July 7, 2024

Glenn Parsons, Chair, IEEE 802.1WG   Janos Farkas, Chair, IEEE 802.1 TSN TG

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Subject: RAP/MSRP backwards compatibility requirements in the P802.DD PAR
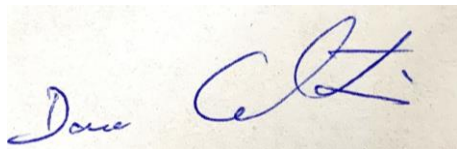
Dear Mr. Parsons and Dr. Farkas:

The purpose of this liaison is to request the 802.1 WG to add backwards compatibility with the Multiple Stream Resource Protocol (MSRP) as part of the scope of the upcoming P802.1DD project, that defines the Resource Allocation Protocol (RAP).

MSRP is to this day extensively used in ProAV systems with thousands of devices deployed in the field. However, the scalability limitations of MSRP are well known and RAP was always envisioned as its successor. In that context, backwards compatibility between the protocols is a critical requirement for large ProAV deployments in which there could be a network backbone using RAP and SRP domains closer to the end-stations.

While RAP was being developed within P802.1Qdd, backwards compatibility with MSRP was one of its design principles. Several Avnu Alliance members that have many products in the field (Adamson, d&b audiotechnik, ICEpower, L-Acoustics, Luminex, Meyersound) have raised the serious challenges that the lack of backward compatibility would create for the deployment of RAP, potentially subverting the future of converged networks. Avnu Alliance would strongly recommend the 802.1 WG to maintain backward compatibility as a requirement as the development moves to a stand-alone document as defined in the P802.1DD PAR.

It is for these reasons that we request to add the following sentence to the section 5.2 "Scope of the Project" of the P802.1DD PAR: "This standard shall make provisions for backwards compatibility with the Multiple Stream Resource Protocol defined in Clause 35 of IEEE Std 802.1Q-2022".

Respectfully submitted,

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Avnu Alliance President