

IEEE 802.3ad Link Aggregation
Interim Meeting Minutes
Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 1999
York, U.K.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 September 30 by Stephen Haddock. Meeting begins with usual opening remarks showing the agenda for the meeting, information regarding the web site and reflector, call for patents, and introduction of participants.

Agenda for the meeting are to resolve comments received during the Working Group ballot on Draft 2.0. Intent is to incorporate the resolution of these comments into Draft 2.1 and to conduct a Working Group recirculation ballot prior to the November meeting. This sets the stage for conducting the LMSC Sponsor ballot and any necessary recirculations between the November and March meetings, with final standards approval at the RevCom meeting in March. A detailed schedule is in the Chairman's presentation slides which are posted on the web site.

There will be an Interim meeting to resolve Sponsor Ballot comments on January 20-21, in Dallas. The meeting is co-located with the 802.3 HSSG Study Group (perhaps 802.3ae Task Force by then) and is being hosted by TI. It is noted that if a 2nd recirculation is required for either the Working Group ballot or the Sponsor ballot it may be necessary to call additional interim meetings to resolve comments received during the recirculation. It is likely that an announcement will be sent out on the reflector 30 days in advance of these meetings, however since we are not likely to know whether the meeting is necessary that far in advance, the announcement will be provisional upon the outcome of the 1st recirculation ballots.

The Working Group ballot passed, however there were 216 comments received and 21 were "Required" comments associated with Disapprove ballots. The Task Force will endeavor to resolve all comments, and have the Disapprove ballots converted to Approve. The details of the ballot are as follows:

- 174 eligible voters on the ballot list
- 114 ballots returned giving a 114/174 or 65.5% response ratio (>50% required)
- 32 Abstain giving a 32/114 or 28.1% abstention ratio (<30% required(?))
- 76 Approve giving a 76/(114-32) or 92.7% approval ratio (>75% required)
- 6 Disapprove

The breakdown of the 216 comments received are as follows:

- 115 Editorial
- 9 Editorial Required
- 65 Technical
- 27 Technical Required

The Task Force commenced resolution of the comments, beginning with general comments and then progressing through comments on Clause 43, and finishing with comments on Clause 30. The details are not captured in the minutes as they are documented in the comment data base which will be posted on the web site.

The bulk of the discussion dealt with variable definitions, the Selection Machine, and the Mux Control and Logic. The most substantive change arising from these discussions was a decision to merge the Mux Control and Logic into the Selection Machine, labeling the result as the Mux machine. This does not change the behavior of the protocol, but clarifies the description of the protocol.

Following the comment resolution there was discussion of whether a "Link Aggregation Sublayer" box should be added to the 802.3 architectural diagrams throughout the document. There was general agreement that it seemed impractical to change these diagrams in every clause every time a new function was added to the standard, but that it was perhaps appropriate to include it in the overview in Clause 2. Since this discussion was not based upon any comment received in the ballot, it was decided to defer the decision to the 802.3 plenary in November.