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# IEEE Preliminary Liaison Response to China Position Statement and Work Item Proposal 6 N 12687

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# Preliminary Response

- IEEE fully supports China's desire to improve WLAN security beyond what was originally provided by Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) in 1999
  - IEEE 802 members recently invested >3 years in the development of 802.11i extensions to dramatically improve security (N7537)
  - WEP was not removed, 802.11i features were added
  - Security development is not complete and continues to evolve within 802.11 Advanced Security study group
- N7506 and N7537 are not mutually exclusive. Both can reside within 802-11 as security mechanisms and be invoked when and where needed.

# Preliminary Response

- IEEE 802 WG offers its full range of expertise to assist in the development of additional security systems that are both robust and well integrated into the IEEE Std 802.11 environment
  - IEEE 802 WG wishes to ensure broadest worldwide participation of all interested technical experts
  - IEEE 802 WG is very receptive to holding meetings in Asia and has already done so for groups such as 802.16 to better enable Chinese to engage in IEEE 802 standards work
    - 802.11 is making arrangements for a meeting in Beijing in May 2005
  - IEEE 802.11 WG will be discussing the details of the Chinese comments (N12732) and a more formal IEEE Liaison Response in San Antonio the week of November 15.
    - Request the email addresses of those who prepared N12732 to continue discussion
    - Liaison responses will be provided to SC6 soon thereafter

# Preliminary Response

WAPI's success will require technical review by or collaboration with IEEE 802.11 WG

- IEEE 802.11 standard process requires:
  - Extensions be forward compatible with all on-going and planned amendments to IEEE Std 802.11
  - No single amendment can break any other amendment

Technical review inevitably leads to changes

- IEEE 802.11 WG needs ongoing participation by China's experts, to guarantee it does not break any critical WAPI feature

# Preliminary Response

## Not all meetings can be held in Beijing

- IEEE 802 WG will continue to issue letters of invitation as requested
- IEEE 802 WG will investigate methods to expedite issuance of visas
- All technical documents are available via internet
- If requested, ISO participants can be added to 802.11 reflectors

# Preliminary Response

The core technical expertise for WLAN currently resides within the membership of IEEE 802.11 WG

- 6 times per year 500 people from around the world convene for this purpose.
- email and teleconferences enable development to continue between meetings.
- SC6 has recognized that this scale of effort cannot be replicated

IEEE 802 WG wishes China's delegates to note that security is not the only topic of development.

15 projects are currently underway to improve and extend the capabilities of WLANs. Most of those will be brought to ISO for incorporation into 8802-11.

China is not contributing to those developments.

- IEEE 802 WG wishes to better understand under what conditions China would consider contributing to and participating in all aspects of WLAN development