IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

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| Draft Reply LS from 802.11 to WBA regarding the WBA 5G & Wi-Fi RAN Convergence Paper |
| Date: 2021-05-17 |
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Abstract

This document contains draft text for a reply liaison statement (LS) from IEEE 802.11 to the WBA 5G Work Group in response to their LS and the information they have provided in [11-21/0170r0](https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/21/11-21-0170-00-0000-2021-jan-liaison-from-wba-re-convergence.docx).

To: Wireless Broadband Alliance (WBA): 5G Work Group
Nigel Bird, Chair, 5G Working Group ()

CC:

Subject: IEEE 802.11 Working Group Reply Liaison Statement to the WBA Liaison Statement on 5G & Wi-Fi RAN Convergence to IEEE 802.11

Date: 2021-05-17

**Discussion:**

The IEEE 802.11 Working Group (WG) thanks the Wireless Broadband Alliance (WBA) for sharing their work on 5G and Wi-Fi RAN convergence and providing the resulting white paper “5G and Wi-Fi RAN Convergence – Aligning the Industry on Opportunities and Challenges” [1]. The IEEE 802.11 WG also thanks the WBA for providing and presenting an overview of the white paper at the January 2021 IEEE 802.11 Virtual Plenary meeting [2].

In addition, IEEE 802.11 WG thanks the WBA 5G working group for highlighting potential challenges and gaps in the following key areas:

1. 5G and Wi-Fi convergence architecture (for Trusted and Untrusted WLAN access);
2. ATSSS multi-access functionality;
3. End-to-end QoS;
4. Policy Interworking and enhancements across 5G and Wi-Fi;
5. Support for Wi-Fi only devices.

The IEEE 802.11 WG agrees that these potential challenges and gaps do impact 5G and Wi-Fi RAN convergence. The IEEE 802.11 WG notes that while implementations based on IEEE Std. 802.11 may rely on features and capabilities in the specification to address these challenges and gaps the specification does not provide a standardized solution to address these challenges and gaps. This is mainly because the scope of the IEEE Std. 802.11 standard is to define one Medium access control (MAC) and several physical layer (PHY) specifications for wireless connectivity for fixed, portable, and moving stations (STAs) within a local area [3, 4]. Therefore, IEEE Std. 802.11 does not provide a scheduler, higher layer management functions, or prescribe a particular configuration for implementation. Hence, the IEEE 802.11 WG in this reply will provide discussion on existing features and capabilities that IEEE Std 802.11 does provide, that may be used by implementations to address the challenges and gaps noted in the WBA white paper.

Discussion of IEEE Std. 802.11 features and capabilities:

TBS

Sincerely,

Dorothy Stanley

IEEE 802.11 Working Group Chair

**Dates of future IEEE 802.11 WG Meetings:**

TBS

**References:**

1. [11-21/0170r0](https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/21/11-21-0170-00-0000-2021-jan-liaison-from-wba-re-convergence.docx) “2021 Jan Liaison from WBA re: Convergence”

1. [11-21/0408r0](https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/dcn/21/11-21-0408-00-0wng-wba-5g-and-wi-fi-ran-convergence-ieee-802-11-wng-session.pdf) “WBA\_5G and Wi-Fi RAN Convergence IEEE 802-11 WNG Session”
2. IEEE Std 802.11-2020 “IEEE Standard for Information Technology—Telecommunications and Information Exchange between Systems Local and Metropolitan Area Networks—Specific Requirements Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications”
3. IEEE Std 802.11ax “Draft Standard for Information technology— Telecommunications and information exchange between systems Local and metropolitan area networks—Specific requirements Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications Amendment 1: Enhancements for High Efficiency WLAN”