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**Re:** Response to IEEE 802.15.6 call for proposals

**Abstract:** This presentation illustrates the major MAC aspects of a joint MAC and security proposal detailed in an accompanying normative text document doc. IEEE 802.15-09-0327-01-0006.

Purpose: To submit a joint proposal on MAC and security to the IEEE 802.15.6 task group

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# MedWiN MAC and Security Proposal

#### Part 1 of 2 – MAC Sublayer

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# Outline

- Network topology
- Scalable access mechanisms
  - Time partitioning and beacon transmission
  - Addresses and IDs
  - Scheduled access (one-periodic & multi-periodic allocations)
  - Improvised access (polls & posts)
  - Random access (CSMA/CA contention)
- Joining a Body Area Network
- Reliability and QoS
  - Acknowledgement policies
  - Urgent alarm access (<1 sec)
- Interference and Coexistence
- Power efficiency
- Implementation estimates
- Summary

# Centralized, Star Network Topology

- Enable Medical Body Area Network (BAN) applications
- Support simple, effective access methods
- Reduce network management overhead & power consumption
- Simplify creation of a secure network



### Time Partitioning and Beacon Transmission

- Beacon period
  - Hub transmits beacon every period
  - Length = 4N allocation slots, N determined by hub
  - Maximum 4N = 256 allocation slots
- Allocation slot
  - Slot length determined by hub
  - Slot length 1 to 256 msec
  - Time units for access intervals
- Allocation interval
  - Consecutive allocation slots ( $\geq 1$  slot)
  - Interval length determined by hub or negotiated with node



#### Addresses and IDs

- Every device assigned 48 bit address at manufacture
  - Uniquely identifies each node and hub
  - Exchanged in management frames to unambiguously identify connecting devices
- Abbreviated addresses Identifier exchanged in MAC header of all frames
  - Hub uses lowest 16 of 48 bit address as its HID
    - $2^{16} = 65,536$  HIDs sufficient for hospital environment
  - Node assigned its 8 bit NID by hub at connection
  - MAC header requires only 7 bytes



# Medical Body Area Network Access

- Medical application requirements
  - Continuous patient monitoring needs periodic, deterministic access for bounded latency and loss
  - Home and other environments need infrequent, robust access for episodic data traffic
  - Sensor node type, quantity change over time for a patient
- Access mechanisms supported
  - Scheduled access (1-periodic, m-periodic allocations)
  - Improvised access (polls & posts)
  - Random access (CSMA/CA contention)

### Scheduled Access

#### **Enables continuous and periodic medical patient monitoring**

- Mandatory for hub, optional for node
- Node or hub obtains one or more recurring allocation intervals to initiate frame transactions
  - 1-periodic: allocation interval in every beacon period
  - m-periodic: allocation interval every multiple beacon periods
  - Single allocation interval may be shared among several m-periodic nodes
  - Allocation interval includes acknowledgements
- Scheduled access enables periodic
  - Hub to node downlink traffic
  - Node to hub uplink traffic
- Requested by node's Connection Request frame
- Granted via hub's Connection Assignment frame

### Scheduled Access (2)

B = beacon BP = beacon period

A1 = 1-periodic allocation interval of node 1 T1 = interval start of A1 relative to beacon transmission time



(a) 1-periodic allocation of node 1





#### (b) m-periodic allocation of node 2

# Improvised Access

# **Enables impromptu exchange for medical alarms, variable data quantities, configuration and network construction**

- Improvised access yields allocation interval for a single beacon period
  - Short-distance: improvised allocation immediately following
  - Long-distance: improvised allocation later in the beacon period
    - Allows node to sleep and save power within beacon period
- Hub with data for a node
  - Essential for network management
  - Informs node of pending Post via Acknowledgement frame
  - Post: hub to node (Mandatory for hub and node)
- Node needs bandwidth beyond its scheduled allocation
  - Requests Poll with More Data bit in MAC header frame control field
  - If short-distance: Acknowledgement + Poll sent to allow node to continue
  - If long-distance: Poll frame sent by hub to indicate start of improvised interval
  - Poll: node to hub (Optional for hub and node)

### Improvised Access (2)



**Example Polls and Polled Allocations** 

### Improvised Access (3)

B = beacon Post = post to node 1 N1 = node 1 N2 = node 2



**Example Posts and Posted Allocations** 

# Improvised Access (4)

#### Frames and fields sent by a hub enabling polls and posts

	Short distance	Long distance
Poll	Poll, I-Ack+Poll, or B-Ack+Poll frame, with More Data = 0, Sequence Number = A, Fragment Number = Reserved :	Poll, I-Ack+Poll, or B-Ack+Poll frame, with More Data = 1, Sequence Number = $A$ , Fragment Number = $B$ :
	A polled allocation starts TIFS after the end of the current frame, and ends at the end of allocation slot <i>A</i> located in the current beacon period.	No polled allocation follows this frame, but another poll starts at the start of allocation slot $A$ located in the current beacon period if $B = 0$ or in the next Bth beacon period if $B > 0$ .
Post	Non-beacon management or data type frame, with More Data = 1 : A post starts TIFS after the end of the current frame transaction. A poll providing another poll but not a polled allocation may be considered a post.	I-Ack or B-Ack frame, with More Data = 1, Sequence Number = $A$ , Fragment Number = $B$ : A post starts at the start of allocation slot $A$ located in the current beacon period if $B = 0$ or in the next Bth beacon period if $B > 0$ .

