IEEE P802.11  
Wireless LANs

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| CID Resolutions IRM - 1 | | | | |
| Date: 2023 - July | | | | |
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Abstract

Proposed resolutions on D1.0 related to IRM scheme.

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| CID | Page | Line | Comment | Proposed | Resolution | |
| 2 | 33 | 12 | "If the AP recognizes the IRM MAC address, the IRM Status field of the IRM KDE or IRM element is set to 1 and the IRM field is reserved". Status field 0 is recognized, so change the "1" to "0" or change to "recognized" | Change" IRM element is set to 1" to "IRM element is set to "recognized"" | Looking at 11me D 3.0 , the theme appears to be "set to 1 to indicate that…".  REVISED At 33.12 Change "is set to 1" to "is set to 0 to indicate that the AP recognizes the IRM" | |
| 3 | 33 | 12 | "...and the IRM field is reserved." In device ID we used a "zero-length". Propose the same here. | Change "...and the IRM field is reserved" to "and has a zero-length IRM field? | ACCEPT | |
| 4 | 33 | 12 | "If the AP does not recognize the IRM MAC address, the IRM Status field of the IRM KDE or IRM element is set to 0 and the IRM field is reserved." Unrecogniozed is setting 1, but better to jyst set to "unrecognized". Also use "zero-length" IRM field. | Change cited text to "If the AP does not recognize the IRM MAC address, the IRM Status field of the IRM KDE or IRM element is set to "not recognized" and has a zero-length IRM field" | REVISED  At 33.12, Change cited text to "If the AP does not recognize the IRM, the IRM Status field of the IRM KDE or IRM element is set to 1 to indicate that AP does not recognize the IRM, and has a zero-length IRM field" | |
| 5 | 33 | 14 | "The non-AP STA, on receipt of an IRM Status field of value 1 may either continue to associate to the AP or disassociate." Change "value 1" to "set to "not recognized"" | Change "IRM Status field of value 1" to "IRM Status field set to "not recognized"" | REVISED  At 33.14, Change "IRM Status field of value 1" to "IRM Status field of value 1, indicating the AP has not recognized the IRM, " | |
| 6 | 34 | 26 | The IRM Status field and IRM field in the IRM KDE format have been defined in the IRM element (9.4.2.307b). be | Simplify the definition of IRM Status field and IRM field by referring to the IRM element (9.4.2.307b) | REVISED  At 34.26 Replace "The IRM Status field indicates the current status of the IRM." with "The IRM Status field is defined in 9.4.2.307b (IRM element)" and delete lines 28-52. (See also CID 37) | |
| 7 | 33 | 20 | Since the IRM is locally generated at the non-AP STAs, there are chances that two or more non-AP STAs may generate the same address. AP needs to ensure that conflicts are avoided. | Add mechanisms at AP to ensure that IRM conflicts are avoided. | Need 8,388,608 for 50% chance of collision. 375 for10^-9 chance of collision.  (see also CIDs 21, 114)  REJECT.  The chance of duplication is the same as for the random and changing MAC addresses. A mechanism may be possible but the TG feels that the chance of duplication is so low that the special case is not required to added in TGbh. | |
| 15 | 32 | 53 | Why we need IRM Status field in the IRM element and IRM KDE? How should it be used? There is no normative description of the corresponding AP and non-AP behaviour for this field. | Remove the IRM Status field in the IRM element and IRM KDE. | The argument is that the STA does not know if the AP recognized it or not. It is not clear, however, what a STA does if not recognized. If not recognized it will not get access to whatever it may expect, but conversely, if it does not get access, then it knows it was not recognized. Similarly for the AP, if not recognized it assumes it is new. Hence, although it may seem to be useful, as the comment says, nothing really that the STA or AP can do about it.  DISCUSS | |
| 17 | 31 | 20 | The Device ID Status field is useless to a non-AP STA, why an AP send this information to the non-AP STA? When it's "Recognized", the identity of the non-AP STA makes sense in the AP, but has no impact on the non-AP STA's behaviour. When it's "Not Recognized", there is no change of non-AP STA's behaviour, the difference only occurs in the AP's hehaviour, | Remove the Device ID Status field in the Device ID element and Device ID KDE. | The argument is that the STA does not know if the AP recognized it or not. It is not clear, however, what a STA does if not recognized. If not recognized it will not get access to whatever it may expect, but conversely, if it does not get access, then it knows it was not recognized. Similarly for the AP, if not recognized it assumes it is new. Hence, although it may seem to be useful, as the comment says, nothing really that the STA or AP can do about it.  DISCUSS | |
