



## IEEE 802

### Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee

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**From** Paul Nikolich Chairman, IEEE 802 Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee  
IEEE Fellow, p.nikolich@ieee.org

**Subject** Invitation to attend IEEE 802 March 2017 Plenary Session

Dear Zhenhai Huang:

IEEE 802 has been submitting many of its standards to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 for ratification as ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 international standards using the PSDO process since about 2012.

In a significant number of the associated 60-day and FDIS ballots, the China NB has highlighted its concerns related to security, and particularly security derived from IEEE 802.1X-based mechanisms. IEEE 802's response to these comments has generally been to note that it is not aware of any specific defects, and to invite the China NB to provide technical details of any attacks for consideration. This process of the China NB asserting there are security issues and the IEEE 802 asserting it is not aware of any security defects has no doubt been frustrating for the China NB, as it has for IEEE 802. It is my view that the resolution of these issues is important and that the China NB and IEEE 802 should strive for a consensus as soon as possible.

I note that the China NB has proposed the formation of the Security Ad Hoc within ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 to discuss the question of security in IEEE 802 standards submitted to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 for ratification under the PSDO process. This is a positive move towards the consensus IEEE 802 seeks and I thank the China NB for taking the lead with this initiative. However, assuming the Security Ad Hoc formation is approved, it will only meet for the first time in June 2017, at the very earliest.

There is a fantastic opportunity for China NB and IEEE 802 security experts to come together much sooner, namely at the IEEE 802 Plenary meeting that is being held in Vancouver, Canada the week starting Monday, 13 March 2017. Most of IEEE 802's security experts will be available in Vancouver to hear and discuss the China NB's concerns.

I would like to invite you or another China NB representative to present to the Plenary meeting as the first step in coming to a common understanding of any security issues in ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 series of standards. Of course, representatives of other NBs are also welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

I would appreciate your response as soon as possible so that special sessions can be arranged at the Vancouver Plenary meeting to discuss these important security issues. The Vancouver Plenary meeting details are available at <http://www.ieee802.org/meeting/index.html>.

Yours sincerely

/s/ Paul Nikolich

Chair of IEEE 802 Executive Committee