IEEE 802 JTC1 Standing Committee

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| Proposed liaison statement to JTC1/SC6 relating to proposal for an SC6 Security Ad Hoc  |
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Abstract

This document contains a proposal for a liaison statement from IEEE 802 to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 in relation to the proposed SC6 Security ad hoc

## Proposed liaison letter to SC6/WG1

TO:

Mr. Yun-Jae Won, Chair of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC/WG1, yjwon@keti.re.kr

Dr Hyun Kook Kahng, Chair of SC6 ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6, kahng@korea.ac.kr

CC:

Jooran Lee, Secretary of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6, jooran@ksa.or.kr

SUBJECT: Proposed SC6 Security Ad Hoc

DATE: 17 March 2017

Dear Dr Hyun Kook Kahng & Mr Yun-Jae Won,

IEEE 802 has concerns relating to the proposed formation of a Security Ad Hoc within ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6. While IEEE 802 broadly supports the goal of improving security for SC 6-developed or approved standards, we believe that the Security Ad Hoc is not the right vehicle to accomplish that goal.

The presentation requesting the formation of the Security Ad Hoc noted that the China NB had presented detailed technical objections to the security mechanisms found in ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-1X. Those objections are summarized in 6N15613. The Switzerland NB representative at the time had some related concerns. IEEE 802 responded to those objections in 6N15658, showing that the alleged security flaws were not applicable to IEEE 802's use of the underlying security techniques and mechanisms.

IEEE 802 has requested, but not received, clarification on how our response in 6N15658, and later responses, do not adequately address the alleged security flaws detailed in 6N15613. IEEE 802 have submitted similar requests for information more than three years. Neither the China NB nor the Switzerland NB have provided additional evidence of the alleged security flaws in ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-1X or have demonstrated any security flaws. Therefore IEEE 802's response to each 60-day or FDIS ballot comment in the PSDO process that cites the alleged security flaws in ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-1X has been to decline any changes to the proposed ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 standard in question. This does not stem from any unwillingness on IEEE 802's part to modify the standards in response to properly justified comments originating from the PSDO process, but because it is impossible to address alleged security flaws for which there is no documented evidence.

IEEE 802 welcomes a substantive dialogue with SC6's security experts on these matter s and have issued several explicit invitations for SC6 NBs to participate in such discussions at IEEE 802 meetings (including one held in Beijing and, most recently, our just concluded meeting in Vancouver). With the exception of the Switzerland NB, who participated in a very productive discussion at the IEEE 802 meeting in Geneva in 2014, no other NBs have accepted our invitations. Conversely, IEEE 802 representatives have participated in such discussions at multiple SC6 meetings.

Given the China NB is the sole SC6 NB to submit comments relating to alleged security flaws in ISO/IEC/IEEE 88020‑1X, IEEE recommends the following process to meet the goal of improving security for SC 6: Have one or more representatives from the China NB attend an IEEE 802 meeting to address their concerns in person with the full range of IEEE 802.1 security experts to resolve this long lasting impasse.

To recap, while IEEE 802 supports the goals of the SC 6/WG 1 Security Ad Hoc Group proposal, it will be more productive for a China NB representative to present to IEEE 802 security experts at an IEEE 802 meeting. IEEE 802 reiterates its invitation for the China NB to attend an IEEE 802 plenary meeting, noting that IEEE 802’s July 2017 plenary meeting will be held in Berlin, Germany. This invitation includes any SC6 NB that would like to participate in or observe the discussion.

It is our sincere belief that direct dialogue will lead to resolution and we look forward to a more productive working relationship under the PSDO agreement.

Regards,

/s/ Paul Nikolich

Paul Nikolich, Chairman, IEEE 802