### Random Access

**Enables episodic medical applications like home and fitness monitoring, medical alerts and alarms** 

- Hub's beacon advertises two random access phases within the beacon period
  - First phase immediately after beacon (RAP1)
  - Second phase at half beacon interval (RAP2)
  - Width of random access phases specified by RAP1 and RAP2  $\ge 0$  slots
- Mandatory for hub
  - Hub has to listen only, does not need to perform CSMA/CA
  - RAP1 and RAP2 can be set to zero, effectively disabling Random Access
- Random access support is optional for node

# Random Access (2)

- Random Access based on CSMA/CA
  - If enabled (RAP > zero), minimum value of RAP1 provided via Connection Assignment
    - RAP1 can be larger, but no smaller than L
    - RAP2 can be any size including zero
  - Hub can vary width of RAP1 and RAP2 across beacon periods





Random access phases (RAPs)

# Random Access (3)

- A node sets a back-off counter to a random integer in [1, CW], with CWmin ≤ CW ≤ CWmax, to obtain a contended allocation for one or more frame transactions.
- Alternative doubling of contention window with every other failure; redraw back-off on each failure





#### **Random access by node 1 to obtain a contended allocation**

# Joining a Body Area Network

- Node to join a network
  - Node must scan to find a Hub's beacon frame or Unconnected poll frame
  - Node can leverage Random Access or Improvised Access to join
- Node joins via secure or unsecure access mechanisms
  - Association: identify node and hub to each other, establish or activate a master key
  - Connection: relationship between node and hub in the same subnet, substantiated by a Connected\_NID assigned to the node by the hub, and by a power management profile and an access allocation contract negotiated between the node and the hub.



#### (a) Secured Communication



### (b) Unsecured Communication

#### **Access State Diagram**

# Joining a Body Area Network (2)

- Node to join a network using Improvised Access
  - Hub provides unconnected poll allocations to Unconnected Broadcast NIDs
  - Node selects an Unconnected NID and sends its first frame to hub in the improvised poll allocation
    - If successful, hub assigns the node a new NID and new, unicast, improvised polls until Connection Request frame received
    - If no acknowledgement from hub, node retries in subsequent unconnected poll allocations with probability = min(1/4, 1-R/4), R = retry number
- Node to join a network using Random Access
  - Node scans for hub's beacon frame
  - Node supports CSMA/CA and hub advertises RAP1 or RAP2 > 0
  - Node contends for access for its first frame to hub using an Unconnected NID
  - If successful, hub assigns the node a NID and new, unicast, improvised polls until Connection Request frame received

# Joining a Body Area Network (3)

- Hub configuration
  - Determines slot availability for Association and Connection frames
  - Contributes to node scan time given channel hopping, beacons interval and use of Unconnected broadcast Polls
- Illustrative examples of frames exchanged to join a network
  - Case 1: 863 870 MHz band with 125 ksps symbol rate, 64.5 kbps PHY header information rate and 101.2 kbps data information rate
  - Case 2: 2360 2483.5 MHz band with 631.58 ksps symbol rate, 81.5 kbps PHY header information rate and 1022.6 kbps data information rate
  - Transfer time/Frame = (8\*MAC Octets/Info Rate) + (16 bits/Header Info Rate) + (72 bits/Symbol Rate)
  - Excludes time to perform key computations

Join Mode	Frames Required	MAC octets	Transfer Time Case 1	Transfer Time Case 2
Unsecured	Connection Request* + I-ACK	48 + 9	10.72 maga	0.07 maga
Connection	Connection Assignment* + I-ACK	40 + 9	10.75 msec	2.07 msec
	3 (Master Key Association + I-ACK)	3 (103 + 9)		9.86 msec
Secured	3 (PTK Creation + I-ACK)	3 (47 + 9)	62.67 maga	
Association & Connection	Connection Request* + I-ACK	56 + 9	62.67 msec	
	Connection Assignment* + I-ACK	48 + 9		

\* Assumes 1 uplink and 1 downlink scheduled allocation for node

# Reliability and Quality of Service

- Reliable communications is essential for streaming and episodic medical data exchange given bounded data loss and latency requirements
- Acknowledgement policies support application reliability and latency
  - Immediate Acknowledgement (I-Ack) of preceding frame
  - Block Acknowledgement (B-Ack) of multiple, preceding frames allows for selective retransmission when burst of frames is sent
  - Either Ack message may include Poll allocation grant for the node
- Urgent alarm access (<1 sec) possible via two access methods
  - Improvised access permits conveyance of data outside of scheduled allocations to satisfy latency constraints
    - Node may send data and alarms
    - Hub may send configuration or response to a node
  - Random access with Quality of Service prioritization

