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| 8802-3/802.3 REVISION REQUEST |  
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DATE: April 21, 1999  
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REQUESTED REVISION:

STANDARD: 802.3ac or equivalent change in 802.3 Clause 31, MAC control

CLAUSE NUMBER: 803.3ac revision section dealing w/ Clause 3.5 (Frame  
format)

CLAUSE TITLE:

PROPOSED REVISION TEXT: Insert text after 3.5.4 Length/Type field  
definition.

"MAC Control frames shall not bear QTag Type field", or equivalent  
change.

RATIONALE FOR REVISION: Current definitions of Tagged frames in 802.3ac  
and MAC control frame definition allow a MAC to transmit a MAC control  
frame that is VLAN tagged. I believe that the intent was for MAC  
control

frame to live between two MACs, whereas the VLAN tagged frames live in  
extended LAN space. If a MAC (in an Ethernet Switch, for example) does  
not recognize this as the tagged Pause frame and allow the untag  
operation at the egress port, it becomes a pause frame. Unless we  
intended to allow MAC control frame to be VLAN tagged, we should correct  
this (or clarify this).

IMPACT ON EXISTING NETWORKS: None. But if we do not correct this, then  
older bridging equipment that only recognize MAC control type field may  
forward the Tagged MAC control frame to the an output port connected to  
a Tag aware MAC. This erroneously sends a MAC control frame to the  
unintended [Tag aware] MAC.

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| Please attach supporting material, if any  
| Submit to:- Geoffrey O. Thompson, Chair IEEE 802.3  
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+----- For official 802.3 use -----+  
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| ~~EDITORIAL~~/TECHNICAL  
| ACCEPTED/DENIED  
| BALLOT REQ'D YES/~~NO~~  
| COMMENTS: Status I - 12th May, 2000  
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