
IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

To: Chairman ECMA/TC32.
Title: Liaison Statement
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The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) is a USA based international professional organization with over 250,000 members representing a broad segment of the computer and communication industries. IEEE 802 is chartered by the IEEE to produce standards for Local, Metropolitan and Integrated Voice/Data communication networks. These standards provide for data transfer between computers at signaling rates of 1 to 20 Mbit/s on wire, optical and radio media.

To date, IEEE has developed several widely recognized standards. Many of these have been forwarded to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and have been subsequently accepted as International Standards.

Working group 802.11 was formed in September 1990. The purpose of the group is to develop standard Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications for wireless connectivity for fixed, portable and moving stations within a local area. The attendance of individuals from some 84 different companies and an interest mailing list over 200 individuals demonstrate the breadth, intensity and scale of interest in the development of open standards for wireless LANs.

The vision of IEEE 802.11 is to create an international standard for wireless local area data networks. In achieving this goal there will undoubtedly be many challenges in the technical, standards and regulatory areas.

Working group IEEE 802.11 believes that there is a need for ubiquitous connectivity both in local area networks (LANs) as well as wide area networks (WANs). Since ECMA represents the computer industry in Europe, IEEE P802.11 would like to liaise with ECMA to be kept informed on European requirements in this area.

ECMA could be instrumental in representing the industry in the regulatory area in Europe. ECMA could support the requests for radio frequency to the various administrations and to the CEPT/ERC/FM group. ECMA and IEEE P802.11 could jointly make an effort to harmonize the frequency allocation through the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC 92).