



IEEE Standards Interpretation Request

Requests for interpretations should only be submitted for seeking clarification of:

- The meaning of portions of standards as they relate to specific applications; and/or
- The exact nature of the contents of the standard.

If the interpretation request meets the above criteria, complete the following and send to the [Manager, Governance](#).

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IEEE Std: 802.1ax TM - (include year) ²⁰⁰⁸

Standard Title: Link Aggregation

Topic: Link Aggregation Control, Maximizing aggregation

Clause, Subclause, Annex, Figure, or Table: 5.3

(Attach your request – if you have more than one request, please label each request as “Interpretation Request #1,” “Interpretation Request #2,” etc. Please refrain from using proper names, company names and pronouns. Interpretation requests should be as generic as possible. You may attach graphic files in JPEG, EPS, TIFF or PDF format.)

Interpretation Request #1

In the above mentioned Standard and clause, what does maximizing link aggregation mean?

Does it refer to the following scenario?

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- There are two peers connected to a device and LACP is configured between the device and peer1, say with 4 links
 - If the links are dynamically removed from peer1 one by one and attached to peer2 say 3 links, LACP should aggregate the device and peer2. Thus, the peer with more number of links to the

device should have an active LACP group and the other peer session with say one link should get deactivated.

NOTE FOR RESPONDERS: Attach your response here. If you are responding to more than one interpretation request, please label your responses as “Interpretation Response #1,” “Interpretation Response #2,” etc.

The interpretation request raises two questions:

- 1) What is meant by “maximizing link aggregation”? and
- 2) What is the relationship between link aggregation groups between a system and two different peers?

The note in clause 5.3 regarding maximizing link aggregation means that if a link aggregation group is configured between a system and a peer then a link between the system and that peer will automatically be added to the link aggregation group if it is useable (unless explicitly prohibited by management). This tends to maximize the set of links in the link aggregation group to that peer.

There is no relationship between link aggregation groups to different peers. That is, the addition of a link to peer 2 has no impact on the link aggregation group between the system and peer 1. Similarly the number of links in an aggregation group to peer 2 has no impact on the operation of a link aggregation group to peer 1.