



EMC Post Cards From the Wireless Side

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The Chinese proverb says, "May you live in interesting times." Well, we do. For those not up on telecommunications standards issues in China, there are several associated problems surfacing which have raised concern for wireless products. The first is the encryption issue known as WLAN Authentication & Privacy Infrastructure (WAPI) and the second is the issue on Specific Absorption Rate (SAR).

WLAN Authentication & Privacy Infrastructure (WAPI)

The WAPI issue required Wi-Fi products to incorporate the Chinese version of Wi-Fi encryption. (In the U.S., Wi-Fi is a product which includes radio LAN cards certified to the IEEE 802.11 standard.) On face value this did not seem that problematic, until the clarification came out that non-China companies could not own the technology or buy it, but had to partner with a Chinese company to redesign their Wi-Fi products to conform to China-designated certification for WAPI.

Basically, this would require that the U.S. and other international companies provide their Intellectual property to our Chinese competitors at the chip and firmware level to redesign WAPI compliant products for China.

The original date of compliance was Dec 1st 2003, then was pushed back to June 1st 2004. The U.S. Wi-fi industry acted together, and working with the US government, pushed hard back on the issue. It was in fact discussed in China by our Vice President Dick Cheney as one issue of trade concerns.

At the recent U.S.- China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) meeting, this issue was discussed and an agreement was reached to withdraw the standard indefinitely and for the Chinese to work with IEEE to include their standard as part of the more open IEEE 802 standards. At the time, this was considered a big win for the U.S./

international telecommunications industry.

NOTE: See related Press Release (below). (Ed.)

Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) Requirements

The second issue involves China's proposal for specifying a new, more stringent SAR requirement. This tighter requirement is based, according to the Chinese, on the fact that the Chinese are physically different and that RF effects them differently. The comment period is still open on this issue.

Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS) Test Procedures

Work steadily progresses on development of FCC DFS test procedures. The U.S. workgroup continues to focus on this requirement to develop a standard test for determining compliance for DFS per FCC rules.

Broadband Notice of Inquiry (NOI)

The FCC has released a NOI on the deployment of broadband in the U.S., and is seeking comments on the state of deployment and related actions.

Professional Installer Definition

NARTE is awaiting the Report and Order on 03-201, which will address the definition of a Professional Installer. NARTE has met with the FCC on two occasions to discuss our proposed definition. We believe that the definition should in part be based on NARTE's input.

THE IEEE EMC SYMPOSIUM is only a few months away and the preparation activity is intensifying. I hope to see everyone there this year.

Please send comments, thoughts, or opinions to me at: davecase@cisco.com.

ITI Press Release: China to Revise Unique WLAN Standard

April 21, 2004 Washington, DC—The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) commends the government of the Peoples Republic of China for their decision not to implement the unique Chinese wireless LAN encryption standard ("WAPI"), which was set to go into effect on June 1, 2004. At a press conference this evening, Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi announced that China will indefinitely delay implementation of the standard that had created concern among the international tech community. Both the US and Chinese governments are to be commended for their continued efforts to resolve this important issue.

"This is a very positive outcome for our trade relationship with China," said ITI President Rhett Dawson. "The decision by the Chinese to continue to develop the WAPI standard through the international standards process will benefit the Chinese and global industry, and consumers everywhere. Being able to use the Internet anytime, any-

where is key to future productivity and Wi-Fi is one of the key wedge technologies that allow us to link not just people to people, or people to machine, but machine to machine."

"With China being the fastest growing technology market, the commitment of the Chinese government to work this issue in the international standards community is an important one," added Dawson. "From the U.S. industry's perspective, we look forward to working with the Chinese government to help make this a reality."

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) represents the leading U.S. providers of information technology (IT) products and services. ITI is the voice of the high tech community, advocating policies that foster U.S. economic growth and job creation by advancing U.S. leadership in technology and innovation; expanding market access for IT products; protecting consumer privacy and choice; promoting e-commerce; and enhancing the global competitiveness of its member companies.