| 20 | 32 | 50 | It's not clear how IRM address the use case 4.8 in the approved use case tracking document. In use case 4.8, AP should give some indication in Becon request when the probe carrying IRM. | AP should give some indication when the probe carrying IRM to the non-AP sta in use case 4.8 | IRM could allocate 2 IRMs. First to use only in probes, the second to use only in association request. A third party listening, would not know the association MAC address by noting the MAC address used for probing. Is it worthwhile? The MAC address does not identify the STA. This was propsed but final IRM description did not include it. Easy to implement and could be optional.  DISCUSS | |
| 21 | 32 | 54 | the colision issue may happened when non-AP STA may allocate a new IRM MAC address to the AP. AP need the deauth the non-AP STA if the non-AP STA allocate a new IRM that is already allocated by another non-AP STA, and it still be valid. And the de-authentication carrying the reason code of IRM collision | add the solution to address the IRM collision issue. | (see also 7, 114)  REJECT  The chance of duplication is the same as for the random and changing MAC addresses. A mechanism may be possible but the TG feels that the chance of duplication is so low that the special case is not required to added in TGbh. | |
| 22 | 30 | 21 | IRM is the abbreviation of "identifiable random MAC address",suppose we need to remove the deplicated words"MAC address" after IRM | change "IRM MAC adress" to "IRM" | Yes IRM = Identifiable Random MCA address  REVISED  At following locations delete "MAC address": 30.21, 32.47, 32.48, 32.49, 32.54, 32.57, 32.62, 32.63, 33.1, 33.11, 33.13, 33.21, 33.26, 33.31, 33.36, 33.37. See also CIDS 25, 51, 168, 169, 193 | |
| 23 | 30 | 24 | it's not clear how Device ID and IRM used together. | give some clarification on how the two schemes used together, e.g. How the AP identify the STA when the frame sent by STA carries two identifiers. | (see also CID 135) The two schemes are independent. Could add Note at 30.25  REVISED  Add at 30.25 "NOTE: Device ID and IRM are independent schemes. The device ID is allocated by an AP, and IRM is allocated by a non-AP STA. The Device ID however may be permanent identy for that non-AP STA, while the IRM is temporary and changed every association. If associating using IRM, the non-AP STA may still provide its Device ID, if it has one. " | |
| 25 | 32 | 47 | replace "IRM MAC address" with "IRM" | as the comments, in line 47,line 48, line 49 and other place | REVISED  At following locations delete "MAC address": 30.21, 32.47, 32.48, 32.49, 32.54, 32.57, 32.62, 32.63, 33.1, 33.11, 33.13, 33.21, 33.26, 33.31, 33.36, 33.37. | |
| 28 | 33 | 36 | The second sentence in Note3 is same meaning to NOTE1, suggest delete the dupliccated sentence. | delete the second sentence in NOTE 3. | ACCEPT | |
| 37 | 34 | 26 | In order to avoid duplicate sepc text make a reference to 9.5.2.307b (IRM element) similar to the previous Device ID Status field | Please replace "The IRM Status field indicates the current status of the IRM." with "The IRM Status field is defined in 9.4.2.307b (IRM element)" and delete lines 28-52. | ACCEPT  (see also CID 6, 208) | |
| 38 | 36 | 48 | Incorrect reference | Please replace "Figure 9.4.2.307b" with "9.4.2.307b (IRM element)" | ACCEPT | |
| 49 | 30 | 8 | This subclause needs to 1) describe the problem the mechanisms are addressing. 2) introduce the mechanisms. Improvements to the current text to achieve these goals are provided. Some specific problems with the text are as follows: The "user" in the second sentence is ambiguous. Is this the person using the device that contains the non-AP STA or is this the network operator? The description in the second paragraph applies to both mechanisms, however, since it is using "device ID" it appears intended for only one of the mechanisms. There seems to be a distinction that "device ID" is purely used with association while "IRM" is used with association and PASN authentication (which is contradicted later in the detailed description). | For all but the first sentence, replace with the following:  This presents a problem for the network in that it is unable to identify a non-AP STA that previously associated and is not able to apply cached information from that previous association to the current association. The two mechanisms defined in 12.2.11 alleviate this problem."  The first mechanism, referred to as the device ID mechanism, has the AP provide an identifier to the non-AP STA during association or PASN authentication that the non-AP STA can then report back to the AP during a future association or PASN authentication. The second mechanism, referred to as the IRM mechanism, has the non-AP STA provide a random MAC address (different from the address it is using) to the AP during association or PASN authentication and then use that MAC address for the next association or PASN authentication.  The two mechanisms are not mutual exclusive and may be used simultaneously. | Looks good but I am sure will be subject to wordsmithing.  **See end of document** | |