# Acknowledgment Policy



Included in Frame Control field of MAC header

#### Table — Acknowledgment (Ack) Policy field encoding

Field value b6 b7	Acknowledgment requirement
00	No acknowledgment (N-Ack)
10	Immediate acknowledgment (I-Ack)
11	Block acknowledgment later (L-Ack)
01	Block acknowledgment (B-Ack)



#### **Transmissions in uplink and downlink allocation intervals**

#### Random Access – Prioritization

Priority	User Priority	Traffic designation	CWmin	CWmax
Lowest	0	t.b.d.	16	64
	1	t.b.d.	16	32
	2	t.b.d.	8	32
	3	t.b.d.	8	16
	4	t.b.d.	4	16
	5	t.b.d.	4	8
•	6	t.b.d.	2	8
Highest	7	Emergency message	1	4

#### **CWmin and CWmax values**

# Coexistence and Interference Mitigation

Medical use cases involve many collocated patients, each with their own BAN, and other radio services. Medical BANs require effective coexistence and interference mitigation.

- Coexistence among uncoordinated BANs
  - Collocated BANs do not synchronize amongst each other or via an infrastructure
  - Channel hopping and beacon shifting are mandatory for hub and node
- Channel Hopping of each BAN enables frequency diversity
  - Random frequency hopping, uniformly across available channels
  - Minimum frequency separation based on channel coherence bandwidth
- Beacon Shifting of each BAN in time domain enables temporal diversity
  - Dithering of beacon message transmission among 4 quarters of beacon period
  - Cyclical shift of activity within the beacon period

# Coexistence and Interference Mitigation (2)

- Channel Hopping of each BAN enables frequency diversity
  - Hub generates channel hop sequence using linear feedback shift register (LFSR)
    - Least significant 16 bits of hub MAC address used to initialize LFSR
    - Beacon messages contain LFSR status and indication of imminent change
  - LFSR mapped to channel ensuring equal probability selection and minimum frequency separation
  - Hub dwells on current channel for fixed number of beacon periods
  - Connection Assignment contains dwell length and phase
  - Can be disabled for single frequency channel operation



#### **16-bit Galois LFSR for channel hopping sequence generation**

### Coexistence and Interference Mitigation (3)

- Beacon Shifting of each BAN in time domain
  - Hub selects a PN sequence  $PN_m(n)$  to shift its beacon transmission time across beacon periods
  - A hub may choose  $PN_0(n) = 0$  to transmit its beacon period start
  - Beacon message contains shifting sequence index and phase for the next period
  - Use of quarter beacon period fixed offsets simplifies implementation



#### Beacon transmission with shifting sequence $PN_5(n) = 0, 2, 1, 3$

# Coexistence and Interference Mitigation (4)

Bn = beacon transmitted by subnet of node n BP = beacon period An = 1-periodic allocation interval of node n Tn = interval start of An relative to beacon transmission time Tn = Tn-1 + Tn-2



(a) Subnet of node 1:  $PN_0(n) = 0, 0, 0, 0, ...$ ; subnet of node 2:  $PN_0(n) = 0, 0, 0, 0, ...$ 



(b) Subnet of node 1:  $PN_5(n) = 0, 2, 1, 3, ...$ ; subnet of node 2:  $PN_5(n-1) = 3, 0, 2, 1, ...$ 

#### **Beacon shifting to mitigate interference between BANs**

 $0 \le n_c \le 9$ 

 $n_c + 3 \quad 10 \le n_c \le 11$  $n_c + 4 \quad 12 \le n_c \le 13$ 

# Coexistence and Interference Mitigation (5)

#### Support for 10 BANs in 6 by 6 by 6 meter volume

• Proposed PHY affords at least 10 channels in each frequency band

Frequency Band (MHz)	Relationship between $f_c$ and $n_c$	
2400 - 2483.5	$f_c = 2402.00 + 1.00 \times n_c$ (MHz), $n_c = 0,, 78$	
2360 - 2400	$f_c = 2362.00 + 1.00 \times n_c$ (MHz), $n_c = 0,, 37$	
402 - 405	$f_c = 402.15 + 0.30 \times n_c$ (MHz), $n_c = 0,, 9$	$g(n_c$
902 - 928	$f_c = 903.50 + 0.50 \times n_c$ (MHz), $n_c = 0,, 47$	
950 – 956	$f_c = 951.10 + 0.40 \times n_c$ (MHz), $n_c = 0,, 11$	
863 - 870	$f_c = 865.60 + 0.20 \times g(n_c)$ (MHz), $n_c = 0,, 14$	

- Channel hopping distributes probability of collision across channels
- Beacon shifting distributes probability of temporal collisions across a BAN's nodes
- Acknowledgements and improvised access provide for retransmission due to collisions as well as channel impairments
- Maximum BAN deployment density supported by dedicated frequency spectrum with sufficient bandwidth for channelization and retransmissions when needed (*proposed 2360-2400 MHz band for USA*)

