but where the final text of the Standard is yet to be printed. All of this material may be subject to technical and/or editorial change prior to publication of the final standard.

Project ID	Project Name	Location of current draft and most recent ballot disposition on FTP server
P802	Overview and Architecture	o-drafts/d23/802d23.pdf
P802.1D	MAC Bridges - technical and editorial corrections	d-drafts/d14/pdf/d-d14-v3.pdf d-drafts/d13/ballot/d-d13-dis-v3.pdf
P802.1G	Remote MAC Bridging	g-drafts/d13/pdf/g-d13.pdf
P802.1p	Traffic Class Expediting and Dynamic Multicast Filtering	p-drafts/d8/p-d8.pdf p-drafts/d7/ballot/p-d7-disposition.pdf
P802.1Q	Virtual LANs	q-drafts/d7/q-d7.pdf q-drafts/d6/ballot/q-d6-disposition.pdf
P802.12e (an 802.12 project)	MAC Bridges - Support for Demand Priority Access Method	12e-drafts/d1/12e-d1.pdf
P802.3ac (an 802.3 project)	Supplement to CSMA/CD Access Method & Physical Layer Specifications: Frame Extensions for Virtual Bridged Local Area Networks (VLAN) Tagging on 802.3 Networks	802-3ac-drafts/d1/802-3ac-d1.pdf