

# IEEE Standard for Local and metropolitan area networks— Link Aggregation

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**IEEE Std 802.1AX™-2014**

(Revision of  
IEEE Std 802.1AX-2008)

**IEEE Standard for  
Local and metropolitan area networks –  
Link Aggregation**

Sponsor  
**LAN/MAN Standards Committee**  
of the  
**IEEE Computer Society**

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**Abstract:** MAC-independent Link Aggregation capability and general information relevant to specific MAC types are defined in this standard. Link Aggregation allows parallel full-duplex point-to-point links to be used as if they were a single link and also supports the use of multiple links as a resilient load sharing interconnect between multiple nodes in two separately administered networks.

**Keywords:** Aggregated Link, Aggregator, Distributed Resilient Network Interconnect, DRNI, IEEE 802®, IEEE 802.1AX™, interconnect, Link Aggregation, Link Aggregation Group, local area network, management, Network-Network Interface, NNI

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This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 801.AX™-2014, IEEE Standard for Local and metropolitan area networks—Link Aggregation.

This standard contains state-of-the-art material. The area covered by this standard is undergoing evolution. Revisions are anticipated within the next few years to clarify existing material, to correct possible errors, and to incorporate new related material. Information on the current revision state of this and other IEEE 802® standards can be obtained from:

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# Contents

1.	Overview.....	1
1.1	Scope.....	1
1.2	Purpose.....	1
1.3	State diagram conventions.....	2
2.	Normative references.....	3
3.	Definitions.....	4
4.	Acronyms and abbreviations.....	7
5.	Conformance.....	8
5.1	Requirements terminology.....	8
5.2	Protocol Implementation Conformance Statement.....	8
5.3	Link Aggregation requirements.....	8
5.3.1	Link Aggregation options.....	9
5.4	Distributed Resilient Network Interconnect requirements.....	9
5.4.1	Distribution Resilient Network Interconnect options.....	9
6.	Link Aggregation.....	11
6.1	Overview.....	11
6.1.1	Goals and objectives.....	11
6.1.2	Positioning of Link Aggregation within the IEEE 802 architecture.....	12
6.1.3	LLDP Parser/Multiplexer.....	13
6.1.3.1	LLDP Parser state diagram.....	14
6.1.3.1.1	LLDP Parser Function.....	14
6.1.3.1.2	Constants.....	14
6.1.3.1.3	Variables.....	14
6.1.3.1.4	State diagram.....	14
6.2	Link Aggregation operation.....	15
6.2.1	Principles of Link Aggregation.....	15
6.2.2	Service interfaces.....	16
6.2.3	Frame Collector.....	17
6.2.3.1	Frame Collector state diagram.....	17
6.2.3.1.1	Constants.....	17
6.2.3.1.2	Variables.....	17
6.2.3.1.3	Messages.....	17
6.2.3.1.4	State diagram.....	17
6.2.4	Frame Distributor.....	18
6.2.4.1	Frame Distributor state diagram.....	19
6.2.4.1.1	Variables.....	19
6.2.4.1.2	Messages.....	19
6.2.4.1.3	State diagram.....	19
6.2.5	Marker Generator/Receiver (optional).....	19
6.2.6	Marker Responder.....	20
6.2.7	Protocol Parser/Multiplexer.....	20
6.2.7.1	Protocol Parser state diagram.....	20
6.2.7.1.1	Functions.....	20