# Enabling MedRadio / MICS

#### **Proposal provides tools to enable MedRadio applications**

- Star topology suitable for implant to programmer permitted communications
  - Channelization plan based on 300 kHz bandwidth
- Frequency monitoring per FCC 95.628
  - Utilize MedWiN's proposed PHY energy detection and clear channel assessment
  - Disable channel hopping for single channel operation
- Simple, exemplary scenarios leveraging proposed access methods
  - Monitoring of MedRadio device within 402-405 MHz
    - Hub performs frequency monitoring (PHY ED, CCA), selects primary channel, disables channel hopping and defines an appropriate beacon period and slots
    - Hub transmits beacon message and Unconnected Polls for unconnected NIDs.
    - Node joins BAN, exchanges data and disconnects, ending the MedRadio communication session
  - Event alert from MedRadio device
    - FCC 95.1209(b) permits implants to transmit given medical implant event absent programmer.
    - Node joins hub as previous example, ends MedRadio communication session then sleeps
    - Hub monitors the previous channel for a future event, leveraging random access phase to avoid inefficient messages over the air

### Power Management

#### Medical applications require power efficiency for battery operated devices

- Hibernation—macroscopic power management
  - Across beacon periods
    - Synchronization interval (SI<sub>n</sub>) determined by system parameters and beacon's allocation slot length
    - Minimum allocation slot length (1msec),  $SI_n = 1.5$  seconds
    - Maximum allocation slot length (256 msec),  $SI_n = 639$  seconds
  - Node negotiates its wakeup interval with a hub through Connection Request
  - Independent of whether scheduled allocation is desired by node
- Sleep—microscopic power management
  - Within beacon period
  - A node may trade power for access by supporting polls and posts
  - Hub and nodes may sleep outside their scheduled, posted, and polled allocations, all of which have their time known to the nodes in advance

### Power Management (2)



#### **Example: Sleep for a node engaged in scheduled, post and poll allocations**

# Complexity

- Solution size would support digital band-aids, medical devices, etc.
  - Solution will be built using a standard CMOS technology
  - Die size estimates
    - Assumption: Hub supporting 16 nodes
    - Memory implemented as registers
- MAC clock
  - Accuracy of 20 ppm, Resolution of 10 usec
  - Two crystal option allows lower power Hibernation
- Power consumption estimates (minimum implementation)
  - Assumptions: Analog = 1 V, Digital = 0.7 V and 1 V

Device	@ 125 kbps	@ 1 Mbps	Standby	Hibernate (radio XTAL)	Hibernate (32 kHz watch XTAL)
Node	35 uW	280 uW	50 uW	50 uW	< 5 uW
Hub	70 uW	320 uW	50 uW	50 uW	< 5 uW

Device	Gate Count (kgates)
Hub minimum	80
Hub maximum	160
Node minimum	40
Node maximum	120

# Enabling Low Power Operation

#### Illustrative example: Continuous monitoring of patient parameter, moderate data rate sensor node

- Assumed BAN configuration:
  - Beacon period = 80 msec with 40 allocation slots, each of 2 msec width
  - Beacon uses one allocation slot, Node uses one slot for scheduled uplink (1-periodic)
  - Operation at 1 Mbps within 2360-2483.5 MHz band affords 25,000 bps (raw)
  - Node receives for 2 msec, transmits for 2 msec sleeps 76 msec each beacon period
- Average power estimated as:

```
P_{Avg Node} = (T_{sleep}/T_{beacon period}) * (P_{MAC Standby} + P_{PHY Standby}) + (T_{transmit}/T_{beacon period}) * (P_{MAC Active} + P_{PHY Tx}) + (T_{receive}/T_{beacon period}) * (P_{MAC Active} + P_{PHY Rcv}) = (76 \text{ msec} / 80 \text{ msec}) * (50 \text{ uW} + 50 \text{ uW}) + (2 \text{ msec} / 80 \text{ msec}) * (280 \text{ uW} + 2.9 \text{ mW}) + (2 \text{ msec} / 80 \text{ msec}) * (280 \text{ uW} + 3.1 \text{ mW}) = (0.95) * (100 \text{ uW}) + (0.025) * (3.18 \text{ mW}) + (0.025) * (3.38 \text{ mW})
P_{Avg Node} = 259 \text{ uW}
```

- Compatible with lithium, zinc air batteries and possibly thin film power sources
  - Estimated > 300 hours operation at 1V with CR2016 lithium coin cell (3V, 80 mAhr)
  - Estimated > 170 hours operation at 1V with Power Paper STD-2 battery (1.5 V, 30 mAhr), [http://www.powerpaper.com/index.php?categoryId=33408]

Refer to PHY power consumption values from doc. IEEE 802.15-09-0328-00-00006.

