IEEE P802.11  
Wireless LANs

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| Resolution of Comments Received from China NB during 60-day ballot on IEEE 802.11aq | | | | |
| Date: 2019-02-20 | | | | |
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Abstract

IEEE 802.11aq-2018 was submitted to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 by IEEE 802 for adoption under the ISO/IEEE PSDO Agreement as 6N16663.

The 60-day ballot passed, with a negative vote and a single comment from the China NB. This submission proposes a resolution to the comment.

The IEEE 802.11 WG thanks the China NB for their comment in the 60-day ballot ballot, conducted according to the PSDO process agreed by IEEE-SA and ISO, on IEEE 802.11aq.

The China NB’s comment is:

**China NB’s comment**

*IEEE 802.11aq is the amendment 5 to IEEE 802.11-2016, which is a revision of IEEE 802.11-2012. It is an amendment based on IEEE 802.11-2016 as amended by its previous amendments. China voted against IEEE 802.11 and its amendments in the past with several technical comments (see comments for ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-11:2018/FDAmd 1 and 2, 6N16794 and 6N15494).*

*There is definitely a need for an ISO International Standard on the subject. However, IEEE 802.11aq added Clause 12.2.10 “Requirements for support of MAC privacy enhancements”, where the content of MAC layer privacy protection is realized by MAC address management. This did not resolve the problems pointed out in aforementioned documents (6N16794 etc.) regarding flawed security protocols, default using of typical cryptographic algorithms like AES (not including other compliant options), unsecure communication channel issue and so on.*

*If this proposal failed to make up the security flaws in its base standards, there will be flaws in its implementation.*

*China cannot support IEEE 802.11aq to proceed into FDIS stage because all the technical comments on its base standards should be completely solved*

**China NB’s proposed change**

None

The IEEE 802.11 Working Group would like to inform ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 that it has decided not to make any changes to IEEE 802.11aq as a result of the China NB’s comment:

* The comment does not propose any explicit changes to IEEE 802.11aq for consideration by the IEEE 802.11 Working Group.
* The comment does not document any validated issues. Rather, the comment generally highlights the same issues the China NB has asserted many times over multiple years relating to the security mechanisms specified in the IEEE 802.11 standard and its amendments. The IEEE 802.11 Working Group have addressed similar issues in previous comment responses liased to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 as part of the PSDO process. IEEE 802 experts have also participated in many discussions on similar issues over multiple years within ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6. The IEEE 802.11 Working Group continues to believe that the issues asserted in the China NB’s comments are not currently justified by any known evidence.