	6.2.7.1.2	Variables .....	21
	6.2.7.1.3	Messages .....	21
	6.2.7.1.4	State diagram .....	21
6.2.8	Aggregator Parser/Multiplexer .....		22
	6.2.8.1	Aggregator Parser state diagram .....	22
	6.2.8.1.1	Constants .....	22
	6.2.8.1.2	Variables .....	22
	6.2.8.1.3	Messages .....	23
	6.2.8.1.4	State Diagram .....	23
6.2.9	Aggregator .....		24
6.2.10	Control Parser/Multiplexer .....		24
	6.2.10.1	Control Parser state diagram .....	24
	6.2.10.1.1	Control Parser Function .....	24
	6.2.10.1.2	Constants .....	24
	6.2.10.1.3	Variables .....	25
6.2.11	Addressing .....		25
	6.2.11.1	Source address (SA) .....	25
	6.2.11.2	Destination address .....	25
6.3	Link Aggregation Control .....		26
6.3.1	Characteristics of Link Aggregation Control .....		27
6.3.2	System identification .....		28
6.3.3	Aggregator identification .....		28
6.3.4	Port identification .....		28
6.3.5	Capability identification .....		29
6.3.6	Link Aggregation Group identification .....		30
	6.3.6.1	Construction of the Link Aggregation Group Identifier .....	30
	6.3.6.2	Representation of the Link Aggregation Group Identifier .....	31
6.3.7	Selecting a Link Aggregation Group .....		31
6.3.8	Agreeing on a Link Aggregation Group .....		32
6.3.9	Attaching a link to an Aggregator .....		32
6.3.10	Signaling readiness to transfer user data .....		32
6.3.11	Enabling the Frame Collector and Frame Distributor .....		33
6.3.12	MAC_Operational status .....		33
6.3.13	Monitoring the membership of a Link Aggregation Group .....		33
6.3.14	Detaching a link from an Aggregator .....		34
6.3.15	Configuration and administrative control of Link Aggregation .....		34
6.3.16	Link Aggregation Control state information .....		34
6.4	Link Aggregation Control Protocol .....		35
6.4.1	LACP design elements .....		35
6.4.2	LACPDU structure and encoding .....		35
	6.4.2.1	Transmission and representation of octets .....	35
	6.4.2.2	Encapsulation of LACPDUs in frames .....	36
	6.4.2.3	LACPDU structure .....	36
	6.4.2.4	Version 2 TLVs .....	40
	6.4.2.4.1	Port Algorithm TLV .....	40
	6.4.2.4.2	Port Conversation ID Digest TLV .....	41
	6.4.2.4.3	Port Conversation Mask TLVs .....	41
	6.4.2.4.4	Port Conversation Service Mapping TLV .....	44
6.4.3	LACP state machine overview .....		44
6.4.4	Constants .....		46
6.4.5	Variables associated with the System .....		46
6.4.6	Variables associated with each Aggregator .....		47
6.4.7	Variables associated with each Aggregation Port .....		48
6.4.8	Variables used for managing the operation of the state machines .....		50

6.4.9	Functions.....	52
6.4.10	Timers .....	54
6.4.11	Messages.....	54
6.4.12	Receive machine .....	54
6.4.13	Periodic Transmission machine .....	56
6.4.14	Selection Logic .....	57
	6.4.14.1 Selection Logic—Requirements .....	58
	6.4.14.2 Selection Logic—Recommended default operation .....	59
6.4.15	Mux machine .....	60
6.4.16	Transmit machine .....	64
6.4.17	Churn Detection machines.....	64
6.4.18	Long LACPDU machine .....	65
6.5	Marker protocol .....	67
6.5.1	Introduction.....	67
6.5.2	Sequence of operations .....	67
6.5.3	Marker and Marker Response PDU structure and encoding .....	68
	6.5.3.1 Transmission and representation of octets.....	68
	6.5.3.2 Encapsulation of Marker and Marker Response PDU in frames.....	68
	6.5.3.3 Marker and Marker Response PDU structure.....	68
6.5.4	Protocol definition .....	70
	6.5.4.1 Operation of the marker protocol.....	70
	6.5.4.2 Marker Responder state diagram .....	70
	6.5.4.2.1 Variables.....	70
	6.5.4.2.2 Messages.....	71
6.6	Conversation-sensitive frame collection and distribution .....	71
6.6.1	Conversation-sensitive collection and distribution state diagrams.....	72
	6.6.1.1 Conversion-sensitive collection state diagram .....	72
	6.6.1.1.1 Variables.....	72
	6.6.1.1.2 Variables associated with each Aggregation Port .....	73
	6.6.1.1.3 Functions .....	73
	6.6.1.1.4 Messages.....	73
	6.6.1.1.5 State diagram .....	73
6.6.2	Conversation-sensitive LACP state diagrams.....	74
	6.6.2.1 Per-Aggregator Variables .....	74
	6.6.2.2 Variables associated with each Aggregation Port.....	76
	6.6.2.3 Variables used for managing the operation of the state diagrams .....	78
	6.6.2.4 Functions.....	78
	6.6.2.5 Timers .....	81
	6.6.2.6 Messages .....	81
	6.6.2.7 State diagrams.....	81
6.7	Configuration capabilities and restrictions .....	87
6.7.1	Use of system and port priorities .....	87
6.7.2	Dynamic allocation of operational Keys .....	87
6.7.3	Link Aggregation on shared-medium links .....	88
6.7.4	Selection Logic variants.....	88
	6.7.4.1 Reduced reconfiguration.....	88
	6.7.4.2 Limited Aggregator availability.....	89
7.	Management.....	90
7.1	Overview.....	90
	7.1.1 Systems management overview.....	90
	7.1.2 Management model.....	91
7.2	Managed objects .....	91

