

11801 and Cable Reuse

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Issue at hand

The IEEE 802.3 Working Group (WG) is aware that SC25/WG3 is drafting standards and technical reports (e.g. ISO/IEC 11801-1 Amd1 and ISO/IEC TR 11801-9911) that support use and reuse of 4P Category cable to be used in the 1P applications with the restriction of 0.75A per pair.

This restriction breaks the IEEE 802.3 'plug-and-play' interoperability model. As such, the WG feels the need to make a presentation to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25, something that hasn't happened before as the work between the two groups has always had common goals.

The problem with 0.75A

- Cabling would limit PSEs to 0.75A
 - A PSE can't know what kind of cabling is connected. Allowing a 0.75A option waters ALL options down to 0.75A – which is well below the current needed to deliver the power levels desired, for both current classes and future planned classes. Note that this is a problem with having any two levels of maximum current.
- Installation guidance becomes overly complicated
 - A lot of work has gone into appropriate bundle sizing for 4P cabling, designed around the worst case 90W PoE current of 0.433A (particularly in the United States' National Electrical Code). A 'second tier' of 0.75A complicates this carefully crafted guidance.
 - *The possibility of 1, 2, or 3 pairs being energized in shared-sheath cabling as well as grounding issues further complicate the guidance.*

The problem with 4P reuse

- Mandates detection on the SPE PoE system, meaning voltage is not applied to the cable until a PD is detected.
 - *Detection is not required under PoDL*
 - *Consider what happens when a 4P device is at one end and a single pair power source is connected to one of the pairs.*

Future SPoE Plans

- Limiting SPoE to 0.75A will keep 11801-1 cabling and perhaps SPoE from addressing the full market
 - Note that 750mA only supports up to PoDL Class 14, which is 20W at the PD.
- Similar to 4P PoE, there are plans to raise the power from an SPE PSE to what's allowed under LPS, i.e. 100W max (90W with margin)
- Of course, this power is only extended to systems that can efficiently provide the power. This implies a max allowed loop resistance which further implies reach limitations. This is a long way of saying the 1km SPE links won't be capable.
 - PoDL Class 15 power can be delivered up to 158 meters and 400 meters with 18 AWG and 14 AWG twisted pair, respectively.
- The present requirements of Clause 104 are only a single example. Other powering schemes, outside of IEEE Std 802.3 use the full extent of NEC Class 2 limits of 2A. Today, non-802.3 power sources dominate the single-pair powering landscape.

Use Cases

- Powering beyond 20W delivered are required for a variety of applications
 - Media converters extending line powering to existing Class 4 PoE devices will require this (30W PoE pass thru + power of device)
 - Line-powered PoE field switches, will require greater than 20W even with minimal PoE capability (multiple PoE pass thru ports, likely at 15.4W at each port + device)
 - Many sensors, such as field cameras with pan-tilt-zoom and/or heat element capability today require > 20 W delivered
 - High-transient-current actuators would require additional cost of local energy storage without the ability to provide > 0.75A
- Class 2 power supplies today are used for a variety of non-Ethernet applications on single pairs that SPE seeks to replace
- Experience with 4-pair PoE have shown a need to deliver as much power as possible. This is only the beginning.

IEEE Request

- The IEEE 802.3 WG would request that reuse of 4-pair cable for SPE be abandoned. The addition of cable reuse permits sections of the cable plant to not meet the full requirements, converting this from a plug and play system to an engineered system.

Potential Compromises

- Reuse of existing cable is desirable and SC25 will need to provide guidance regarding the restrictions and issues caused by the reuse of cable. However, using 4P cabling for SPE applications should be discouraged for new installations.
- Separate 1P from 4P
 - Remove all single pair information from 11801-1 Amd 1 (or 11801 series?) and placed in a new standard, avoiding confusion
 - Many other standards point to 11801 for 4P cabling; the inclusion of 1P will require some rewrite of those other standards

Suggestions for reuse requirements

- Principle #1: CURRENT CARRYING CAPACITY SHOULD MATCH FROM BEGINNING TO END
 - Wire gauge shall match end-to-end, or at least be no smaller than that presented at the user interfaces
 - Disallow hiding smaller wire gauge behind a larger gauge at the user interface
- Principle #2: CLEARLY IDENTIFY ANY RESTRICTED CURRENT CHANNELS
- Principle #3: PREVENT ACCIDENTAL MISCONFIGURATION
 - Different or keyed connectors to disallow interconnection of the disparate channels
 - One might think it's ok to plug a 0.75A cable into a 2.0A as the 2.0A channel can support the 0.75A requirements, but we need to disallow a 2.0A cable being the visible connection with 0.75A cable behind the wall.

Previous experience of IEEE 802.3

- Some have suggested that multiple current capabilities is no different than having different category cables for performance or too great of cable resistance for PoE
 - The primary effect of either of these is that the system does not perform to IEEE Std 802.3 specifications – no harm is done, and within the scope of 802.3
- Allowing reduced current carrying capacity could create a situation where the current carrying capacity of the link is exceeded by the attached application
 - Requires IEEE Std 802.3 to disallow easily misconfigured cabling or risk additional restrictions placed on the use of SPoE by other standards such as IEC 60364 Low-voltage electrical installations originating in IEC TC64