

# **A Comparison of Existing Ethernet Frame Specifications**

Muhammad Farooq-i-Azam

*Department of Computer Science,  
COMSATS Institute of Information Technology,  
Lahore, Pakistan.  
[fazam@ciitlahore.edu.pk](mailto:fazam@ciitlahore.edu.pk)*

## **Abstract**

*The Ethernet as we see it today is a result of many stages of evolution. As a result, the Ethernet frame format at the link layer also has seen many changes. One might expect a consistent format of link layer frames as we usually study in text books, in actual practice this is not the case. Formats may vary from one set of specifications to another even on a single local area network due mainly to varying implementations of frame. While it does not present any new specification, this paper attempts to describe what kind of frame formats one might encounter on an Ethernet network using some example traces of packets. We also try to clarify ambiguities resulting from a comparison of more common and actual frames to the standards set laid out in IEEE 802.3 specification.*