

IEEE 802
Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee



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To: Dr Hyun Kook Kahng, Chair of SC6
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Mr. Andrew Myles, Chair of IEEE
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SUBJECT: Proposal to hold an ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 Security Workshop

DATE: 15 July 2018

Dear Dr Hyun Kook Kahng,

As you know, in October 2017 SC6 approved the formation of an Ad-hoc Group on Security (AHGS) to identify potential security issues in standards ratified by SC6 or currently being developed by SC6. The AHGS has been operating since November 2017, using e-mail and teleconferences to undertake its work. We understand it is required to complete its activities by August 2018.

A number of IEEE 802 members have been participating in the AHGS as individual experts and have reported on progress to the IEEE 802 JTC1 Standing Committee. They have reported that there has been significant disagreements within the AHGS about the security characteristics of various ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 series standards. Unfortunately, they also report they believe it is extremely unlikely that the AHGS will come to consensus on these matters in any reasonable time using the current work methods.

IEEE 802 takes all alleged security issues in the ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 series of standards very seriously, because billions of people use these standards globally every single day. While we are not currently aware of any security problems with the ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 series of standards, our primary concern is that the participants of the AHGS were unable to come to a common understanding. If there are security issues, IEEE 802 would like to know about them. If no such issues exist then we would like all interested parties to understand why.

It is IEEE 802's experience that the best way to deal with the sorts of issues for which the AHGS has failed to achieve consensus is a face-to-face meeting. Previously, similar security related issues were discussed with some success at the SC6 face-to-face meeting in Ottawa in February 2014 (with SC6 NB experts and some IEEE 802 experts in attendance) and an IEEE 802 face-to-face meeting in Geneva in July 2013 (with a Swiss NB expert and IEEE 802 experts in attendance). IEEE 802 would like to suggest

another similar effort in an attempt to come to some sort of consensus or common understanding in relation to any security issues in any ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 series standards.

Therefore, IEEE 802 would like to invite you (as the Chair of SC6), any interested SC6 National Body experts, and indeed any other interested experts to participate in an ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 Security Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand during the week of 11-16 November 2018 (at the Marriott Marquis Queen's Park). The Workshop will be held in conjunction with the IEEE 802 Plenary meeting, probably on 13 November 2018, and so many IEEE 802 experts will be available to work with any SC6 experts with the goal of coming to a consensus on any security issues in the ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 series of standards. The location of the Workshop in Thailand should be convenient for likely interested experts from Asia. The Workshop will also provide an excellent opportunity for SC6 experts to learn more about IEEE 802 processes and activities.

We hope that SC6 can discuss and decide to accept IEEE 802's invitation during SC6's upcoming meeting in Tokyo, Japan. We expect that the IEEE 802 representatives at the SC6 meeting will be able to provide further details about the schedule, accommodation and registration for the ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802 Security Workshop at that time. We look forward to your response.

Regards,

/s/ Paul Nikolich

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