

To TRILL WG co-chairs , ADs and IEEE-IETF liaisons:  
From: IEEE 802.1

Thank you for your liaison sent to us March 14, 2010. We understand that this was for our information.

There is a perceived rift in layer 2 bridging standards involving IETF Trill and IEEE 802.1. We use similar terms, and have shortest path projects to support 802.1 external interfaces in similar environments. Whatever the original objectives in both groups, these projects are converging on two ways to do similar things.

For example, you offered information about a re-charter item:

(8) Support for RBridge VLAN and priority regions, so that a VLAN ID or priority may have different meanings in different regions, requiring configuration only at border RBridges

IEEE 802.1Q supports Bridged Networks that span multiple administrative domains, and allows for of the establishment of regions within those domains. IEEE 802.1Q also allows for the translation of VLAN Identifiers and Priority Code Points in frames when those frames cross region boundaries. Assuming IETF and IEEE have similar concepts of a "region", it sounds like there is direct overlap between the capabilities currently supported in 802.1Q and the proposed TRILL work item.

In regards to the other item you offered for information:

(9) Specify the use of the TRILL protocol in data centers, such as by adding any support that may be need for IEEE 802.1 "Data Center Bridging" standards

In our understanding, the only addition that is needed to support the current DCB Standards is interworking function for Congestion notification messages. This interworking function is specified for PBB networks in 802.1Qau. This is another example of the convergence. Further DCB Standards are under development for Edge Virtual Bridging to support Virtualization. More direct collaboration would be the best way to ensure interoperability with these standards.

The 802.1aq Shortest Path Bridging (SPB) project will provide an IS-IS control plane to allow shortest path forwarding in a bridged environment that includes support for IEEE 802.1 Customer and Service VLANs, complete with OAM.

There is now an opportunity to heal the rift. We would like to propose working together towards a common datapath and OAM as a step to bridging the divide. 802.1 welcomes and encourages members of TRILL to come and work with us on this common goal for the enhanced Ethernet data path (ECMP) and OAM. We would also like to explore with you the possibility of a converged control plane.