As we are sure you are aware, the MEF Forum creates technical specifications that define Services for Carrier Ethernet Networks. We have always endeavoured to do so in a manner consistent with a Carrier Ethernet Network implemented with standard 802.1Q Provider Bridges. In writing a requirement for Connectivity Fault Management of such a Service, we have a question regarding MEP placement in a Provider Edge Bridge, and the correct interpretation of the information the MEP would convey in a Interface Status TLV.

The following diagram shows two Services across a Carrier Ethernet Network implemented with Provider Bridge technology. We desire to monitor the Services (S-VLANs) with Up MEPs at the UNIs and MIPs on either side of the ENNI.

For the MEPs in the Provider Edge Bridge at UNI 1, we refer to Figure 22-10 of IEEE Std 802.1Q-2014 (replicated below), that shows the placement of the desired Up MEPs in the Customer Network Port. Ideally, for our purposes, the Interface Status TLV generated by this MEP
would reflect the status of the MAC at the Customer Edge Port. Is this the correct interpretation of the following statement in section 21.5.5?:

“The Interface Status TLV indicates the status of the interface on which the MEP transmitting the CCM is configured (which is not necessarily the interface on which it resides, see J.6), or the next lower interface in the IETF RFC 2863 IF-MIB.”

Is the internal link between the Customer Network Port and Provider Edge Port considered an “interface”? Does the “next lower interface in the IETF RFC 2863 IF-MIB” necessarily refer to the ifIndex of the MAC on the Customer Edge Port? Does the “or” in the statement imply this is two alternative descriptions of the same interface, or that the implementer has a choice of whether the Interface Status TLV indicates the status of the internal or external interface?

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We would like to thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

The next MEF meetings are:

- July 24 - 27, Toronto, Canada
- October 23 - 26, Raleigh, USA