| 51 |  |  | The term IRM is being used to refer to the mechanism and the identifier. Also, the acronym is sometimes used as a prefix for MAC address, which is already present in the acronym (IRM MAC address == identifiable random MAC address MAC address). See 33.37, 33.25, 33.21, 33.11. | Choose a term for the mechanism (e.g., IRM mechanism or IRM operation) and a separate term for the identifier (e.g., IRM -- no "MAC address") | REVISED  At following locations delete "MAC address": 30.21, 32.47, 32.48, 32.49, 32.54, 32.57, 32.62, 32.63, 33.1, 33.11, 33.13, 33.21, 33.26, 33.31, 33.36, 33.37. | |
| 57 | 32 | 47 | The term 'provide' is misleading, it seems to indicate that the STA gives to the AP the MAC that the AP is expected to use. | Replace with "Each time the non-AP STA associates with an AP/ESS, it shares the value of t new IRM MAC address with the AP/ESS, during the RSN association". | ACCEPT | |
| 58 | 32 | 54 | The term 'allocate' is confusing, it seems to indicates that the intention is for the AP to use that MAC as its own, or that the STA will see the AP with that MAC address. | Replace with "the non-AP STA may indicate to the AP the value of a new IRM MAC address" | ACCEPT | |
| 59 | 32 | 57 | The term 'allocate' is confusing, it seems to indicates that the intention is for the AP to use that MAC as its own, or that the STA will see the AP with that MAC address. | Replace with "the non-AP STA may indicate to the AP the value of a new IRM MAC address" | ACCEPT | |
| 60 | 33 | 26 | The term 'allocated' is confusing, it seems to indicates that the intention is for the AP to use that MAC as its own, or that the STA will see the AP with that MAC address. | Replace with "... as the TA to the AP with which that IRM MAC was previously shared" | ACCEPT | |
| 61 | 33 | 29 | The term 'allocated' is confusing, it seems to indicates that the intention is for the AP to use that MAC as its own, or that the STA will see the AP with that MAC address. | Replace with "...for an AP or ESS with which that IRM MAC address was previously shared" | ACCEPT | |
| 62 | 33 | 31 | The term 'allocated' is confusing, it seems to indicates that the intention is for the AP to use that MAC as its own, or that the STA will see the AP with that MAC address. | Replace with "a non-AP STA that has previously shared an IRM MAC address with an AP/ESS may use that address..." | ACCEPT | |
| 64 | 32 | 49 | To make the mechanism useful, it is better to recommended that the MAC address be used in the next association, rather than making it optional. If there is a compelling reason not to do so, then the non-AP STA can still use a different address. But the expectation needs to be that you send the future address and then use it. | "may" -> "should" | Probably agree. The only point was that a STA may, for some reason, choose to associate not using the previous supplied IRM. ACCEPT | |
| 65 | 33 | 4 | This should not be a note (informative); it should be normative and a recommendation. Also, it might not be necessary to generate a new MAC address with each association, especially if they occur within a short time from each other. | Replace the note with a normative statement:  Because the MAC address is exposed to third parties during and post association, the non-AP STA should generate a new MAC address either periodically or with each association. | Possibly agree but needs discussion.  Leave as Note or make text?  Recommend  ACCEPT | |
| 66 | 32 | 60 | This statement is a repeat of ones at 28.20 and 34.28 and unnecessary | Delete the statement. | True,  Inclined to  ACCEPT | |
| 68 | 33 | 8 | This needs to be a conditional statement (if this and this then this). | Change to "If a non-AP STA indicates support for the IRM mechanism in a (Re-)Association Request frame and the AP indicates support for the IRM mechanism in the corresponding (Re-)Association Response frame, then the AP shall include an IRM KDE in message 3 of the 4-way handshake, or, if using FILS authentication, in the Association Response frame. | Presently  When a non-AP STA that advertises support for IRM associates to an AP that advertises support for IRM, the  AP shall include an IRM KDE in message 3 of the 4-way handshake or, when using FILS authentication,  including an IRM element in the Association Response frame.  ACCEPT | |
| 68 | 32 | 62 | It is not necessary to state this; it is implied by the statements for OTA operation. This is essentially a statement about implementation. | Delete the statement that begins: "The non-AP STA should store..." | Text is The non-AP STA should store the newly allocated IRM MAC address as an identifier for use with that AP/ESS  and the AP/ESS should store that IRM MAC address as an identifier for that non-AP STA  Not sure. Inclined to REJECT The idea to to make sure that the AP must remember the IRM list. Is it obvious - maybe, but no harm done.  Alternative is to make it a NOTE? | |
