



Wireless Personal Area Networks Study Group

Study Group Report to ExCom
Thursday, March 11, 1999

The Issue

The 802.11 WG and the WPAN SG:

- ✓ agreed on the need for a WPAN Standard
- ✓ agreed that there is a strong market demand for a consumer-cost, low power solution
- ✓ agreed on a PAR to accomplish that task
- ✓ agreed on the importance of Coexistence and the need for etiquette in the use of a shared medium
- X disagree** on the venue to best create a WPAN Standard

March 1999

doc.: IEEE 802.11-98/058

PAN Related Activities

- Bluetooth-- ~504 Companies Participating
Spec-June 99
- HomeRF/Firefly-- ~84 Companies
Spec Dec 98/Dec 99
- WPAN SG-- ~50 Companies Participating
Target Standard Nov 00
- Others
 - Intermec, Motorola, Butterfly, Kodak...

Submission

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Bob Heile, GTE

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Market Hypothesis

- A WPAN Standard that does not involve Bluetooth as a participant will have a tough time gaining market acceptance
- Multiple independent efforts will aggravate coexistence and interference issues

Submission

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Imperatives for Success

- Need a forum that can attract members who feel they have equal standing
- Need to get active participation from Members of Bluetooth, HomeRF/Firefly, 802.11, etc
- Need a forum which can take a fresh look, evaluate different proposals and find compromise solutions that address broad market applicability as well as technical merits
- Speed is of the essence--1-2years maximum

Submission

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The Problem as a TG

- The rule of one MAC per WG eliminates a large class of potential solutions for developing a WPAN standard.
- There is a perception that 802.11 has invested interests and will block non .11 solutions
- As a TG it is harder for non .11 participants to feel that they have equal standing, assuming they can be attracted at all.
- Inability to pursue direct liaison with important outside interests/organizations

Submission

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The Advantages of a WG

- Has the stature required to work more effectively with significant external groups
- Easier to act as the agent of compromise
- Greater freedom of action
- Singular purpose promotes speed and efficiency

Submission

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The Bottom Line

Strongly urge the SEC to pass a motion to form a WPAN Working Group

- Finding effective compromise solutions is imperative to shared use, interoperability, success and acceptance.
- The perception of balance needs to be assured.
- The issue is not whether a lite version of .11 can do the job, more important is market acceptance of a standard that does the job.

Submission

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