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**Telecommunications and information  
exchange between information  
technology systems — Requirements  
for local and metropolitan area  
networks —**

**Part 1CM:  
Time-sensitive networking for  
fronthaul**

*Télécommunications et échange entre systèmes informatiques —  
Exigences pour les réseaux locaux et métropolitains —*

*Partie 1CM: Réseaux à temps critique pour fronthaul*



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**IEEE Standard for  
Local and metropolitan area networks—**

# **Time-Sensitive Networking for Fronthaul**

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IEEE Computer Society**

Approved 7 May 2018

**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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## 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.
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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.

## Contents

1.	Overview .....	10
1.1	Scope.....	10
1.2	Purpose.....	10
1.3	Introduction.....	10
2.	Normative references .....	12
3.	Definitions .....	13
4.	Acronyms and abbreviations .....	14
5.	Conformance .....	16
5.1	Requirements terminology.....	16
5.2	Profile Conformance Statement (PCS).....	16
5.3	Bridge requirements.....	16
5.4	Bridge options.....	17
5.5	End station requirements .....	18
5.6	End station options.....	18
6.	Fronthaul .....	20
6.1	Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access background .....	21
6.2	Class 1 requirements.....	21
6.3	Class 2 requirements.....	23
6.4	Synchronization requirements .....	26
7.	Bridge and synchronization functions .....	31
7.1	Latency components .....	31
7.2	Bridge delay calculation .....	31
7.3	Frame preemption .....	33
7.4	Network synchronization.....	33
7.5	Flow control.....	37
7.6	Energy Efficient Ethernet .....	37
8.	Fronthaul profiles .....	39
8.1	Profile A.....	40
8.2	Profile B .....	42
9.	Synchronization solutions .....	44
9.1	Solution for Category A+ .....	44
9.2	Solutions for Category A .....	44
9.3	Solutions for Category B .....	44
9.4	Solutions for Category C .....	44
	Annex A (normative) PCS proforma—Time-Sensitive Networking for Fronthaul Profiles.....	45
	Annex B (informative) Delay calculation examples.....	55
	Annex C (informative) Bibliography.....	59



# IEEE Standard for Local and metropolitan area networks—

# Time-Sensitive Networking for Fronthaul

## 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>TM</sup>.<sup>3</sup>
- MAC service specifications in IEEE Std 802.1AC<sup>TM</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.

- MAC/PHY technology specifications in IEEE Std 802.3™.
- Interspersing express traffic specification in IEEE Std 802.3br™.
- Frame preemption specification in IEEE Std 802.1Q.
- Time synchronization and Precision Time Protocol (PTP) specifications in IEEE Std 1588™.
- Telecom profile specification in ITU-T G.8275.1, which is based on IEEE Std 1588.
- Synchronous Ethernet specification in ITU-T G.8261, G.8262, and G.8264.

To specify and explain the selection of features and options, this standard:

- a) Describes fronthaul requirements (Clause 6), specifying two classes of requirements (6.2, 6.3) that depend on the BS functional decomposition, and specifying synchronization requirements (6.4) that apply to both classes.
- b) Describes how the operation of bridges and bridged networks affects the quality of service provided by the fronthaul bridged network (Clause 7), providing details to assist in the calculation of latency (7.1, 7.2, 7.3), the selection of network synchronization methods (7.4), and the potential impact of the use of flow control (7.5) and Energy Efficient Ethernet (EEE, 7.6).
- c) Specifies two bridge profiles (Clause 8) that support the construction of bridged networks meeting fronthaul requirements. Profile A (8.1) is applicable to bridges that do not support frame preemption (7.3), while Profile B (8.2) involves frame preemption to accommodate larger non-fronthaul flows and frame sizes while preserving fronthaul traffic guarantees.
- d) Discusses the applicability (Clause 9) of the synchronization methods described in 7.4 to the time synchronization categories defined in 6.4.1.
- e) Defines fronthaul profile conformance requirements (Clause 5) for bridges meeting either Profile A or Profile B requirements, for end stations and for synchronization.
- f) Provides a Profile Conformance Statement (PCS, Annex A) to support clear detailed statements of equipment conformance to fronthaul profile requirements.



## 2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document (i.e., they must be understood and used, so each referenced document is cited in the text and its relationship to this document is explained). For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments or corrigenda) applies.

IEEE Std 802<sup>®</sup>, IEEE Standard for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks—Overview and Architecture.<sup>4, 5</sup>

IEEE Std 802.1AC<sup>™</sup>, IEEE Standard for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks—Media Access Control (MAC) Service Definition.

IEEE Std 802.1Q<sup>™</sup>, IEEE Standard for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks—Bridges and Bridged Networks.

IEEE Std 802.3<sup>™</sup>, IEEE Standard for Ethernet.

IEEE Std 802.3br<sup>™</sup>, IEEE Standard for Ethernet—Amendment 5: Specification and Management Parameters for Interspersing Express Traffic.

IEEE Std 1588<sup>™</sup>, IEEE Standard for a Precision Clock Synchronization Protocol for Networked Measurement and Control Systems.

ITU-T G.8261, Timing and synchronization aspects in packet networks.<sup>6</sup>

ITU-T G.8262, Timing characteristics of a synchronous Ethernet equipment slave clock.

ITU-T G.8264, Distribution of timing information through packet networks.

ITU-T G.8271.1, Network limits for time synchronization in packet networks.

ITU-T G.8272, Timing characteristics of primary reference time clocks.

ITU-T G.8272.1, Timing characteristics of enhanced primary reference time clocks.

ITU-T G.8273.2, Timing characteristics of telecom boundary clocks and telecom time slave clocks.

ITU-T G.8273.3, Timing characteristics of telecom transparent clocks.

ITU-T G.8275.1, Precision time protocol telecom profile for phase/time synchronization with full timing support from the network.

MEF 10.3, Ethernet Services Attributes Phase 3.<sup>7</sup>

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