IEEE P802.11  
Wireless LANs

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| PMF Clarification | | | | |
| Date: 2021-04-26 | | | | |
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Abstract

This submission proposes a resolution to CID 587.

**CID 587**

*Comment*: “Unlike ‘AP MFPR’, the value of ‘STA MFPR’ (in RSNE sent by non-AP STA) does not affect the peer (AP) behavior if STA MFPC is 1.”

*Proposed Change*: “ Clarify since it is a frequent source of confusion.”

*Discussion*: The comment is correct, the value of STA MFPR doesn’t determine proper behavior. But other behavior is still calling for clarification. The existing table 12-5 lists “No Action” as the AP action but what does that mean? Silently drop the association request? Furthermore, when the AP has MPPC=1 and MFPR=1, that will only be understood by a non-AP STA that has implemented a version of the standard that defines these bits. A non-AP STA implementing an older version would not know that it “shall not associate with the AP” and would send an “illegal” association. We can’t say “shall not” because the AP has to be able to handle such a non-AP STA and reject association.

All this stuff needs clarification. So make the STA’s action be “should not” when it has 0-0 and the AP has 1-1, the AP will reject the association which will have a Status code that the non-AP STA might not grok but it will still know association was rejected. Adding a new column for whether PMF ends up being used will help clarify the case noted in the comment.

*Resolution*:

*Instruct the editor to modify table 12-5 as indicated:*

**Table 12-5—Robust management frame selection in an infrastructure BSS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AP MFPC | AP MFPR | STA MFPC | STA MFPR | AP action | STA action | PMF used? |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The AP may accept associations from the STA | The STA may associate with the AP | No |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | The AP may accept associations from the STA | The STA may associate with the AP | No |
| 1 | 0 or 1 | 1 | 0 or 1 | The AP may accept associations from the STA | The STA may associate with the AP | Yes |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The AP shall reject associations from the STA with the Status Code ROBUST\_MANAGMENT\_  POLICY\_VIOLATION | The STA should not associate with the AP | N/A |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | N/A | The STA shall not associate with the AP | N/A |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | The AP may accept associations from the STA | The STA may associate with the AP | No |
| 0 or 1 | 0 or 1 | 0 | 1 | N/A | The STA shall not use this combination | N/A |
| 0 | 1 | 0 or 1 | 0 or 1 | The AP shall not use this combination | N/A | N/A |

**References:**