

**Telecommunications and Information Exchange Between Systems**

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6**

<b>Document Number:</b>	N13776
<b>Date:</b>	2008-11-18
<b>Replaces:</b>	
<b>Document Type:</b>	Other document (Defined)
<b>Document Title:</b>	The Validity of WAPI IS Option
<b>Document Source:</b>	SC 6 Montreux meeting
<b>Project Number:</b>	
<b>Document Status:</b>	As per the SC 6 Montreux resolution 6.1.5, this document is circulated to SC 6 national bodies and IEEE liaison for three month review and comment.
<b>Action ID:</b>	COM
<b>Due Date:</b>	2009-02-18
<b>No. of Pages:</b>	4

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 Secretariat Ms. Jooran Lee, KSA (on behalf of KATS)

Korea Technology Center #701-7 Yeoksam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, 135-513, Republic of Korea ;

Telephone: +82 2 6009 4808 ; Facsimile: +82 2 6009 4819 ; Email : [jooran@kisi.or.kr](mailto:jooran@kisi.or.kr)

# The Validity of WAPI IS Option

China National Body

Prepared for JTC1 SC6 plenary meeting in November, 2008

Oct., 2008

## 1. Summary

After Xi'an meeting and listening again to the IEEE 802.11 WG, China National Body still regards the Stand-alone standard option (Chinese Option 3 offered in Xi'an meeting) as the favorable choice. We no longer consider the TR option since if other options are infeasible as IEEE claimed, this TR option will have the same problem.

We believe that the four issues stated by IEEE are not valid concerns. They should not stop WAPI from becoming an IS. Therefore, we strongly suggest SC6 National Bodies consider the IS option.

## 2. Why we cannot agree to the TR option now?

Regarding the TR option, we have the following positions.

- 1) It is true that we listed TR as one acceptable option.
- 2) However, IEEE's proposal of a "refined TR" puts many preconditions on alleged issues such as "over the scope", etc.
- 3) Those preconditions make the future of WAPI unpredictable, while on the other hand the market needs quick solution to enhance WLAN security.
- 4) We have indicated Option 3 is the best choice. If the "issues" surrounding the option 3 are resolvable, then there is no need for the TR option.
- 5) We insist on Option 3 (IS plan) because we believe the "issues" surrounding the option 3 can be resolved.

## 3. Resolving the "Organizational Memory" issue on Option 3

The IEEE statement claims that IEEE possesses the "organizational memory" and is the only organization capable to revise the WLAN standards.

We do not share with this view because:

1) SC6 national bodies represent their nation which together possesses millions of technical experts. SC6 is capable of making and revising international standards. As we know, the 11h was not originated in the U.S., rather it was from Europe.

2) IEEE does have organizational memory, but it can share the memory with SC6 through the liaison structure. One of the major purposes of liaison mechanism is to share information.

3) IEEE claims to be an open standard body. Then, the memory should be found in historical documents of IEEE.

Therefore, IEEE should not use "organizational memory" as reason to prevent

SC6 to amend ISO/IEC WLAN standards.

#### **4. Resolving the “Orphan” issue on Option 3**

IEEE states that IEEE continues to develop 802.11 series and WAPI would become an orphan it is become a stand-alone mechanism.

We wish to point out that IEEE has the obligation to report to ISO/IEC of any amendment which would have impact on adopted IEEE standard by ISO/IEC. ISO/IEC would also send information about new proposed amendment or new project to IEEE so that harmonization can be maintained between the two organizations.

IEEE states that Option 3 defies the principle of “one standard”. However, during the Xi’an meeting, it was pointed out that ISO/IEC often have alternative solutions in International Standards. Therefore, making Option 3 as an alternative solution does not defy the “one standard” principle.

#### **5. Resolving the “Scope” issue on Option 3**

IEEE claims that WAI is over the scope of SC6. We do not agree.

We have to point out that WAI is an embedded mechanism in networks.

We have consulted with experts in SC27. They pointed out that the embedding of authentication mechanism in WLAN is beyond their scope.

Therefore, WAPI’s embedding of WAI does not create conflict with other SCs. If other SCs do not raise the scope issue over WAPI, this concern is unwarranted.

#### **6. Resolving the “Copy right” issue on Option 3**

IEEE states that there will be possible copyright issue because WAPI option 3 “Uses at least some text from a document for which the IEEE owns the copyright”.

We have doubt whether this statement makes sense in view of ISO/IEC policies regarding references.

We believe that Option 3 does not have copy right issues because it makes references to an ISO/IEC standard and it does so in accordance with ISO/IEC policies.

#### **7. Additional Comments:**

China National Body wishes to stress the following facts:

- 1) Two optional security mechanisms already exist in WLAN. The 802.11i mechanism, even though it has been adopted into the IS, will not be adopted into Chinese national standard because of its security loopholes and structural weaknesses.
- 2) On the other hand, the WAPI adoption rate is expanding fast in China. It also attracts more and more attention from international corporations. Because of its technical strength, WAPI spreading over the world is a matter of time.

- 3) China's support for WAPI has never decreased. As WAPI demonstrates its strength with such major projects as the application in 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic games, receiving strong commitment from all major telecom operators in China, national support would only increase.
- 4) Any attempt to put obstacles on WAPI path on International standardization, will hurt again the feeling of China. It is not a wise thing to do.

## **8. Conclusion**

China National Body has taken all comments into careful consideration and reaches a conclusion that the Stand-alone option is a desirable and feasible plan.