

IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group Liaison Communication

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Subject: Response to Liaison Letter OLS-292 (ITU-T Q13/15) from IEEE P802.3bf Task Force

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Dear Mr. Ferrant and members of ITU-T SG15,

Thank you for your letter from February 2011, focusing on the issue of copper 10 Gbit/s PHY asymmetry.

As you might recall, IEEE P802.3bf Task Force is focused on defining the Time Synchronization Service Interface (TSSI) to indicate when the Start Frame Delimiter (SFD) crosses the generic Medium Independent Interface (xMII), together with management objects indicating transmit and receive data delay between the Medium Dependent Interface (MDI) and xMII for the given Physical Layer devices (PHY).

The maximum and minimum transmit and receive data path delay registers defined by IEEE P802.3bf in the amendment to Clause 45, do not impose any specific precision requirements for values provided by implementers. The values in the transmit and receive data delay registers, reported in units of nanoseconds, are valid when the link is established. The current draft does not allow an update to the minimum and maximum values after a fast re-train (because the link remains up during fast re-train) as per IEEE Std 802.3az™-2010. It would be impossible to account for all potential implementation options, hence only the absolute values for the maximum and minimum transmit and receive data path delay are provided in the Clause 45 registers.

Moreover, the scope of IEEE P802.3bf is not on providing recommendations on specific implementations of the TSSI for particular PHY types, but to guarantee interoperability between various implementation options, consistent with the focus of IEEE 802.3 Working Group as a whole.

Sincerely,

David J. Law
Chair, IEEE P802.3bf Task Force

¹ This document solely represents the views of the IEEE 802.3 Working Group, and does not necessarily represent a position of the, IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association, or IEEE 802.