

ANSI/CEA Standard

Description of the Data Link Layer

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(Formulated under the cognizance of the CEA's **R7 Home Networks Committee**.)

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CEA 600.41 DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA LINK LAYER

This document is Part 41, the Description of the Node Data Link Layer part of EIA 600. This document is a companion to Parts 42 and 43, the *Node Medium Access Control Sublayer* and *Node Logical Link Control Sublayer* documents. Original release 11-15-91.

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Document Overview.....	1
1.2. The CEBus Network.	1
2. Relationship of Data Link Layer to Its Adjacent Layers.....	2
2.1. The Network Layer.....	2
2.1.1. Services Provided to the Network Layer.....	2
2.1.1.1. Unacknowledged Connectionless Service.....	2
2.1.1.2. Acknowledged Connectionless Service.	3
2.1.2. Specification of the Network Layer.	4
2.2. The Physical Layer and Media.	4
2.2.1. Overview and Functional Divisions.	4
2.2.2. The Medium.....	5
2.2.3. The MDP Sublayer of the Physical Layer.	5
2.2.4. The SE Sublayer of the Physical Layer.	7
2.2.4.1. Data Link Layer/Physical Layer Interface.	7
2.2.4.2. Symbol Transmission.	8
2.2.4.3. Symbol Reception.....	10
2.2.4.4. Operation When the Channel Is Idle.....	11
2.2.5. Specification.	11
3. Functional Description of Data Link Layer.	12
3.1. The Frame.....	12
3.1.1. The Normal Frame Format.....	13
3.1.2. The Acknowledge Frame Format.	17
3.1.3. Leading Zero Suppression.....	20
3.1.4. Address and House Code Usage.....	20
3.1.4.1. Addresses.....	20
3.1.4.2. House Codes.	21
3.1.4.3. Acquiring and Releasing Addresses and House Codes.	21
3.1.5. Mandatory Services.....	21
3.1.6. Illegal Services.	22
3.2. Communication Between Peer Data Link Layers.....	22
3.2.1. Avoiding Contention - The Channel Access Method.....	23
3.2.1.1. SUPERIOR State Deference.	23
3.2.1.2. Prioritization.....	24
3.2.1.3. Queueing.....	24
3.2.1.4. Randomization.	27
3.2.1.5. Summary of Channel Access Functions.....	27
3.2.2. Contention Detection and Resolution.....	28
3.2.2.1. Contention Detection.....	28
3.2.2.2. Contention Resolution.....	30
3.2.3. Retransmissions -- Unacknowledged Service.....	30
3.2.3.1. Retransmission Mechanism.....	30
3.2.3.2. Duplicate Packet Rejection.	31
3.2.3.2.1 A Note on Data Link Layer Timing Constraints.....	32
3.2.4. Message Failure, Immediate Acknowledgments, and Immediate Retries.	33
3.2.4.1. Message Failure.	33
3.2.4.2. Use of the Immediate Acknowledgment (IACK).....	33
3.2.4.3. The Immediate Retry.	35

3.2.4.3.1 A Note on the Usage of the Immediate Retry.....	37
3.2.5. Retransmission - Acknowledged Service.....	37
3.2.6. Busy Queue.....	39
3.3. Transmission of an Originating Frame.....	40
3.3.1. Assembly of an Originating Frame.....	40
3.3.2. Channel Access for an Originating Frame.....	41
3.3.3. The Transmission Process.....	41
3.3.3.1. Order of Bit Transmission.....	41
3.3.3.1.1. Bit Order Example.....	43
3.3.3.2. Monitoring the Channel During Transmission.....	45
3.3.3.3. Frame Size.....	45
3.4. Optional Multiple Transmissions for Unacknowledged Service.....	45
3.5. Reception of an Originating Frame.....	46
3.5.1. The Reception Process - Field Assembly and Definition.....	46
3.5.2. Invalid Frame Detection.....	47
3.5.2.1. Improper Frame Format.....	47
3.5.2.1.1. Fragment Filtering.....	47
3.5.2.1.2. Maximum Length Errors.....	47
3.5.2.2. Invalid Frame Check Sequence.....	48
3.5.2.3. BAD_FRAME Indication from SE Sublayer.....	48
3.5.2.4. Bit Error Notification from Physical Layer.....	48
3.5.3. Address Recognition.....	48
3.5.4. Frame Disassembly.....	48
3.5.5. Discarding of Duplicate Packets in Unacknowledged Service.....	49
3.5.6. Optional IACK Transmission.....	49
3.6. Reception of an Immediate Acknowledgment and Retransmission.....	49
3.7. Multiple Retries for Addressed Acknowledged Service.....	50
3.8. Epilogue.....	51
4. Data Link Sublayers.....	52
4.1. Division of the Data Link Layer.....	52
4.2. Logical Link Control Sublayer.....	52
4.2.1. Logical Link Control Sublayer Functions.....	52
4.2.2. Overview of the Document <i>Node Logical Link Control Sublayer</i>	53
4.2.2.1. Logical Link Control Sublayer Service Primitives.....	53
4.2.2.2. Logical Link Control Sublayer Protocol Data Unit.....	53
4.2.2.3. Logical Link Control Sublayer State Machine.....	54
4.3. Medium Access Control Sublayer.....	54
4.3.1. Medium Access Control Sublayer Functions.....	54
4.3.2. Overview of the Document <i>Node Medium Access Control Sublayer</i>	54
4.3.2.1. Medium Access Control Sublayer Service Primitives.....	54
4.3.2.2. Medium Access Control Sublayer Protocol Data Unit.....	55
4.3.2.3. Medium Access Control Sublayer State Machine.....	56
5. Data Link Layer Revision Control.....	57