7.2.1	Introduction.....	91
7.2.2	Overview of managed objects.....	92
7.2.2.1	Text description of managed objects .....	92
7.2.3	Containment.....	93
7.2.4	Naming.....	93
7.2.5	Capabilities .....	94
7.3	Management for Link Aggregation .....	98
7.3.1	Aggregator managed object class .....	98
7.3.1.1	Aggregator attributes .....	99
7.3.1.1.1	aAggID .....	99
7.3.1.1.2	aAggDescription .....	99
7.3.1.1.3	aAggName .....	100
7.3.1.1.4	aAggActorSystemID .....	100
7.3.1.1.5	aAggActorSystemPriority .....	100
7.3.1.1.6	aAggAggregateOrIndividual .....	100
7.3.1.1.7	aAggActorAdminKey.....	100
7.3.1.1.8	aAggActorOperKey.....	101
7.3.1.1.9	aAggMACAddress .....	101
7.3.1.1.10	aAggPartnerSystemID .....	101
7.3.1.1.11	aAggPartnerSystemPriority .....	101
7.3.1.1.12	aAggPartnerOperKey .....	102
7.3.1.1.13	aAggAdminState .....	102
7.3.1.1.14	aAggOperState.....	102
7.3.1.1.15	aAggTimeOfLastOperChange.....	102
7.3.1.1.16	aAggDataRate.....	103
7.3.1.1.17	aAggOctetsTxOK .....	103
7.3.1.1.18	aAggOctetsRxOK .....	103
7.3.1.1.19	aAggFramesTxOK.....	103
7.3.1.1.20	aAggFramesRxOK .....	104
7.3.1.1.21	aAggMulticastFramesTxOK .....	104
7.3.1.1.22	aAggMulticastFramesRxOK .....	104
7.3.1.1.23	aAggBroadcastFramesTxOK.....	104
7.3.1.1.24	aAggBroadcastFramesRxOK .....	105
7.3.1.1.25	aAggFramesDiscardedOnTx .....	105
7.3.1.1.26	aAggFramesDiscardedOnRx .....	105
7.3.1.1.27	aAggFramesWithTxErrors .....	105
7.3.1.1.28	aAggFramesWithRxErrors .....	106
7.3.1.1.29	aAggUnknownProtocolFrames .....	106
7.3.1.1.30	aAggPortList.....	106
7.3.1.1.31	aAggLinkUpDownNotificationEnable.....	106
7.3.1.1.32	aAggCollectorMaxDelay.....	106
7.3.1.1.33	aAggPortAlgorithm .....	107
7.3.1.1.34	aAggPartnerAdminPortAlgorithm.....	107
7.3.1.1.35	aAggConversationAdminLink[] .....	107
7.3.1.1.36	aAggPartnerAdminPortConversationListDigest .....	107
7.3.1.1.37	aAggAdminDiscardWrongConversation.....	108
7.3.1.1.38	aAggAdminServiceConversationMap[] .....	108
7.3.1.1.39	aAggPartnerAdminConvServiceMappingDigest .....	108
7.3.1.2	Aggregator Notifications .....	108
7.3.1.2.1	nAggLinkUpNotification.....	108
7.3.1.2.2	nAggLinkDownNotification.....	109
7.3.2	Aggregation Port managed object class.....	109
7.3.2.1	Aggregation Port Attributes.....	109
7.3.2.1.1	aAggPortID.....	109