| 69 | 33 | 21 | Inappropriate reference: 12.2.10 does not describe how a MAC address is constructed from the locally administered address space. Since this paragraph is essentially repeating information in 12.2.10 make a statement about conformance to 12.2.10 instead. | A non-AP STA that uses the IRM mechanism also supports the requirements for MAC privacy enhancement defined in 12.2.10. It might also be better to move this statement earlier in this section. | Text is An IRM MAC address is a 48-bit address that is constructed from the locally administered address space (see  12.2.10).  Needs discussion | |
| 70 | 17 | 9 | The term "identifiable random MAC address" does not accurately describe its purpose. It is generated randomly, but there is nothing inherently identifiable about it. It would be better to describe it as an address for future use. | Use a term that better describes the purpose. For example, "Future MAC address (FMA)" | Inclined to REJECT  It is random, and it is identifiable cos the AP was given it in advance. Could use MAAD "MAC Address Designation" if preferred?  Not a fan of FMA | |
| 81 | 32 | 56 | The sentence says "..., including the IRM element in the Association Response frame." Should it be Association Request? | Change Association Response to Association Request. | ACCEPT | |
| 114 | 32 | 37 | IRM is a (non-AP) STA-generated identifier. There is a possibility that more than one non-AP STA(s) can choose the same IRM, leading to "ID collision". The non-AP STA should know when ID collision happens so that it can choose another IRM. | Add a mechanism for IRM to inform non-AP STA about the "ID collision" | (see also 7, 21) REJECT.  The chance of duplication is the same as for the random and changing MAC addresses. A mechanism may be possible but the TG feels that the chance of duplication is so low that the special case is not required to added in TGbh. | |
| 128 | 32 | 37 | IRM as defined in this clause, appears to repeat exisiting non-AP STA behaviour that was introduced by 802.11aq. A non-AP STA can already allocate a new MAC address every time it wishes to (re)associate, so I don't see what is new here. Furthermore, the exisiting behaviour is reinforced by NOTE 3 (P33L35). | Remove clause 12.2.11.2. | REJECT  No it does not repeat 11aq. The non-AP STA provides a new MAC Address (IRM) **in advance.** It is new. | |
| 135 | 30 | 24 | It is not clear how IRM and Device ID can be used together. Is it possible that STA sometimes uses Device ID and other times uses IRM?  What if the IRM and Device ID match to different devices? | Remove possibility to use IRM and Device ID at the same time, or specify all the details related to simultaneous use of these protocols. | (see CID 23) The two schemes are independent  REVISED  at 30.25 add "NOTE: Device ID and IRM are independent schemes. The device ID is allocated by an AP, and IRM is allocated by a non-AP STA. The Device ID however may be permanent identy for that non-AP STA, while the IRM is temporary and changed every association. If associating using IRM, the non-AP STA may still provide its Device ID, if it has one. " | |
| 137 | 28 | 43 | IRM currently defines only one MAC address for a STA. The use of authentication MAC addresses could help and relax STA associations with the network. | Please allow IRM to configure multiple addresses for the STA. | **Needs discussion**. IRM can easily allocate more than one MAC address. Address 1 used ONLY for probes, and address 2 used ONLY for associaition.  Does add another level of privacy but increases length of the KDE. | |
| 140 | 30 | 21 | Please clarify the random generation procedure of the IRM MAC addresses such that a returning non-AP STA cannot be identified by a third party from the TA it is using. | Indicate how the IRM MAC addresses are generated | Do we need more than at 30.19? And 33.22? Maybe at 32.33 "A non-AP STA should generate the IRM MAC addresses on a random basis", become a "shall"? Could add "random" in a few more places to be very clear.  Either REVISED At 32.47 change "new IRM", to "new random IRM" ?  Or REJECT  30.19 and 33.22 both refer to random generation. | |
| 148 | 33 | 11 | AP's behavior is unclear a little. "If the AP recognizes the IRM MAC address, ..." what is the IRM to be recognized should be described. Is it the IRM used as the TA? | Propose to change "If the AP recognizes the IRM MAC address, " to "If the AP recognizes the IRM used as the TA in the received frame(s) from the non-AP STA, ..." | REVISED  The previous sentence makes it clear where the IRM is i.e., in the IRM KDE in msg 3 of 4-way HS.  At 33.11 Change to “If the AP recognises the IRM MAC address” to “If the AP recognises the IRM in the IRM KDE,” | |