# MedWiN MAC Proposal Enables Medical and Consumer Applications per TG6 PAR

*Illustrative examples – not a comprehensive list* 

Application Area - Use Case	PHY Frequency Bands and Data Rates	Scheduled Access Mechanism	Improvised Access Mechanism	Random Access Mechanism
Medical Applications – Continuous Patient Monitoring				
physiological waveforms, vital signs, location, body motion and posture, etc.				
Medical Application – Episodic Home Monitoring				
weight scale, blood pressure, fall and impact, environment and context sensing, etc.				
Consumer Application – Entertainment & Gaming				
Streaming audio, visual with controller response input				
Consumer Application – Social Interaction & Networking Friend finder, business card exchange, etc.				
Key: Enabling applicability HIGH	MEDIUM			

# MedWiN MAC Proposal Summary

- Star topology suitable to medical applications
- Time partitioning simple but adjustable time slot structure
- Beacon network management and interference mitigation
- Channel migration frequency diversity & interference mitigation
- Access methods flexible, scalable reservation & contention
  - Scheduled access (1-periodic & multi-periodic allocations)
  - Improvised access (polls & posts)
  - Random access (CSMA/CA contention) with priorities
- Acknowledgment policy versatile but simple
- Power management for both within and across beacon periods
- MAC frame structure simple, effective header and body
- Frame types & subtypes orthogonal, effective

Details are provided in the accompanying normative text doc. IEEE 802.15-09-0327-00-00006.

# Comparison Criteria

Criteria	Proposed Capability	
1. Regulatory	Compliant with TG6 regulatory document in multiple frequency bands	
2. Raw PHY data rate	100 kbps to 1 Mbps supported between node and hub	
3. Transmission distance		
4. Packet error rate	PER and link budget shown to support 10% PER for 255 octet PSDU at 3 meters within all operating frequency bands proposed	
5. Link budget		
6. Power emission level	-10 dBm / -16 dBm maximum EIRP	
7. Interference and coexistence	MAC: Channel hopping, Beacon shifting, Acknowledgements, Poll/Post for additional retransmission if necessary. PHY: Channelization $\geq$ 10 channels, same channel bandwidth for all modulations at each frequency band, low sidelobes of selected modulation	
8. Security	MAC provides 3 levels of security (none, authentication, authentication + encryption) based on AES-128. Association protocols provided for master key setup.	
9. Reliability	Acknowledged traffic, guard time and node synchronization to beacon provided. Unique identifications used to distinguish between collocated BANs. Link margin sufficient given TG6 channel models variations.	
10. Quality of Service	MAC: Time to join a network ~ 63 msec for message exchange. Fast (<1sec) channel access available via prioritized CSMA/CA random access as well as scheduled or improvised access mechanisms.	
11. Scalability	PHY: Scalable data rate from common symbol rates. MAC: Multiple nodes supported via m-periodic scheduled, improvised and random access methods. Prioritized QoS and beacon configuration.	
12. MAC transparency	MAC transparent across multiple frequency bands proposed	
13. Power Efficiency	MAC: Sleep and Hibernate modes. PHY: ≤ 3.1 mW (active), 50 uW (standby), 250/125 nW (deep sleep)	
14. Topology	Star topology, broadcast beacon supported. Maximum number of nodes supported via multiple access mechanisms.	
15. Bonus Point	Merged proposal focused on satisfying needs of medical BAN applications as defined by TG6 PAR.	

# **Bonus** Material

#### Beacon Transmission

Hub transmits beacon message each beacon period



Beacon PN Sequence format

#### Clock Synchronization & Guard Time Provisioning

- All nodes synchronize to their hub through the beacons or the first frames in their scheduled allocation intervals received from the hub.
- Guard times are set aside at the start and/or end of each allocation interval.
- Synchronization interval (SIn) determined by system parameters and beacon's allocation slot length
  - Minimum allocation slot length (1msec), SIn = 1.5 seconds
  - Maximum allocation slot length (256 msec), SIn = 639 seconds
  - See MAC sublayer parameters
    - mGT\_Nominal = Allocation Slot Length / 10
    - mClockAccuracy = 20 ppm
    - mClockResolution = 10 usec
    - mSyncResolution = 10 usec



#### MAC Frame Format



NID value in hex	NID notation	NID usage
x00	Unconnected_Broad cast_NID	For broadcast to unconnected nodes
x01-0F	Unconnected_NID	For unicast to unconnected nodes
x10-EF	Connected_NID	For unicast to/from connected nodes
xF0-FE	Multicast_NID	For multicast to connected nodes
xFF	Broadcast_NID	For broadcast to all nodes



# Frame Types and Subtypes

Frame Type value b0 b1	me Type ue b0 b1Frame Type name b2 b3 b4 b5Frame Subtype value b2 b3 b4 b5		Frame Subtype name
00	Management	0000	Beacon
00	Management	1000	Reserved
00	Management	0100	Association
00	Management	1100	Disassociation
00	Management	0010	РТК
00	Management	1010	GTK
00	Management	0110-1110	Reserved
00	Management	0001	Connection Request
00	Management	1001	Connection Assignment
00	Management	0101	Disconnection
00	Management	1101-1111	Reserved
10	Control	0000	I-Ack
10	Control	1000	B-Ack
10	Control	0100	I-Ack+Poll
10	Control	1100	B-Ack+Poll
10	Control	0010	Poll
10	Control	1010-1111	Reserved
01	Data	0000-1111	User defined data subtype
11	Reserved	0000-1111	Reserved