	7.3.2.1.2	aAggPortActorSystemPriority .....	109
	7.3.2.1.3	aAggPortActorSystemID .....	109
	7.3.2.1.4	aAggPortActorAdminKey .....	110
	7.3.2.1.5	aAggPortActorOperKey .....	110
	7.3.2.1.6	aAggPortPartnerAdminSystemPriority .....	110
	7.3.2.1.7	aAggPortPartnerOperSystemPriority .....	110
	7.3.2.1.8	aAggPortPartnerAdminSystemID .....	110
	7.3.2.1.9	aAggPortPartnerOperSystemID .....	111
	7.3.2.1.10	aAggPortPartnerAdminKey .....	111
	7.3.2.1.11	aAggPortPartnerOperKey .....	111
	7.3.2.1.12	aAggPortSelectedAggID .....	111
	7.3.2.1.13	aAggPortAttachedAggID .....	111
	7.3.2.1.14	aAggPortActorPort .....	112
	7.3.2.1.15	aAggPortActorPortPriority .....	112
	7.3.2.1.16	aAggPortPartnerAdminPort .....	112
	7.3.2.1.17	aAggPortPartnerOperPort .....	112
	7.3.2.1.18	aAggPortPartnerAdminPortPriority .....	112
	7.3.2.1.19	aAggPortPartnerOperPortPriority .....	113
	7.3.2.1.20	aAggPortActorAdminState .....	113
	7.3.2.1.21	aAggPortActorOperState .....	113
	7.3.2.1.22	aAggPortPartnerAdminState .....	113
	7.3.2.1.23	aAggPortPartnerOperState .....	114
	7.3.2.1.24	aAggPortAggregateOrIndividual .....	114
	7.3.2.1.25	aAggPortOperConversationPasses .....	114
	7.3.2.1.26	aAggPortOperConversationCollected .....	114
	7.3.2.1.27	aAggPortLinkNumberID .....	114
	7.3.2.1.28	aAggPortPartnerAdminLinkNumberID .....	115
	7.3.2.1.29	aAggPortWTRTime .....	115
	7.3.2.2	Aggregation Port Extension Attributes .....	115
	7.3.2.2.1	aAggPortProtocolDA .....	115
7.3.3		Aggregation Port Statistics managed object class .....	115
	7.3.3.1	Aggregation Port Statistics attributes .....	116
	7.3.3.1.1	aAggPortStatsID .....	116
	7.3.3.1.2	aAggPortStatsLACPDU Rx .....	116
	7.3.3.1.3	aAggPortStatsMarkerPDU Rx .....	116
	7.3.3.1.4	aAggPortStatsMarkerResponsePDU Rx .....	116
	7.3.3.1.5	aAggPortStatsUnknownRx .....	116
	7.3.3.1.6	aAggPortStatsIllegalRx .....	117
	7.3.3.1.7	aAggPortStatsLACPDU Tx .....	117
	7.3.3.1.8	aAggPortStatsMarkerPDU Tx .....	117
	7.3.3.1.9	aAggPortStatsMarkerResponsePDU Tx .....	117
7.3.4		Aggregation Port Debug Information managed object class .....	117
	7.3.4.1	Aggregation Port Debug Information attributes .....	117
	7.3.4.1.1	aAggPortDebugInformationID .....	117
	7.3.4.1.2	aAggPortDebugRxState .....	118
	7.3.4.1.3	aAggPortDebugLastRxTime .....	118
	7.3.4.1.4	aAggPortDebugMuxState .....	118
	7.3.4.1.5	aAggPortDebugMuxReason .....	119
	7.3.4.1.6	aAggPortDebugActorChurnState .....	119
	7.3.4.1.7	aAggPortDebugPartnerChurnState .....	119
	7.3.4.1.8	aAggPortDebugActorChurnCount .....	119
	7.3.4.1.9	aAggPortDebugPartnerChurnCount .....	120
	7.3.4.1.10	aAggPortDebugActorSyncTransitionCount .....	120
	7.3.4.1.11	aAggPortDebugPartnerSyncTransitionCount .....	120