| 149 | 33 | 12 | According to description on clause 9, the IRM Status field is set to 0 to indicate "recognized". | Replace "1" with "0" at P33L12, "0" with "1" at P33L13. | Yes, comment is correct. See CIDs 2, 3,4  REVISED At 33.12 Change "is set to 1" to "is set to 0 to indicate that the AP recognizes the IRM"  At 33.12, Change to "If the AP does not recognize the IRM, the IRM Status field of the IRM KDE or IRM element is set to 1 to indicate that AP does not recognize the IRM, and has a zero-length IRM field" | |
| 164 | 28 | 41 | "The IRM field is a 48 bit MAC address" -- figure already shows it's 48 bits | Delete "48 bit". Also at 34.49. Also delete "48-bit" at 33.20. Change a to an where necessary | ACCEPT | |
| 168 |  |  | "IRM" already stands for identifiable random MAC address so "IRM MAC address" is pleonastic | Delete " MAC address" after "IRM" (~19x) | REVISED  At following locations delete "MAC address": 30.21, 32.47, 32.48, 32.49, 32.54, 32.57, 32.62, 32.63, 33.1, 33.11, 33.13, 33.21, 33.26, 33.31, 33.36, 33.37. | |
| 169 | 19 | 19 | "IRM" is a noun abbreviation | Change to "When using an IRM..." Similarly at line 24 ... and in many other places | REVISED  At following locations delete "MAC address": 30.21, 32.47, 32.48, 32.49, 32.54, 32.57, 32.62, 32.63, 33.1, 33.11, 33.13, 33.21, 33.26, 33.31, 33.36, 33.37. | |
| 193 | 32 | 53 | "may allocate a new IRM MAC address to the AP" -- I don't think the address is allocated to the AP | Change to "may allocate a new IRM for use with the AP". Ditto next sentence. Ditto at 33.25 | REVISED  At following locations delete "MAC address": 30.21, 32.47, 32.48, 32.49, 32.54, 32.57, 32.62, 32.63, 33.1, 33.11, 33.13, 33.21, 33.26, 33.31, 33.36, 33.37. | |
| 196 | 33 | 8 | "When a non-AP STA that advertises support for IRM associates to an AP that advertises support for IRM, the AP shall include an IRM KDE in message 3 of the 4-way handshake or, when using FILS authentication, including an IRM element in the Association Response frame. " -- already stated a few lines above | Delete | ACCEPT | |
| 197 | 33 | 12 | "the IRM Status field of the IRM KDE or IRM element is set to 1" not clear | Change to "... is set to indicate <whatever>". Ditto below | See 2,3,4, 149  REVISED At 33.12 Change "is set to 1" to "is set to 0 to indicate that the AP recognizes the IRM"  At 33.12, Change to "If the AP does not recognize the IRM, the IRM Status field of the IRM KDE or IRM element is set to 1 to indicate that AP does not recognize the IRM, and has a zero-length IRM field" | |
| 198 | 33 | 12 | "and the IRM field is reserved." already stated in C9 | Delete. Also at line 14 | ACCEPT | |
| 207 | 34 | 25 | This is the exact same IRM Status field as in C9, no? | Just refer to that, as for the Device ID Status field above | REVISED  Replace "The IRM Status field indicates the current status of the IRM." with "The IRM Status field is defined in 9.4.2.307b (IRM element)" and delete lines 28-52. (See also CID 37) | |
| 208 | 34 | 64 | "IRM KDE is a KDE containing IRM MAC addresses." -- it can only contain one | Change to "IRM KDE is a KDE containing an IRM." | ACCEPT | |
| 214 | 35 | 29 | The IRM KDE can't be mandatory | Change "{IRM KDE}" to "{} or {IRM KDE}" | ACCEPT | |
| 224 | 19 | 29 | Both IRM and Device ID can be used simultaneously, what happens if each of them identifies a different STA? | This applies to all the document. Need to clarify what happens when there is a collision | REJECT  Device ID and IRM are Independent. IRM does not identify the STA, just tells AP “I’ve been hhere before”. Conversely Device ID can be a permanent/real identity. No link between them so not easy to define what a "collision" is. See CIDs 23 and 135 where NOTE is added about using both Device ID and IRM | |
| 240 | 18 | 18 | The general description is awkwardly phrased and hard to parse. | Change: "Such a STA, when reconnecting to a network, can exchange a device ID that allows the network to recognize the device and/or use a MAC address that it previously provided to the network, but protects the information from third parties." To: "Such a STA, may provide a device ID when (re)connecting to a network and/or use a MAC address known to the network (an IRM) that to allows the network to recognize the device, while continuing to mitigate the abilities of third parties to do traffic analysis." | | Somewhere there is also alternative text.  Inclined to  ACCEPT  But probably needs word-smithing  See end of Document | |
| 294 | 28 | 33 | The description is unlear. | Suggest to modify this sentence as follows: "...Indicates the IRM has been recognized by the AP.." "...Indicates the IRM has not been recognized by the AP.." | REJECT  Comment is correct, but  Table is correct, 0 = recognized, 1 = not recognized. Text has it wrong, See CIDs 2,3,4 where the text is corrected. | |