#### MedWiN MAC and Security – MAC Presentation Updated from 0327-01

# Outline

- General framework
- Access methods
  - Scheduled access (one-periodic & multi-periodic allocations)
  - Improvised access (polled & posted allocations)
  - Random access (CSMA/CA contented allocations)
  - MICS band communication (no beacon transmission)
- Synchronization & guard time provisioning
- Power management
- Coexistence
- Acknowledgment policy
- MAC frame structure
  - MAC header
  - MAC frame body
  - Frame types & subtypes
  - Management and control frames

# Star Topology

- Centralized access warranted for medical use cases
- Point to point supported as a special case of star topology



# Time Reference Base

- Hub sets boundaries, and hence lengths, of beacon periods (superframes) and allocation slots
  - via transmission of beacons at specified locations of beacon periods, or/and
  - via transmission of T-Polls containing a timestamp referenced to the boundaries of a specific beacon period (superframe) and allocation slot
- Nodes derive and recalibrate these boundaries
  - via reception of beacons or/and T-Polls
- A node and a hub obtain allocation intervals for frame exchanges
  - by one or more of three access methods (scheduled, improvised, and random)
  - with the start and end of an allocation interval unambiguously specified in reference to the boundaries of specific beacon period and allocation slots



### Access State Diagram





#### (b) Unsecured communication

### Scheduled Access

- Periodic allocations are set up via management (connection) frames
  - Node sends Connection Request frame, and hub returns Connection Assignment frame
- Allocation intervals reoccur every beacon period or every m(>1) beacon periods
  - Comprise identically-numbered allocation slots in their reoccurring beacon periods
  - Start and end at allocation slot boundaries
  - Fixed until modified via another Connection Assignment frame
  - Not announced in beacons node listens to a beacon occasionally for synchronization
- Allocation intervals are for downlink, uplink, or bilink data transfers
  - Uplink: node initiates uplink data transfer and hub acknowledges when required
  - Downlink: hub initiates downlink data transfer and node acknowledges when required
  - Bilink: hub initiates downlink data transfer or polls node for uplink data transfer

Allocation interval - assigned to a specific node



### Scheduled Access – Frame Transactions



Transmissions in bilink allocation intervals

# Improvised Access

- Polled and posted allocations are not set up via management (connection) frames but improvised by hub via piggybacked control or data/management frames
  - Hub grants a polled or posted allocation by piggybacking allocation information into some MAC header fields of a control (I-Ack, B-Ack, Poll, and T-Poll) or data/management frame
  - Node indicates desire to have a polled allocation for uplink data transmission by setting More Data bit in a currently transmitted frame
- Polled and posted allocation intervals are one-time immediate or future grants
  - An immediate polled or posted allocation interval starts immediately after the end of the current frame transaction (ended with I-Ack or B-Ack if required) and ends at an allocation slot in the current beacon period (superframe) as specified in the piggybacked allocation information
  - A future polled or posted allocation interval comprises one or more contiguous allocation slots somewhere in the near future as also specified in the piggybacked allocation information
  - A polled or posted allocation interval may be extended by another immediate polled or posted allocation interval, again via a piggybacked control or data/management frame transmitted in the current interval
- Polled allocations are for uplink and posted allocations are for downlink
  - Uplink: hub sends a poll piggybacked in an I-Ack or B-Ack frame or explicitly via a Poll or T-Poll in the existing allocation interval (not obtained via this poll), which then starts a polled allocation interval, in which the polled node sends data, and hub acknowledges when required
  - Downlink: hub piggybacks a post in a non-beacon management or data frame in the existing allocation interval (not obtained via this post), which then starts a posted allocation interval, in which hub sends data, and node acknowledges when required

# Improvised Access – Frame Transactions

Table — Frames and fields sent by a hub enabling polls and posts

	Short distance (immediate)	Long distance (future)
Poll	I-Ack+Poll, B-Ack+Poll, Poll, or T-Poll frame, with More Data = 0, Sequence Number = <i>A</i> , Fragment Number = <i>Reserved</i> : A polled allocation starts pTIFS after the end of the current frame, and ends at the end of allocation slot <i>A</i> located in the current beacon period.	I-Ack+Poll, B-Ack+Poll, Poll, or T-Poll frame, with More Data = 1, Sequence Number = $A$ , Fragment Number = $B$ : No polled allocation follows this frame, but another poll starts at the start of allocation slot $A$ located in the current beacon period if $B = 0$ or in the next $B$ th beacon period if $B > 0$ .
Pos t	Non-beacon management or data type frame, with More Data = 1: A post starts pTIFS after the end of the current frame transaction. A poll providing another poll but not a polled	I-Ack or B-Ack frame, with More Data = 1, Sequence Number = $A$ , Fragment Number = $B$ : A post starts at the start of allocation slot $A$ located in the current beacon period if $B$ = 0 or in the next $B$ th beacon
	allocation may be considered a post. Immediate Future Immediate Immedi	liate Immediate Future Immediate
Hub transmits		Data Data To Ack
Node 1 transmits	Data     Data     Data     Data       (L-     (B-     (L-     (B-       Ack)     Ack)     Ack)     (L-       Scheduled uplink     Polled     Polled       allocation interval     allocation     allocation	Data Acki Data (Ack) Data (Ack) Delled Cation A allocation interval Data (Ack) Delled Acki Acki Acki Acki Acki Acki Acki Acki
	Future Immediate	Immediate Immediate Immediate
Hub transmits	Data Data Data Data (I-Ack) (I-Ack)	Data (I-Ack) Data (I-Ack) Data (B- (L-Ack) Data (B- Ack) Data (B- Ack) Data
Node 1 transmits	Data (L- Ack) Data (B- (B- (B- (B- (B- (B- (B- (B-	Home     Home     Home     Home       Home     Home     Home     Home       Home     Home     Home     Home
	allocation interval allocation	aowniink Posted interval allocation
Submis	sion Slide 4	David Davenport et al., GE et a

