CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of communicating in a wireless network, the method comprising:

selecting a type of media access control header type from a plurality of types based on an indication of information stored at a receiver; and

transmitting a media access control header of the selected type to the receiver.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of types comprises a first type of header and a second type of header, the first type of header comprising a plurality of fields, and the second type of header comprising a subset of the plurality of fields that is less than all of the plurality of fields.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate a first address to the receiver, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes an indicator field to indicate to the receiver usage of a stored address at the receiver as the first address.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes a sequence control number and a packet number, wherein the second type of header includes the packet number but not the sequence number, and wherein for the second type of header the packet number is indicative of the sequence number.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate to the receiver a destination of the header, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes a message integrity code field that is configured to pass a check at the destination to indicate the destination of the header.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes a message integrity check field and a frame check sequence field, wherein the second type of header includes the message integrity check field and not the frame check sequence field, and wherein for the second type of header passing of the message integrity check indicates passage of the frame check sequence.

7. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes a duration field, wherein the second type of header does not include the duration field.

8. An apparatus for communicating in a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

a processor configured to select a type of media access control header type from a plurality of types based on an indication of information stored at a receiver; and

a transmitter configured to transmit a media access control header of the selected type to the receiver.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the plurality of types comprises a first type of header and a second type of header, the first type of header comprising a plurality of fields, and the second type of header comprising a subset of the plurality of fields that is less than all of the plurality of fields.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate a first address to the receiver, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes an indicator field to indicate to the receiver usage of a stored address at the receiver as the first address.

11. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the first type of header includes a sequence control number and a packet number, wherein the second type of header includes the packet number but not the sequence number, and wherein for the second type of header the packet number is indicative of the sequence number.

12. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate to the receiver a destination of the header, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes a message integrity code field that is configured to pass a check at the destination to indicate the destination of the header.

13. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the first type of header includes a message integrity check field and a frame check sequence field, wherein the second type of header includes the message integrity check field and not the frame check sequence field, and wherein for the second type of header passing of the message integrity check indicates passage of the frame check sequence.

14. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the first type of header includes a duration field, wherein the second type of header does not include the duration field.

15. An apparatus for communicating in a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

means for selecting a type of media access control header type from a plurality of types based on an indication of information stored at a receiver; and

means for transmitting a media access control header of the selected type to the receiver.

16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the plurality of types comprises a first type of header and a second type of header, the first type of header comprising a plurality of fields, and the second type of header comprising a subset of the plurality of fields that is less than all of the plurality of fields.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate a first address to the receiver, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes an indicator field to indicate to the receiver usage of a stored address at the receiver as the first address.

18. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the first type of header includes a sequence control number and a packet number, wherein the second type of header includes the packet number but not the sequence number, and wherein for the second type of header the packet number is indicative of the sequence number.

19. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate to the receiver a destination of the header, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes a message integrity code field that is configured to pass a check at the destination to indicate the destination of the header.

20. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the first type of header includes a message integrity check field and a frame check sequence field, wherein the second type of header includes the message integrity check field and not the frame check sequence field, and wherein for the second type of header passing of the message integrity check indicates passage of the frame check sequence.

21. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the first type of header includes a duration field, wherein the second type of header does not include the duration field.

22. A computer readable medium comprising instructions that when executed cause an apparatus to:

select a type of media access control header type from a plurality of types based on an indication of information stored at a receiver; and

transmit a media access control header of the selected type to the receiver.

23. The computer readable medium of Claim 22, wherein the plurality of types comprises a first type of header and a second type of header, the first type of header comprising a plurality of fields, and the second type of header comprising a subset of the plurality of fields that is less than all of the plurality of fields.

24. The computer readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate a first address to the receiver, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes an indicator field to indicate to the receiver usage of a stored address at the receiver as the first address.

25. The computer readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the first type of header includes a sequence control number and a packet number, wherein the second type of header includes the packet number but not the sequence number, and wherein for the second type of header the packet number is indicative of the sequence number.

26. The computer readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate to the receiver a destination of the header, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes a message integrity code field that is configured to pass a check at the destination to indicate the destination of the header.

27. The computer readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the first type of header includes a message integrity check field and a frame check sequence field, wherein the second type of header includes the message integrity check field and not the frame check sequence field, and wherein for the second type of header passing of the message integrity check indicates passage of the frame check sequence.

28. The computer readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the first type of header includes a duration field, wherein the second type of header does not include the duration field.

CLAIMS

1. A method of communicating in a wireless network, the method comprising:

selecting a type of media access control header type from a first type of header and a second type of header, based on an indication of information stored at a receiver, the first type of header comprising a plurality of fields, and the second type of header comprising a subset of the plurality of fields, wherein the first type of header includes a duration field and the second type of header does not include the duration field; and

transmitting a media access control header of the selected type to the receiver.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the subset of the plurality of fields is less than all of the plurality of fields.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate a first address to the receiver, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes an indicator field to indicate to the receiver usage of a stored address at the receiver as the first address.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes a sequence control number and a packet number, wherein the second type of header includes the packet number but not the sequence control number, and wherein for the second type of header the packet number is indicative of the sequence control number.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate to the receiver a destination of the header, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes a message integrity code field that stores a value that is used to pass a check at the destination to indicate the destination of the header.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first type of header includes a message integrity check field and a frame check sequence field, wherein the second type of header includes the message integrity check field and not the frame check sequence field, and wherein for the second type of header passing of the message integrity check indicates passage of the frame check sequence.

