

Where Are We? Who Got Us Here?

John Lemon

Neophytes going into battle

- The 802.17 WG started with very little standards experience and almost no IEEE standards experience
- The WG struggled and struggled, making very little progress for about a year

Fools stepped in where angels fear to tread

- It was clear that a leader was needed to help drive the group forward
- Fools (e.g., DVJ, JL) volunteered to take on the task of chief editor, not knowing what it would really entail

A leader was chosen

- Mike wisely ignored the volunteers,
seeking instead a grizzled
veteran of the trenches

Tremendous adversity

- An almost overwhelming barrage was sustained
- Unforeseen weapons were employed, including the especially nefarious

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We overcame

- Despite our naïveté, the difficulties, and the expressed doubts of others that we would succeed ...

We not only survived,
we surpassed all expectations

For exemplary and meritorious service

- We thank the grizzled veteran who led us through the minefields, swamps, and deserts and present Tom Alexander with this award ...

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