**CID 49 (reprinted here to aid word-smithing**

To mitigate tracking and traffic analysis, a non-AP STA may randomly change its MAC address (see 4.5.4.10 (MAC privacy enhancements)). For some services, however, it may be desired by the user that the non-AP STA is identified by an AP and network services.

An AP may provide a device ID to a non-AP STA to allow any AP in the AP’s ESS to recognize the non-AP STA when it returns to that ESS even if the non-AP STA changes its MAC address. The non-AP STA may provide that device ID to any AP in the same ESS upon a new association. Exchanges of the device ID are protected from third parties.

When using IRM, a non-AP STA may provide a random MAC address to an AP either when it associates or when it performs PASN authentication. The non-AP STA may then use that IRM MAC address as its TA when it returns to the ESS or AP such that the non-AP STA may be identified pre-association.

Device ID and IRM may be used together.

**For all but the first sentence, replace with the following:**  
  
This presents a problem for the network in that it is unable to identify a non-AP STA that previously associated and is not able to apply cached information from that previous association to the current association. The two mechanisms defined in 12.2.11 alleviate this problem."  
  
The first mechanism, referred to as the device ID mechanism, has the AP provide an identifier to the non-AP STA during association or PASN authentication that the non-AP STA can then report back to the AP during a future association or PASN authentication. The second mechanism, referred to as the IRM mechanism, has the non-AP STA provide a random MAC address (different from the address it is using) to the AP during association or PASN authentication and then use that MAC address for the next association or PASN authentication.  
  
The two mechanisms are not mutual exclusive and may be used simultaneously.

**CID 240**

Change: "Such a STA, when reconnecting to a network, can exchange a device ID that allows the network to recognize the device and/or use a MAC address that it previously provided to the network, but protects the information from third parties."

To: "Such a STA, may provide a device ID when (re)connecting to a network and/or use a MAC address known to the network (an IRM) that to allows the network to recognize the device, while continuing to mitigate the abilities of third parties to do traffic analysis."