

**IEEE Standard for  
Local and metropolitan area networks—  
Time-Sensitive Networking for Fronthaul**

IEEE Computer Society

Sponsored by the  
LAN/MAN Standards Committee

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Local and metropolitan area networks—**

# **Time-Sensitive Networking for Fronthaul**

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

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**IEEE-SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** This standard defines profiles that select features, options, configurations, defaults, protocols, and procedures of bridges, stations, and LANs that are necessary to build networks that are capable of transporting fronthaul streams, which are time sensitive.

**Keywords:** bridged network, fronthaul, IEEE 802<sup>®</sup>, IEEE 802.1<sup>™</sup>, IEEE 802.1CM<sup>™</sup>, synchronization, time-sensitive networking, TSN, Virtual Local Area Network, VLAN, VLAN Bridge

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**János Farkas, Chair, Time-Sensitive Networking Task Group, Editor**

Ralf Assmann	Marina Gutiérrez	Karen Randall
Shenghua Bao	Stephen Haddock	Maximilian Riegel
Gordon Bechtel	Mark Hantel	Jessy V. Rouyer
Jens Bierschenk	Marc Holness	Soheil Samii
Steinar Bjørnstad	Lokesh Kabra	Atsushi Sato
Christian Boiger	Michael Karl	Frank Schewe
Paul Bottorff	Stephan Kehrer	Michael Seaman
Radhakrishna Canchi	Hajime Koto	Johannes Specht
David Chen	Yizhou Li	Patricia Thaler
Feng Chen	Christophe Mangin	Paul Unbehagen
Weiyang Cheng	Scott Mansfield	Hao Wang
Paul Congdon	James McIntosh	Tongtong Wang
Rodney Cummings	Robert Moskowitz	Xinyuan Wang
Hesham ElBakoury	Tero Mustala	Karl Weber
Norman Finn	Tomoki Ohsawa	Brian Weis
Mickaël Fontaine	Donald R. Pannell	Jordon Woods
Geoffrey Garner	Walter Pieniac	Takahiro Yamaura
Eric W. Gray	Michael Potts	Xiang Yu
Craig Gunther	Wei Qiu	Nader Zein

The following members of the individual balloting committee voted on this standard. Balloters may have voted for approval, disapproval, or abstention.

Thomas Alexander	Stephen Haddock	Glenn Parsons
Butch Anton	Marco Hernandez	Bansi Patel
Stefan Aust	Werner Hoelzl	Clinton Powell
Gordon Bechtel	Noriyuki Ikeuchi	Alon Regev
Harry Bims	Atsushi Ito	Maximilian Riegel
Steinar Bjørnstad	Raj Jain	Robert Robinson
Christian Boiger	SangKwon Jeong	Jessy V. Rouyer
Demetrio Bucaneg, Jr.	Piotr Karocki	Peter Saunderson
William Byrd	Stuart Kerry	Michael Seaman
Juan Carreon	Yongbum Kim	Thomas Starai
Keith Chow	Mark Laubach	Walter Struppler
Todor Cooklev	Han Hyub Lee	Bo Sun
Rodney Cummings	Hyeong Ho Lee	Richard Tse
Lars Ellegaard	John Lemon	Mark-Rene Uchida
Marc Emmelmann	Michael Lynch	Dmitri Varsanofiev
Yonggang Fang	Elvis Maculuba	Kari Vierimaa
János Farkas	Richard Maiden	George Vlantis
Norman Finn	Roger Marks	Khurram Waheed
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Matthias Fritsche	Michael Montemurro	Hung-Yu Wei
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Joseph L. Koepfinger\*  
Kevin Lu  
Daleep Mohla  
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Annette D. Reilly

Robby Robson  
Dorothy Stanley  
Adrian Stephens  
Mehmet Ulema  
Phil Wennblom  
Howard Wolfman  
Yu Yuan

\*Member Emeritus

## Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 802.1CM-2018, IEEE Standard for Local and metropolitan area networks—Time-Sensitive Networking for Fronthaul.

This standard defines profiles that select features, options, configurations, defaults, protocols and procedures of bridges, stations, and LANs that are necessary to build networks that are capable of transporting fronthaul streams, which are time-sensitive.

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# IEEE Standard for Local and metropolitan area networks—

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## 1. Overview

### 1.1 Scope

This standard defines profiles that select features, options, configurations, defaults, protocols and procedures of bridges, stations, and LANs that are necessary to build networks that are capable of transporting fronthaul streams, which are time-sensitive.

NOTE—Stream and flow are used as synonyms in this document.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to specify defaults and profiles that enable the transport of time-sensitive fronthaul streams in Ethernet bridged networks.

### 1.3 Introduction

Fronthaul provides connectivity between functional blocks of a cellular base station (BS). The fronthaul flows between these functional blocks have stringent quality of service requirements. The successful support of fronthaul flows in a bridged network requires the selection of specific features and options that are specified in a number of different standards, some developed by IEEE Project 802<sup>®</sup>, and others (in particular, those that relate to functionality in OSI layer 3 and above; ISO/IEC 7498:1994 [B11]) developed by other standards organizations.<sup>2</sup>

This standard selects features and options that support OSI layers 1 and 2 in bridges and end stations from the following specifications:

- Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) Bridge specification in IEEE Std 802.1Q<sup>™</sup>.<sup>3</sup>
- MAC service specifications in IEEE Std 802.1AC<sup>™</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Notes in text, tables, and figures of a standard are given for information only and do not contain requirements needed to implement this standard.

<sup>2</sup>The numbers in brackets correspond to those of the bibliography in Annex C

<sup>3</sup>Information on references can be found in Clause 2.