IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

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| Long Range Low Power (LRLP) Operation in 802.11: Use Cases and Functional Requirements: Guidelines for PAR Development |
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Abstract

This document contains the output of the Long Range Low Power TIG, intended to describe the use cases, requirements, and technical feasibility of Long Range Low Power operation in 802.11.

* **LRLP use cases and metrics**
	+ Smart Grid
	+ IoT
		- Home Theater use case
		- Home Security use case
		- Indoor Device Control use case
	+ Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS)
	+ **Metrics**
		- **Data transmission rate:** Lowdata throughput typical of applications in sensor or actuator networks, e.g., 100kbps of limited size file transfer
		- **Transmission range:** Increased transmission range must be accomplished despite a fixed transmit power.
		- **Peak power consumption:** This metric controls the power consumption during activity periods in specified duty cycle of LRLP operation
			* Battery life:Battery life time is directly related to capacity and is measured in mAh (mA hours)
				+ Capacity is dependent on rate of discharging the battery (e.g., 230-240mAh at 500uA rate of discharge, while 150mAh at 3mA rate of discharge)[[1]](#footnote-1)
				+ Capacity is dependent on pulse duration (ON time of an LRLP device)
		- **Average current consumption:** Battery life time is inversely related to this metric and is measured in mA. Lower average current consumption for a fixed battery capacity improves battery life time
* **LRLP requirements**
	+ Integration and backward compatibility with legacy 802.11
		- LRLP AP has both HE/legacy and LRLP capability to ensure WLAN coexistence
			* The 2.4 GHz band is the primary objective, although other bands are not ruled out. LRLP is band agnostic.
		- Mechanisms for Sub20MHz operation
		- LRLP STA not required to support legacy 20MHz Tx or Rx
		- LRLP AP will be required to support legacy 20MHz Tx & Rx
	+ Long Range (approx. 10dB improvement above existing 20 MHz operation)
		- Improved coverage edge performance
	+ Ultra Low Power consumption – peak and average current
		- LRLP non-AP STA supports ultra low power operation
		- Light-weight non-AP STA protocol
		- Narrowband (e.g., 2MHz) + low MCS only transceiver design can allow power reduction compared to legacy 20MHz transceiver
* **Technical feasibility**
	+ Longer Range
		- Nominal range of 500m
		- 10 dB, 20dB stretch goal
	+ Ultra Low Power consumption
		- Average power consumption: 50uW
		- Battery life longer than 5 years. (Note: peak power requirement may dictate battery technology choice. E.G. coin cell may not provide peak power sufficient for longest range)
	+ Parameterizable – the longest range and lowest power may not be available simultaneously.
		- Tradeoffs between low power operation and latency.