# Unconnected Exchange

- Polls addressed to unconnected nodes provide polled allocations to unconnected nodes for the transmission of their 1st pre-connection frame to hub
  - Unconnected nodes transmit their 1st pre-connection frame to hub with a probability (slotted aloha contention) to reduce and resolve collisions
  - Hub subsequently sends posts and polls addressed to a specific unconnected node to provide contention-free posted and polled allocations to that node for exchange of the remaining pre-connection frames



# MICS Band Unconnected Exchange

- Once a while hub chooses a channel and sends a group of T-Polls addressed to unconnected nodes
  - T-Polls within a group are separated such that hub can detect a response following the last poll before sending the next poll
  - Enough T-Polls in each group are sent such that a node (implant) can encounter one even in the worst case of having to cycling through all the MICS channels
  - Unconnected nodes use Aloha with a transmit probability to transmit its 1st management to hub following a received T-Poll addressed to unconnected nodes
  - Hub uses improvised access to advance unconnected exchange to connection



# MICS Band Connected Exchange

- Node (implant) and hub set up a scheduled periodic bilink allocation
  - The period of the allocation intervals is set based on application's service demand
  - Hub sends one or more T-Polls to node at start of each scheduled allocation interval
  - At some guardtime before the start of such an interval, node first tunes to last channel in which it received a frame from hub, cycling through other channels until receiving a frame from hub
  - Hub may send downlink data in or following such an interval



### MICS Band Medical Implant Event Report

- Node (implant) waits for the next scheduled bilink allocation interval
  - if it is not two far away
- Node (implant) initiates transmission outside scheduled allocation intervals
  - Node first sends a frame of no frame payload with a Data Subtype = 7 on the last channel in which it received a frame from hub, switching to another channel after failing to receive an acknowledgment
  - Hub gives node medium access on receiving such a frame, suspending any impending downlink data or management frame transmissions
  - Node then proceeds to send the data frames containing frame payloads generated from the medical implant event



### Random Access

- Up to two random access phases (RAPs) are provided by hub in each beacon period
  - RAP1 follows the beacon immediately and is guaranteed to have at least the minimum length communicated to each node during connection via Connection Assignment frame
  - RAP2 is half beacon period apart from the beacon and is optional in any beacon period
  - The minimum length of RAP1 may be zero  $\rightarrow$  in this case RAP1 is optional as well
  - No beacon or RAPs are allowed in any beacon period in the MICS band
- RAP1 is most power friendly and RAP2 is still acceptable to many devices
  - If RAP1 has a minimum length, it is like a scheduled interval for random access a node does not need to receive a beacon to use it for contention
  - A node finds the duration of RAP2 by listening to the beacon in the preceding beacon period



# Random Access – CSMA/CA

- A contended allocation is obtained in a RAP by a node using CSMA with backoff
  - Node sets its backoff counter to an integer randomly drawn from [1, CW], decrementing the counter by one over each idle contention slot, and initiating a transmission when the counter reaches zero
  - CW is set to CWmin initially and doubled (up to CWmax) after 2 consecutive contention failures
  - Node re-randomizes its backoff counter (and hence transmit time) on each contention failure
  - Higher priority traffic is given smaller CWmin and CWmax numbers, and hence smaller backoff counter values and earlier transmit times



- CSMA degenerates to pure aloha when carrier sensing is disabled (shown below)
  - Backoff counter serves to randomize (spread) transmit times of contending nodes



### Random Access – Prioritization

Priority	User Priority	Traffic designation	CWmin	CWmax
Lowest	0	Background (BK)	16	64
1	1	Best effort (BE)	16	32
	2	Excellent effort (EE)	8	32
	3	Controlled load (CL)	8	16
	4	Video (VI)	4	16
	5	Voice (VO)	4	8
	6	Network control	2	8
↓ Highest	Highest 7 Emergency or medical event report		1	4

#### Clock Synchronization & Guardtime Provisioning

- All nodes synchronize to their hub through the beacons, T-Polls, or the first frames in their scheduled allocation intervals received from the hub.
- Guard times are set aside at the start and/or end of each allocation interval.