	7.3.4.1.12	aAggPortDebugActorChangeCount .....	120
	7.3.4.1.13	aAggPortDebugPartnerChangeCount .....	120
	7.3.4.1.14	aAggPortDebugActorCDSChurnState .....	120
	7.3.4.1.15	aAggPortDebugPartnerCDSChurnState .....	121
	7.3.4.1.16	aAggPortDebugActorCDSChurnCount .....	121
	7.3.4.1.17	aAggPortDebugPartnerCDSChurnCount .....	121
7.4		Management for Distributed Resilient Network Interconnect .....	121
	7.4.1	Distributed Relay Managed Object Class .....	121
	7.4.1.1	Distributed Relay Attributes .....	122
	7.4.1.1.1	aDрниID .....	122
	7.4.1.1.2	aDрниDescription .....	122
	7.4.1.1.3	aDрниName .....	122
	7.4.1.1.4	aDрниPortalAddr .....	122
	7.4.1.1.5	aDрниPortalPriority .....	122
	7.4.1.1.6	aDрниThreePortalSystem .....	123
	7.4.1.1.7	aDрниPortalSystemNumber .....	123
	7.4.1.1.8	aDрниIntraPortalLinkList .....	123
	7.4.1.1.9	aDрниAggregator .....	123
	7.4.1.1.10	aDрниConvAdminGateway[] .....	123
	7.4.1.1.11	aDрниNeighborAdminConvGatewayListDigest .....	124
	7.4.1.1.12	aDрниNeighborAdminConvPortListDigest .....	124
	7.4.1.1.13	aDрниGatewayAlgorithm .....	124
	7.4.1.1.14	aDрниNeighborAdminGatewayAlgorithm .....	124
	7.4.1.1.15	aDрниNeighborAdminPortAlgorithm .....	125
	7.4.1.1.16	aDрниNeighborAdminDRCPState .....	125
	7.4.1.1.17	aDрниEncapsulationMethod .....	125
	7.4.1.1.18	aDрниIPLEncapMap .....	125
	7.4.1.1.19	aDрниNetEncapMap .....	126
	7.4.1.1.20	aDрниDRPortConversationPasses .....	126
	7.4.1.1.21	aDрниDRGatewayConversationPasses .....	126
	7.4.1.1.22	aDрниPSI .....	126
	7.4.1.1.23	aDрниPortConversationControl .....	127
	7.4.1.1.24	aDрниIntraPortalPortProtocolDA .....	127
	7.4.2	IPP Managed Objects Class .....	127
	7.4.2.1	IPP Attributes .....	127
	7.4.2.1.1	aIPPID .....	127
	7.4.2.1.2	aIPPPortConversationPasses .....	127
	7.4.2.1.3	aIPPGatewayConversationDirection .....	128
	7.4.2.1.4	aIPPAAdminState .....	128
	7.4.2.1.5	aIPPOperState .....	128
	7.4.2.1.6	aIPPTimeOfLastOperChange .....	128
	7.4.3	IPP Statistics managed object class .....	129
	7.4.3.1	IPP Statistics attributes .....	129
	7.4.3.1.1	aIPPStatsID .....	129
	7.4.3.1.2	aIPPStatsDRCPDUsRx .....	129
	7.4.3.1.3	aIPPStatsIllegalRx .....	129
	7.4.3.1.4	aIPPStatsDRCPDUsTx .....	129
	7.4.4	IPP Debug Information managed object class .....	129
	7.4.4.1	IPP Debug Information attributes .....	130
	7.4.4.1.1	aIPPDebugInformationID .....	130
	7.4.4.1.2	aIPPDebugDRCPRxState .....	130
	7.4.4.1.3	aIPPDebugLastRxTime .....	130
	7.4.4.1.4	aIPPDebugDifferPortalReason .....	130

