802.1H Task Group Ballot Draft 0.1

Kevin Nolish

Michael Wright

Ballot Results

- Ballot Opened 23 January 09
- Ballot Closed 23 February 09
- Results
  - Approve 0
  - Disapprove 11
  - Abstain 57

Comment Overview

- 67 Total Comments
  - E – 10
  - ER – 34
  - T – 2
  - TR – 21

Ballot Breakdown

- Restructure 802.1H - 1
- Change Terminology - 16
  - Type based frames are now standard
  - Use LLC/SNAP & Type Based instead of Ethernet and 802.3.
- Editorial Changes - 28
  - Incorrect References
  - Wordsmithing
- Technical Inaccuracies - 22

Restructure 802.1H

- Mick correctly pointed out that attempting to do a minimal change revision probably won't work.
- The editor's intention is to have a new draft for May that is essentially a complete rewrite.
  - We are not going to bother with the walkthrough approach.
  - The approach will be "here's the issue, here's the solution."
- This draft will most likely be 0.3, not 0.2.
  - We are going to apply the corrections to 0.1 to arrive at 0.2.
  - 0.3 will be a rewrite, although it is likely that some of the text from 0.2 will be reused in 0.3, hence the application of corrections.

"New and Improved" 802.1H

- The artwork will be redone.
  - The current artwork was a recreation of the original artwork in 802.1H. Both the reviewers and the editors found it confusing.
- The "walk through a solution chain reasoning" structure of the document will be scrapped.
- Tags and 802.11 Annex M will be more closely tied into the document.
- The editors will look at a "Service Sublayer" model of 802.1H operation, but this appears problematic given the inherent "layer violation" of 802.1H. The editors tried to develop one, but never got it to the point where we were satsified.
- Other changes identified in 0.1, such as terminology, Ethernet 2.0 vs 802.3 vs LLC, will be incorporated into the revised document.
- Given that the major application of 802.1H is in 802.11 access points, the editors will try to make this recommended practice a little less bridge-centric. 802 and 802.1ac help with this.

Change Terminology Comments

- When 802.1H was first written it was not politically correct for 802 to acknowledge type based Ethernet as a legitimate standard.
  - Thus the terminology in 802.1H was **Ethernet**, meaning Ethernet 2.0 with a type field, and **802.3**, meaning LLC or LLC/SNAP.
- This is no longer the case. Type based Ethernet is now recognized as a standard implementation in 802.3, thus the terminology should change. The editors propose:
  - **Type** or **Type based** for those frames that use a 16 bit type field for protocol discrimination
  - **LLC** or **LLC based** for those frames that use a LLC or LLC/SNAP header for protocol discrimination.
- This proposal doesn't distinguish between LLC and LLC/SNAP frames. Do we care?

Editorial Changes

- Minor wordsmithing
- Incorrect references. The original document did not use Frame references. It is obvious that the editors missed a bunch of them.
- Frame issues.
  - Frankly, starting with a clean template should help with most of these. There is just plain wierdness as the frame source for this document seems to be antiquated.
  - For example, when Kevin pulls 802.1Qay into frame, things work just fine. The 802.1H sources, on the other hand, misbehave in truly wondrous ways.
- This is also a chance to handle figures in the way that Mick proposes.

Technical Issues

- Nothing major, but no overarching patterns.
- Best dealt with on a comment by comment basis.
- One detailed comment by Pat. This concerns the length field in the presence of tagged packets being adapted by the 802.1H functional layer. Michael and I will need to have some sort of off line discussion with Pat to figure out what to do about this.

The Short Term Plan

- Update 0.1 to 0.2 by applying detailed changes.
  - First, it created corrected text that we can reuse for 0.3
  - Second, it educates the editors.
  - 0.2 will never see the light of day.
- Starting with a fresh template, create 0.3, incorporating 0.2 text on an as needed basis.
- Redo artwork as needed. Use separate Visio files.
- Task group ballot review in May.

Long Term Issues

- The rewrite of the document will keep us in task group ballot longer than expected.
- We may need a PAR extension as the PAR expires 31 Dec 2010. The extra time in cleaning this document up may push us past this date.