#### Power Management - Macroscopic

- Hibernation across beacon periods (superframes)
  - A node negotiates its wakeup beacon period and wakeup interval with a hub through exchanges of Connection Request and Connection Assignment.
  - Wakeup Interval P > 1: a device needs to wake up only in a wakeup beacon period out of P beacon periods
  - Wakeup Interval P = 1: a device needs to wake up in every beacon period



#### Power Management - Microscopic

- Sleep within wakeup beacon period (superframe)
  - A node may sleep outside its allocation intervals in a wakeup beacon period.

B = beacon Post = post to node 1 N1 = node 1 N2 = node 2 TIFS = pTIFS Sleep = sleep interval of node 1



# Coexistence – Beacon Shifting

- Beacon shifting of each BAN in time domain
  - Hub selects a PN sequence  $PN_m(n)$  to shift its beacon transmission time across beacon periods
  - All scheduled allocation intervals shift cyclically within a beacon period with the shifted beacon transmission time
  - A hub may choose  $PN_0(n) = 0$  to transmit its beacon period start
  - Beacon message contains shifting sequence index and phase for the next period
  - Use of quarter beacon period fixed offsets simplifies implementation



Beacon transmission with shifting sequence  $PN_5(n) = 0, 2, 1, 3$ 

# Beacon Shifting – Interference Mitigation

Bn = beacon transmitted by subnet of node n BP = beacon period BTTO = beacon transmission time offset An = 1-periodic allocation interval of node n Tn = interval start of An relative to beacon transmission time Tn = Tn-1 + Tn-2



(a) Subnet of node 1:  $PN_0(n) = 0, 0, 0, 0, ...$ ; subnet of node 2:  $PN_0(n) = 0, 0, 0, 0, ...$ 



(b) Subnet of node 1:  $PN_5(n) = 0, 2, 1, 3, ...$ ; subnet of node 2:  $PN_5(n-1) = 3, 0, 2, 1, ...$ 



# Coexistence – Channel Hopping

- Channel hopping of each BAN enables frequency diversity
  - Hub generates channel hop sequence using linear feedback shift register (LFSR)
    - Least significant 16 bits of hub MAC address used to initialize LFSR
    - Beacon messages contain LFSR status and indication of imminent change
  - LFSR mapped to channel ensuring equal probability selection and minimum frequency separation
  - Hub dwells on current channel for fixed number of beacon periods
  - Connection Assignment contains dwell length and phase
  - Can be disabled for single frequency channel operation



#### 16-bit Galois LFSR for channel hopping sequence generation

# Acknowledgment Policy



#### Table — Acknowledgment (Ack) Policy field encoding

Field value b6 b7	Acknowledgment requirement	
00	No acknowledgment (N-Ack)	
10	Immediate acknowledgment (I-Ack)	
11	Block acknowledgment later (L-Ack)	
01 Block acknowledgment (B-Ack)		



Transmissions in bilink allocation intervals

### Frame Format



MAC frame format

MAC Header format

MAC Frame Body format

#### Table — NID selection

NID value in hex	NID notation	NID usage	
x00	Broadcast_Unconnected_ NID	For broadcast to unconnected nodes	
x01-0F	Unconnected_NID	For unicast to unconnected nodes	
x10-EF	Connected_NID	For unicast to/from connected nodes	
xF0-FE Multicast_NID		For multicast to connected nodes	
xFF	Broadcast_NID	For broadcast to all nodes	



Frame Control format

# Frame Types and Subtypes

Frame Type value b0 b1	Frame Type name	Frame Subtype value b2 b3 b4 b5	Frame Subtype name
00	Management	0000	Beacon
00	Management	1000	Reserved
00	Management	0100	Association
00	Management	1100	Disassociation
00	Management	0010	PTK
00	Management	1010	GTK
00	Management	0110-1110	Reserved
00	Management	0001	Connection Request
00	Management	1001	Connection Assignment
00	Management	0101	Disconnection
00	Management	1101-1111	Reserved
10	Control	0000	I-Ack
10	Control	1000	B-Ack
10	Control	0100	I-Ack+Poll
10	Control	1100	B-Ack+Poll
10	Control	0010	Poll
10	Control	1010	T-Poll
10	Control	0110-1111	Reserved
01	Data	0000-1111	User defined data subtype
11	Reserved	0000-1111	Reserved

#### **T-Poll Frames**



(a) NID = Unconnected\_Broadcast\_NID



(b) NID = Unconnected\_Broadcast\_NID







#### **Connection Request Frames**



Allocation Request format

#### **Connection Assignment Frames**



### Summary

- Star topology suitable to medical applications
- Time partitioning simple but configurable time slot structure
- Access methods scalable reservation & contention accesses
  - Scheduled access (one-periodic & multi-periodic allocations)
  - Improvised access (polls & posts)
  - Random access (CSMA/CA contention)
  - MICS band communication (no beacon transmission)
- Synchronization & guardtime provisioning effective, simple
- Power management for both long-run and short-run
- Coexistence time randomization and frequency diversity
- Acknowledgment policy versatile but simple
- MAC frame structure simple, effective

- MAC header & MAC frame body

• Frame types & subtypes – orthogonal, effective