

Preface

This document contains the specification for the Ethernet local area network developed jointly by Digital Equipment Corporation, Intel Corporation, and Xerox Corporation. The Ethernet specification is the result of an extensive collaborative effort by representatives of these three companies. This specification includes subject matter related to a patent(s) of Xerox Corporation. No license under such patent(s) is granted by Xerox Corporation. This specification is published as a result of publication of this specification. Applicable licenses may be obtained from Xerox Corporation.

This specification is intended for use as a reference by those who are interested in the introduction or tutorial. Readers seeking introductory material are directed to the introduction of Digital Equipment Corporation, Intel Corporation, and Xerox Corporation. This specification is intended for use as a reference by those who are interested in the introduction or tutorial. Readers seeking introductory material are directed to the introduction of Digital Equipment Corporation, Intel Corporation, and Xerox Corporation.

The Ethernet

A Local Area Network

Data Link Layer

and

Physical Layer

Specifications

Sections 4 and 5 describe the Data Link Layer and Physical Layer specifications. Sections 6 and 7 specify the two layers in detail, providing the primary technical specification of the Ethernet. Section 8 provides a description and specification for a configuration testing protocol for Network Management services. This protocol provides a minimum capability for testing any station's ability to communicate with other stations on the network.

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Readers wishing to obtain an initial grasp of the organization and content of the specification will be best served by reading Sections 1, 3, and 4. Readers involved in actual implementation of the Ethernet will find Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 to contain the central material of the specification. Section 2 provides references, and the appendixes provide supplemental material.



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Because the procedural approach is not suitable for specifying the details of the Physical Layer, Section 7 uses carefully worded English prose and numerous figures and tables to specify the necessary parameters of this layer.

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