8.	Frame distribution and collection algorithms .....	131
8.1	Conversation Identifiers .....	131
8.2	Per-service frame distribution .....	131
8.2.1	Goals and objectives .....	131
8.2.2	Overview .....	131
8.2.3	Port Conversation Identifiers .....	132
9.	Distributed Resilient Network Interconnect .....	133
9.1	Goals and objectives .....	133
9.2	Distributed Relay .....	134
9.3	Distributed Relay operation and procedures .....	136
9.3.1	Portal Topology .....	139
9.3.2	Intra-Portal Link .....	140
9.3.2.1	Network / IPL sharing by time .....	140
9.3.2.2	Network / IPL sharing by tag .....	141
9.3.2.3	Network / IPL sharing by encapsulation .....	141
9.3.3	Protocol Identification .....	142
9.3.4	DR Function state machines .....	142
9.3.4.1	Service interfaces .....	143
9.3.4.2	Per-DR Function variables .....	143
9.3.4.3	Per-IPP Intra-Portal Port variables .....	144
9.3.4.4	Functions .....	144
9.3.4.5	Messages .....	145
9.3.4.6	DR Function: Aggregator Port reception state machine .....	145
9.3.4.7	DR Function: Gateway distribution state machine .....	145
9.3.4.8	DR Function: IPP N reception state machine .....	146
9.4	Distributed Relay Control Protocol .....	147
9.4.1	Establishing the Portal and Distributed Relay .....	149
9.4.2	DRCPDU transmission, addressing, and protocol identification .....	149
9.4.2.1	Destination MAC Address .....	149
9.4.2.2	Source MAC Address .....	150
9.4.2.3	Priority .....	150
9.4.2.4	Encapsulation of DRCPDUs in frames .....	150
9.4.3	DRCPDU structure and encoding .....	150
9.4.3.1	Transmission and representation of octets .....	150
9.4.3.2	DRCPDU structure .....	151
9.4.3.3	Conversation Vector TLVs .....	158
9.4.3.3.1	2P Gateway Conversation Vector TLV .....	158
9.4.3.3.2	3P Gateway Conversation Vector-1 TLV .....	159
9.4.3.3.3	3P Gateway Conversation Vector-2 TLV .....	159
9.4.3.3.4	2P Port Conversation Vector TLV .....	160
9.4.3.3.5	3P Port Conversation Vector-1 TLV .....	160
9.4.3.3.6	3P Port Conversation Vector-2 TLV .....	161
9.4.3.4	Network/IPL sharing TLVs .....	161
9.4.3.4.1	Network/IPL Sharing Method TLV .....	162
9.4.3.4.2	Network/IPL Sharing Encapsulation TLV .....	163
9.4.3.5	Organization-Specific TLV .....	163
9.4.4	DRCP Control Parser/Multiplexer .....	164
9.4.4.1	Control Parser state diagram .....	164
9.4.4.1.1	Control Parser Function .....	164
9.4.4.1.2	Constants .....	164
9.4.4.1.3	Variables .....	164

9.4.5	DRCP state machine overview .....	165
9.4.6	Constants .....	166
9.4.7	Variables associated with the Distributed Relay .....	167
9.4.8	Per-DR Function variables .....	167
9.4.9	Per-IPP Intra-Portal Port variables .....	170
9.4.10	Variables used for managing the operation of the state machines .....	176
9.4.11	Functions .....	178
9.4.12	Timers .....	191
9.4.13	Messages .....	191
9.4.14	DRCPDU Receive machine .....	191
9.4.15	DRCP Periodic Transmission machine .....	194
9.4.16	Portal System machine .....	195
9.4.17	DRNI Gateway and Aggregator machines .....	196
9.4.18	DRNI IPP machines .....	197
9.4.19	DRCPDU Transmit machine .....	198
9.4.20	Network/IPL sharing machine .....	199
Annex A (normative) Protocol Implementation Conformance Statement (PICS) proforma .....		201
A.1	Introduction .....	201
A.1.1	Abbreviations and special symbols .....	201
A.1.2	Instructions for completing the PICS proforma .....	202
A.1.3	Additional information .....	202
A.1.4	Exceptional information .....	202
A.1.5	Conditional items .....	203
A.1.6	Identification .....	203
A.1.6.1	Implementation identification .....	203
A.1.6.2	Protocol summary .....	203
A.2	PICS proforma for Clause 6 .....	204
A.2.1	Major capabilities/options .....	204
A.2.2	LLDP Port connectivity .....	205
A.2.3	Protocol Parser/Multiplexer support .....	205
A.2.4	Frame Collector .....	205
A.2.5	Frame Distributor .....	206
A.2.6	Marker protocol .....	206
A.2.7	Aggregator Parser/Multiplexer .....	206
A.2.8	Control Parser/Multiplexer .....	207
A.2.9	System identification .....	207
A.2.10	Aggregator identification .....	207
A.2.11	Port identification .....	208
A.2.12	Capability identification .....	208
A.2.13	Link Aggregation Group identification .....	208
A.2.14	Detaching a link from an Aggregator .....	208
A.2.15	LACPDU structure .....	209
A.2.16	Version 2 LACPDU .....	209
A.2.17	State machine variables .....	209
A.2.18	Receive machine .....	210
A.2.19	Periodic Transmission machine .....	210
A.2.20	Selection Logic .....	210
A.2.21	Mux machine .....	211
A.2.22	Transmit machine .....	211
A.2.23	Churn Detection machines .....	212
A.2.24	Marker protocol .....	212
A.2.25	Management .....	214

