

Useful IEEE 802.3 Terms

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Spec Compliance

- **Compliant:** Meets every aspect of the spec.
- **Interoperable:** Will work when connected to another interoperable device.
 - It is the goal of the standard to ensure interoperability, and 802.3 has a history of success; however...
 - Compliance does not guarantee interoperability
- **Non-compliant:** Doesn't meet every aspect of the spec, no promises as to whether it will work with a compliant device.

What Came Before

- **Legacy:** Existed before the spec was created. Pre-standard devices may or may not be interoperable with compliant devices.
- **Installed Base:** Devices, both compliant with earlier standards and proprietary non-standard devices, that have a significant presence in the field.

Spec Terms

- **Normative:** Required by the spec.
- **Informative:** Recommended by the spec but not required.
- **Out of Scope:** Left out of the spec, sometimes on purpose, for reasons including:
 - The topic is not fully understood or is controversial
 - The schedule doesn't allow time to completely explore the topic
 - The feature is considered to be beyond the standard but should not be blocked
 - The topic has merit but no baseline text was offered
 - We weren't trying to solve that problem for cost or obscurity reasons

Standards Creation

- **CFI:** A meeting to decide if a Study Group should be formed.
- **Study Group:** A group formed to explore an idea before a PAR is approved. Drafts PAR, 5C, and Objectives.
- **Task Force:** A group formed by the approval of the PAR to create and progress a draft.
- **Baseline Text:** Text proposed as part of a Task Force presentation, voted on, and included into the draft if approved by the TF.
- **Draft:** A proposed new or revised section of the IEEE802.3 standard.
- **Ad Hoc:** A group of Task Force members that meet outside of the normal meetings to build consensus on a specific topic.

Find All This and More at...

[http://www.ieee802.org/3/bt/public/jan14/
agenda_0114.pdf](http://www.ieee802.org/3/bt/public/jan14/agenda_0114.pdf), page 8

[http://standards.ieee.org/develop/
stdswritten.html](http://standards.ieee.org/develop/stdswritten.html)