

## IEEE P802.3bc D3.0 Ethernet TLVs comments

CI 00 SC 0 P L # 18  
Thompson, Geoffrey Nortel Networks

current ones and define new ones.

Comment Type GR Comment Status R

This is a general disapprove for the methodology of the project and the many detailed manifestations of that methodology that show up throughout the text. This project seeks to incorporate specifications that were developed in other groups (802.1 and the IETF) that were supposed to track our underlying hardware specifications and produce the management software specifications for that management.

All of this would be perfectly reasonable if (1) they had appropriate input from us at the front end and kept in line with that guidance and (2) they had been willing to maintain responsibility for management standards on an ongoing basis.

Neither has proved to be the case. It now turns out that the IETF did not utilize the device lists and identifications that we provided but, rather went off on their own. 802.1 initiated a project to do 802.3 management (the roots of this project) without participation from 802.3. Now we are being asked (for the sake of expediency and compatibility with legacy implementations) to accept this work as the normative reference foundation for our standard AND to take over the maintenance of what they did outside of our process.

In full recognition of the difficulty of getting management standards skillfully written and adequately reviewed in 802.3, this all seems like a terribly bad idea. It is effectively bypassing the 802.3 balloting/review process for a major chunk of this important process and then telling us that we can't fix it.

Further, recent input from Bert Wijnen has indicated that this course of trying to maintain backward compatibility is a bad idea. As I understand the rules for management standards in this area, once you establish a MIB it can never be "changed", only amended or fully replaced. This seems like an inappropriate constraint to place on these 802.3 projects considering.

*SuggestedRemedy*

That the draft be modified so that the external reference material that is specific to the 802.3 implementations (as opposed to the protocol itself) from either 802.1 or any RFC be pulled into the body of this draft and that the resulting draft be returned to review at the Working Group level.

(This might well be accompanied by not deprecating the 802.3 portion of 802.1AX for some length of time in order to support the extended redevelopment and review of this document. I would suggest that 802.3 take over the editorial pen of that document in the meantime in order of not hold 802.3 projects hostage to this important project in the meantime.)

Response Response Status W

REJECT.

The IEEE P802.3.1 project is already working on incorporating, updating and maintaining the RFC that are referenced in IEEE P802.3bc. Replicating this activity in IEEE P802.3bc would be outside the scope of the PAR. Once the IEEE P802.3.1 project is complete the references in IEEE 802.3 can be updated as a maintenance activity.

These external references define not only the values found in the MIBs, but in this case also the values sent in the TLVs. It is for this reason that backward compatibility is important as the only way to change the values sent in the TLVs would be to deprecate the