IEEE P802.11  
Wireless LANs

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| Resolution of Comments Received from China NB during FDIS ballot on IEEE 802.11ak | | | | |
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Abstract

IEEE 802.11ak was submitted to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 by IEEE 802 for adoption under the ISO/IEEE PSDO Agreement.

The FDIS ballot passed (N17205) on 26 June 2020, with a negative vote and one comment from the China NB This submission proposes a LS to SC6 with resolution to the comment.

The IEEE 802.11 WG thanks the China NB for their comment (which is associated with a negative vote) in the FDIS ballot on IEEE 802.11ak, conducted according to the PSDO process agreed by IEEE-SA and ISO. The following text responds to the China NB’s comment.

**China NB comment CN1**

IEEE 802.11ak is Amendment 4 to IEEE 802.11-2016. 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 technical comments (see detailed comments in 6N15494, 6N16794, 6N16982, 6N16983 etc.).

China noticed the response in 6N16907, however, the following technical concerns were not properly resolved:

Several clauses such as 6.3.7.2, 6.3.7.3, 6.3.7.4 and 6.3.8.2 state to use the flawed mechanism specified by IEEE 802.11-2016 like Robust security network association (RSNA).There is no further specifications to resolve problems pointed out in aforementioned documents (6N16794 etc.), such as flawed security protocols, only permitting to use typical cryptographic algorithms like AES (not including other compliant options that are compliant with ISO/IEC international standards), unsecure communication channel issue and so on. If this proposal failed to make up the security flaws in its base standards, there will be secure risks in its implementation.

China cannot support IEEE 802.11ak to be published as international standard, because all the technical comments on its base standards and amendments should be completely solved

**China NB proposed change CN1**

None

**IEEE 802.11 WG response to CN1**

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 802.11ak as a result of CN1:

* CN1 does not propose any explicit changes to IEEE 802.11ak for consideration by the IEEE 802.11 Working Group.
* CN1 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. 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.