

September 5, 2007

To: Mr. Tony Jeffree, IEEE 802.1 Working Group Chair; tony@jeffree.co.uk  
Cc: Mr. Lyndon Ong, Ciena Corporation, lyong@ciena.com  
Mr. Alex Conta, TranSwitch Corporation, aconta@txc.com  
Mr. Stephen Shew, Nortel Networks, sdshew@nortel.com

From: Mr. Jim Jones, OIF TC Chair

Subject: Liaison to IEEE 802.1 on Ethernet Software Application Programming Interface (API)

Dear Tony,

We are sending this liaison to you and the IEEE 802.1 WG to inform you about the Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) and the Software API definition work in the OIF Software Working Group. We think this work is complementary to the activities of IEEE 802.1 and could enhance the adoption and promotion of technologies developed in IEEE 802.1.

The Software Working Group of the OIF has developed and made publicly available an Implementation Agreement (IA) for configuring/provisioning Ethernet ports in networking processing devices. This IA is called Interface Management API for Ethernet.

Currently the Software Working Group has an active project for updating the Interface Management API for Ethernet IA with elements amended recently or being in the process of being amended to IEEE 802.1Q ( IEEE802.1ad, IEEE802.1ah, IEEE802.1ak, etc... ).

Further work is envisaged on IAs for configuring/provisioning various Ethernet Filtering Data Bases. Such IAs facilitate the integration of the Ethernet data plane elements in component devices and various control plane and management plane applications running in control components/processors. They also facilitate the integration of multiple software or firmware functional blocks that provide the Ethernet networking control plane, management plane, and/or data plane processing functionality in component devices.

As background information:

The Optical Internetworking Forum promotes the development and deployment of interoperable networking solutions and services through the creation of Implementation Agreements for optical networking products, network processing elements, and component technologies. Implementation agreements will be based on requirements developed cooperatively by end-users, service providers, equipment vendors and technology providers,

and aligned with worldwide standards, augmented if necessary. This is accomplished through industry member participation working together to develop specifications (IAs) for:

- External network element interfaces
- Software interfaces internal to network elements
- Hardware component interfaces internal to network elements

The OIF will create IAs, perform interoperability testing, build market awareness and promote education for technologies, services and solutions. The OIF will provide feedback to worldwide standards organizations to help achieve a set of implementable, interoperable solutions.

The OIF Website is at: <http://www.oiforum.com>

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James D. Jones".

Jim Jones  
OIF Technical Committee chair