IEEE 802 JTC1 Standing Committee

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| Proposed response to comments on IEEE-802.11-2016 that were received during 60-day ballot  completed under the PSDO agreement with ISO | | |
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Abstract

This document contains a proposed response to comments received during the 60-day ballot

on IEEE-802.11-2016, which was completed under the PSDO agreement with ISO

## Proposed response

The 60-day ballot on IEEE 802.11-2016, which was conducted to satisfy the requirements of the PSDO agreement between ISO and IEEE-SA, closed on 16 April 2017.

The two questions in the 60-day ballot both passed (see SC6 N16607):

* *Do you support the need for an ISO International Standard on the subject?*
  + Passed by a vote of 10/0/10
* *Do you support the submission of this proposal for FDIS ballot?*
  + Passed by a vote of 9/1/10

A single negative vote and comment was received from the China NB, as follows:

*IEEE 802.11-2016 on the basis of IEEE 802.11-2012 by integrating its amendments IEEE 802.11aa, IEEE 802.11ac, IEEE 802.11ad, IEEE 802.11ae and IEEE 802.11af. China has voted against IEEE 802.11-2012 during it fast-track adoption procedure with security related technical comments in SC6 N15494, but IEEE has not made any satisfactory attempts to change Chinese negative vote. In IEEE 802.11-2016, those security-related technical problems in SC6 N15494 are still stands. So, we cannot support IEEE 802.11-2016 for FDIS ballot.*

The comment suggests that IEEE 802 has not made satisfactory attempts to resolve the issues highlighted in SC6 N15494 (October 2012). This suggestion is untrue, based on IEEE 802’s participation in a series of SC6 meetings and IEEE 802’s writing of liaison statements related to the contentious issues. SC6 N15494 documents thirteen detailed technical and editorial comments, to which IEEE 802 provided detailed responses in SC6 N15832 (Dec 2013). In that document:

* IEEE 802 rejected CN1-CN6 from SC6 N15494. These comments are all related to the China NB’s long expressed security concerns. In each case, IEEE 802 provided a detailed rebuttal.

The general assertions raised in the China NB’s comments were discussed at length in 2013 at an IEEE 802 meeting in Geneva (with IEEE 802 and Switzerland NB representatives in attendance) and in both 2013 and 2014 at SC6 meetings in Seoul and Ottawa (with IEEE 802, China NB and Switzerland NB representatives in attendance). During those meetings, IEEE 802 fully responded to all of the assertions made by both the China NB and Switzerland NB representatives and also provided additional information about the design and specification of IEEE 802 technologies.

At the SC6 meeting in Ottawa in early 2014, the China NB and Switzerland NB representatives committed to providing additional technical details to justify their concerns. No such submissions were made to the SC6 meeting in London later that year, and no technical submissions were received subsequently. There have been no technical discussions related to the China NB’s concerns since that time.

IEEE 802 has made significant efforts to resolve the China NB’s security concerns going as far back as 2004. The current situation is that the China NB has declined since 2014 to provide any additional technical details explaining or substantiating its concerns.

IEEE 802 requests the China NB to provide any relevant information as soon as possible. IEEE 802 has forwarded the China NB an open invitation to provide this information at an IEEE 802 meeting. Presentation at an IEEE 802 meeting will allow the China NB to reach the widest possible audience of experts in IEEE 802 security. It makes less sense to have this discussion in the proposed SC6 Security ad hoc because no other JTC1 NBs have expressed concerns similar to the China NB in relation to IEEE 802.11-2016.

* IEEE 802 accepted CN7 from SC6 N15494. IEEE 802.11-2016 now references IEEE 802.1X-2010 rather than IEEE 802.1X-2004
* IEEE 802 accepted CN8 from SC6 N15494 with revisions. The China NB comment did not make specific suggestions for new text, but IEEE 802.11-2016 now includes text to address the comment.
* IEEE 802 rejected CN9 from SC6 N15494, on the basis that ISO/IEC/IEEE 802-11-2012 did not need to explain the relationship to previous ISO/IEC/IEEE 802-11 versions within the standard. Regardless, it also noted that the relationship between ISO/IEC/IEEE 802-11-2012 and IEEE 802.11 (and its amendments) was explained in various liaisons from IEEE 802 to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6, as well as in ISO/IEC/IEEE 802-11-2012
* IEEE 802 rejected CN10 from SC6 N15494, on the basis the suggestion was grammatically incorrect
* IEEE 802 accepted CN11-CN13 from SC6 N15494 with revisions, and corresponding changes to capitalization were made in IEEE 802.11-2016

During the process of checking that all of the “accepted” and “revised” China NB comments had been processed correctly into IEEE 802.11-2016, it was discovered a minor editorial issue raised by the China NB in relation to IEEE 802.11ac was missed. This issue has been referred to IEEE 802.11 TGmd for resolution in the next revision of ISO/IEC/IEEE 802-11.