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1. Functional Division of the Physical Layer	5
Figure 3-1. Normal MAC Frame Format (MAC Sublayer Error Detection)	13
Figure 3-2. Normal MAC Frame Format (SE Error Detection)	13
Figure 3-3. Control Field Format	15
Figure 3-4. Unaddressed Acknowledge MAC Frame Format (MAC Sublayer Error Detection)	17
Figure 3-5. Unaddressed Acknowledge MAC Frame Format (SE Error Detection)	17
Figure 3-6. Addressed Acknowledge MAC Frame Format (MAC Sublayer Error Detection)	18
Figure 3-7. Addressed Acknowledge MAC Frame Format (SE Error Detection)	18
Figure 3-8. Minimum Channel Access Delays	23
Figure 3-9. Channel Access Wait Times by Priority	24
Figure 3-10. Priority and Queue Effects on Channel Access Wait Time	25
Figure 3-11. Randomization within Priority and Queue	27
Figure 3-12. Resolving Contention with SUPERIOR and INFERIOR States	29
Figure 3-13. Immediate Retry Timing	36
Figure 3-14. Symbol Passing Between Layers	42
Figure 3-15. Maximum Allowed Field Lengths	47
Figure 4-1. Subdivision of the CEBus Data Link Layer	52

EIA 600.41 Description of the Node Data Link Layer

1. Introduction.

1.1. Document Overview.

This document provides a prose description of the Data Link Layer design for the CEBus Network. The design is the standard currently adopted by the Electronics Industries Association (EIA). Although much of the material in this document is covered in two other CEBus documents, *Node Medium Access Control Sublayer* and *Node Logical Link Control Sublayer, Description of the Node Data Link Layer* serves a different purpose. The sublayer documents formally specify the design of the Medium Access Control and Logical Link Control Sublayers, but do not provide in-depth explanations and background information. Thus, the intent of this document is to be descriptive, rather than to provide a formal specification, and to complement the *Node Medium Access Control Sublayer* and *Node Logical Link Control Sublayer* specifications.

Description of the Node Data Link Layer begins with a discussion of the Data Link Layer interfaces to the Network Layer and Physical Layer. A functional description of the Data Link Layer presents the "frame", the Data Link Layer's fundamental message unit, and the scheme by which frames are exchanged in communication. The processes for assembling, transmitting, receiving, and disassembling frames are discussed in detail. In the final section, the functional division of the Data Link Layer into its sublayers, the Medium Access Control (MAC) Sublayer and the Logical Link Control (LLC) Sublayer, is described. This section is intended to be a preface to the formal MAC and LLC specification documents.

Although some of the functionality associated with the Physical Layer and the Network Layer is discussed, specification of those layers is not within the scope of this document.

1.2. The CEBus Network.

The CEBus Network is a local area network which provides a standardized communication facility for the exchange of control information among devices and services in the home. It is the current design standard for the Electronics Industries Association and is intended to support such non-data-intensive functions as remote control, status indication, remote instrumentation, energy management, security systems, entertainment module coordination, and clock synchronization.

Low cost and ease of use are the primary considerations in the development of such consumer applications. By providing a standard communications interface to a number of different media, the CEBus Network addresses both of these considerations. Standardization will enable businesses to introduce new home products and services with reduced development effort and cost.

Standardization will also enable consumers to make use of the new products and services with a minimum of confusion and cost. The availability of a wide range of media - power line, infrared, RF, twisted pair, AV, fiber optic, and coaxial cable - will help to handle existing and anticipated home control communication requirements at a minimum practical cost. In particular, use of the existing 60 Hz power line as a communications medium in consumer applications circumvents the costs of installation of inter-room wiring between devices.