A.2.26	Per-Service Frame Distribution.....	217
A.2.27	Conversation-sensitive frame collection and distribution.....	218
A.2.28	Configuration capabilities and restrictions.....	218
A.2.29	Link Aggregation on shared-medium links.....	219
A.2.30	Distributed Resilient Network Interconnect.....	219
A.2.31	DRCPDU structure.....	220
A.2.32	Bridge specific support.....	221
Annex B (informative)	Collection and distribution algorithms.....	222
B.1	Introduction.....	222
B.2	Port selection.....	223
B.3	Dynamic reallocation of conversations to different Aggregation Ports.....	223
B.4	Topology considerations in the choice of distribution algorithm.....	224
Annex C (informative)	LACP standby link selection and dynamic Key management.....	226
C.1	Introduction.....	226
C.2	Goals.....	226
C.3	Standby link selection.....	227
C.4	Dynamic Key management.....	227
C.5	A dynamic Key management algorithm.....	227
C.6	Example 1.....	229
C.7	Example 2.....	229
Annex D (normative)	SMIPv2 MIB definitions for Link Aggregation.....	231
D.1	Introduction.....	231
D.2	SNMP Management Framework.....	231
D.3	Security considerations.....	231
D.4	Structure of the MIB module.....	232
D.4.1	Relationship to the managed objects defined in Clause 7.....	233
D.4.2	MIB Subtrees.....	238
D.4.2.1	The dot3adAgg Subtree.....	238
D.4.2.2	The dot3adAggPort Subtree.....	238
D.4.2.3	The dot3adAggNotifications Subtree.....	238
D.4.2.4	The dot3adDrni Subtree.....	238
D.4.2.5	The dot3adIPP Subtree.....	238
D.5	Relationship to other MIBs.....	238
D.5.1	Relationship to the Interfaces MIB.....	238
D.5.2	Layering model.....	239
D.5.3	ifStackTable.....	239
D.5.4	ifRevAddressTable.....	239
D.6	Definitions for Link Aggregation MIB.....	239
Annex E (informative)	Distributed Bridge.....	306
E.1	Distributed VLAN Bridge.....	306
E.2	Higher Layer Entities in a Distributed Bridge.....	310

Annex F (normative) Link Layer Discovery Protocol TLVs .....	311
F.1 Link Aggregation TLV .....	311
F.1.1 aggregation status .....	311
F.1.2 aggregated Port ID .....	312
F.1.3 Link Aggregation TLV usage rules .....	312
F.1.4 Use of other TLVs on an Aggregator or Aggregation Link .....	312
Annex G (normative) Network / IPL sharing by time—MAC Address synchronization .....	314
G.1 Address synchronization—design goals .....	315
G.2 Address synchronization—non-goals .....	315
G.3 Protocol summary .....	315
G.4 Address Synchronization Description .....	315
G.5 ASPDU transmission, addressing, and protocol identification .....	317
G.5.1 Destination MAC Address .....	317
G.5.2 Source MAC Address .....	317
G.5.3 Priority .....	317
G.5.4 Encapsulation of ASPDUs in frames .....	317

# IEEE Standard for Local and metropolitan area networks— Link Aggregation

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## 1. Overview

### 1.1 Scope

Link Aggregation provides protocols, procedures, and managed objects that allow the following:

- One or more parallel instances of full-duplex point-to-point links to be aggregated together to form a Link Aggregation Group (LAG), such that a MAC Client can treat the LAG as if it were a single link.
- A resilient interconnect using multiple full-duplex point-to-point links among one to three nodes in a network and one to three nodes in another, separately administered, network, along with a means to ensure that frames belonging to any given service will use the same physical path in both directions between the two networks.

This standard defines the MAC-independent Link Aggregation capability and general information relevant to specific MAC types that support Link Aggregation. The capabilities defined are compatible with previous versions of this standard.

### 1.2 Purpose

Link Aggregation allows the establishment of full-duplex point-to-point links that have a higher aggregate bandwidth than the individual links that form the aggregation, and the use of multiple systems at each end of the aggregation. This allows improved utilization of available links in bridged local area network (LAN) environments, along with improved resilience in the face of failure of individual links or systems. In