* + - Provides benefits even at limits: e.g. even at the “low power” end, the range is better than legacy, and the power is lower than legacy at the “higher power” end.
		- For home security use case, fast wakeup and secure reconnection are required.
	+ Relatively low aggregate data rate ~ 512Kbps
		- Actual PHY data rate may be higher
	+ Details of narrowband transmission and reception
		- A reduced channel width for LRLP may be effective to accomplish both goals of long range and lower power.
			* 2 MHz is a basic channel width for 802.11ah
			* 2 MHz is proposed as 802.11ax UL-OFDMA allocation block [1]
		- APs and Full-function STAs support both 2 MHz and 20 MHz
		- LRLP-only STA may be designed with a total receiver BW of 2 MHz
		- Power consumption benefits come from the ELIMINATION of the requirement to receive in a 20MHz (or wider) channel far more than from the ABILITY to receive in a 2MHz channel.
		- 2 MHz Bandwidth at the STA
			* Support standardized operation of next generation billion IoT devices
				+ Includes remote sensors with coin cell batteries
			* Design of a narrowband, specifically 2MHz transceiver will provide reduced power consumption when compared to 20MHz transceiver
				+ 25%-52% reduction in RF domain during RX depending on MCS
				+ 4 times reduction in digital domain during RX
				+ Not significant gain in terms of power consumption in TX
		- Able to leverage MU-MIMO with 10 simultaneous LRLP users in 20 MHz channel for lowest power
			* Compatibility with the smallest OFDMA channel proposed in 802.11ax
			* Wideband operation for longest range
				+ If range is limited by multipath, 20 MHz gives better performance
				+ If range is limited by attenuation, narrow channel can be better
				+ If range is limited by frequency selective fading, wider channel is better
				+ If range is limited by adjacent channel, narrow is better
				+ If range is interference limited, narrow is better
				+ Easier to increase TX power in narrow channel
				+ Narrow channel at legal limit is more cost effective and power efficient
		- Spectrum efficient MAC
			* Non-AP STAs could be grouped in frequency and time in an efficient way exploiting OFDMA
			* Protocol overhead (signaling, headers etc.) minimized
		- Consider whether defining narrowband in terms of sub-multiples of 5 MHz channel spacing in 2.4 GHz band provides benefits.
	+ Integration with 802.11
		- Integrated in air interface: Able to operate concurrently with existing network without adverse effect on existing devices
			* Non-AP STA need not to support HE/Legacy
				+ In order to keep device requirements minimal
			* AP that supports LRLP also supports HE/Legacy
				+ Minimum requirement for AP would be the ability to protect LRLP transmissions from HE/Legacy transmissions and vice-versa
		- Integrated into mainstream devices: Does not require additional hardware and components for implementation. Assumes new silicon (aligned with 802.11ax silicon generation)
			* “Zero” marginal cost for implementation
			* Available in “all” next-generation 802.11 chipsets
		- LRLP non-AP STA does not have to support legacy
	+ Compatibility with 802.11
		- Mixed BSS of LRLP and non-LRLP supported without introducing degradation or significant interference: Coexistence and limited impact on primary BSS or overlapping BSS.
		- Protection mechanisms, media occupancy limit, duty cycle limit, etc.
		- Potential Protection Framework
			* Beacons transmitted in 20MHz for legacy compatibility
				+ LRLP devices unable to decode legacy Beacon (due to range or BW)
				+ Restructure LRLP beacons – shorter, maybe less frequent

Only include elements relevant to LRLP PHY. Minimum of information on BSS and basic capability. Everything else the station requires may be obtained using the Request Element in Probe frames.

The LRLP should have a DTIM in every one of its beacons, with an appropriately longer LRLP beacon interval. The Listen Interval, or something like it, would be available for stations that do not want to wake up for every LRLP beacon

* + - * Trigger frames in 802.11ax planned to be sent in 20MHz
				+ 11ax uses trigger frames for MU UL frames
				+ Specialized trigger frames for UL from LRLP devices
			* AP supervises heterogeneous network of conventional and LRLP (IoT) STAs
		- Limitation of Impact on Network
			* Specify Medium Occupancy Limit for LRLP operation
				+ Comparable to full rate packets
				+ Additionally, specify a maximum average time on air (duty cycle).
			* Intended applications are focused on M2M and IoT
				+ Not for bulk data transfer
				+ Low offered load is assumed

Doesn’t require a low data rate – could be high rate low duty cycle

Use best available rate for link and power constraints

* + Coexistence with other 802 wireless protocols
* **Technical material needed to initiate standardization**
	+ Supported combinations of LRLP operation in the 802.11 architecture
	+ Parameterization of features and capabilities for optimizing range or low power.
	+ Comparative study of all low power technologies in use today

**References:**

[1] Integrated Long Range Low Power Operation for IoT <https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/15/11-15-0775-01-0wng-integrated-long-range-low-power-operation.pptx>

[2] Long Range, Low Power Design Criteria <https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/15/11-15-1064-00-lrlp-long-range-low-power-design-criteria.pptx>

1. IEEE 11-15/0775r1: Integrated Long Range Low Power Operation for IoT [↑](#footnote-ref-1)