

Clarification Request

References: BTL Implementation Guideline v26

Background / Proposed Solution:

I recommend that section 2.9 of the Implementation Guideline document be removed, as it was put in in expectation of supporting IPv6 addressing in the NPDU. However the VMAC layer is now part of the standard, and I believe the intent of the committee is to use VMAC addressing for any addresses longer than 6 octets. The B/IPv6 proposal is implemented this way.

Here is the existing section:

2.9 Be prepared for large MAC addresses of at least 18 octets

IPv6 uses 16-octet addressing. Coupling this with the two-byte UDP port, even a small MS/TP device might someday receive messages with a SADR field of 18 octets, considerably longer than the largest SADR field of 7 octets mentioned in clause 6.2.2.2 of the BACnet standard. If provision is not made for the larger MAC addresses, existing devices will not be able to issue requests to, nor reply to requests from, devices with such larger MAC addresses. (Note: the BACnet committee is discussing this issue and is looking at a way around it.)

Question:

Can this be removed?

Response:

The BTL Implementation Guidelines will be updated by striking out the above section and referencing the new addendum that resolves this issue.

Example of Changes:

2.9 Be prepared for large MAC addresses of at least 18 octets

~~IPv6 uses 16-octet addressing. Coupling this with the two-byte UDP port, even a small MS/TP device might someday receive messages with a SADR field of 18 octets, considerably longer than the largest SADR field of 7 octets mentioned in clause 6.2.2.2 of the BACnet standard. If provision is not made for the larger MAC addresses, existing devices will not be able to issue requests to, nor reply to requests from, devices with such larger MAC addresses. (Note: the BACnet committee is discussing this issue and is looking at a way around it.)~~

Addendum 135-2008q-2 (Zigbee) introduces the concept of a VMAC layer. The intent of the committee was to use VMAC addressing for addresses longer than 6 octets. The B/IPv6 proposal uses this proposal.