7. An apparatus for communicating in a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

a processor configured to select a type of media access control header type from a first type of header and a second type of header based on an indication of information stored at a receiver, the first type of header comprising a plurality of fields, and the second type of header comprising a subset of the plurality of fields, wherein the first type of header includes a duration field and the second type of header does not include the duration field; and

a transmitter configured to transmit a media access control header of the selected type to the receiver.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the subset of the plurality of fields is less than all of the plurality of fields.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate a first address to the receiver, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes an indicator field to indicate to the receiver usage of a stored address at the receiver as the first address.

10. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the first type of header includes a sequence control number and a packet number, wherein the second type of header includes the packet number but not the sequence control number, and wherein for the second type of header the packet number is indicative of the sequence control number.

11. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate to the receiver a destination of the header, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes a message integrity code field that stores a value that is used to pass a check at the destination to indicate the destination of the header.

12. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the first type of header includes a message integrity check field and a frame check sequence field, wherein the second type of header includes the message integrity check field and not the frame check sequence field, and wherein for the second type of header passing of the message integrity check indicates passage of the frame check sequence.

13. An apparatus for communicating in a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

means for selecting a type of media access control header type from a first type of header and a second type of header, based on an indication of information stored at a receiver, the first type of header comprising a plurality of fields, and the second type of header comprising a subset of the plurality of fields, wherein the first type of header includes a duration field and the second type of header does not include the duration field; and

means for transmitting a media access control header of the selected type to the receiver.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the subset of the plurality of fields is less than all of the plurality of fields.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate a first address to the receiver, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes an indicator field to indicate to the receiver usage of a stored address at the receiver as the first address.

16. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the first type of header includes a sequence control number and a packet number, wherein the second type of header includes the packet number but not the sequence control number, and wherein for the second type of header the packet number is indicative of the sequence control number.

17. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate to the receiver a destination of the header, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header

includes a message integrity code field that stores a value that is used to pass a check at the destination to indicate the destination of the header.

18. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the first type of header includes a message integrity check field and a frame check sequence field, wherein the second type of header includes the message integrity check field and not the frame check sequence field, and wherein for the second type of header passing of the message integrity check indicates passage of the frame check sequence.

19. A non-transitory computer readable medium comprising instructions that when executed cause an apparatus to:

select a type of media access control header type from a first type of header and a second type of header, based on an indication of information stored at a receiver, the first type of header comprising a plurality of fields, and the second type of header comprising a subset of the plurality of fields, wherein the first type of header includes a duration field and the second type of header does not include the duration field; and

transmit a media access control header of the selected type to the receiver.

20. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the subset of the plurality of fields is less than all of the plurality of fields.

21. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 20, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate a first address to the receiver, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the

second type of header includes an indicator field to indicate to the receiver usage of a stored address at the receiver as the first address.

22. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 20, wherein the first type of header includes a sequence control number and a packet number, wherein the second type of header includes the packet number but not the sequence control number, and wherein for the second type of header the packet number is indicative of the sequence control number.

23. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 20, wherein the first type of header includes an address field to indicate to the receiver a destination of the header, wherein the second type of header does not include the address field, and wherein the second type of header includes a message integrity code field that stores a value that is used to pass a check at the destination to indicate the destination of the header.

24. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 20 wherein the first type of header includes a message integrity check field and a frame check sequence field, wherein the second type of header includes the message integrity check field and not the frame check sequence field, and wherein for the second type of header passing of the message integrity check indicates passage of the frame check sequence.

25. The method of Claim 1, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising a value of a destination address to be used in the second type of header.

26. The method of Claim 1, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising an indication of a presence of a key used to perform a decryption function on a message from the transmitter.

27. The method of Claim 1, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising a value of a logical link layer / subnetwork access protocol field, wherein the second type of header does not include the logical link layer / subnetwork access protocol field.

28. The method of Claim 1, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising header information of a previously transmitted packet to the receiver.

29. The method of Claim 7, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising a value of a destination address to be used in the second type of header.

30. The method of Claim 7, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising an indication of a presence of a key used to perform a decryption function on a message from the transmitter.

31. The method of Claim 7, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising a value of a logical link layer / subnetwork access protocol field, wherein the second type of header does not include the logical link layer / subnetwork access protocol field.

32. The method of Claim 7, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising header information of a previously transmitted packet to the receiver.

33. The apparatus of claim 13, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising a value of a destination address to be used in the second type of header.

34. The apparatus of claim 13, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising an indication of a presence of a key used to perform a decryption function on a message from the transmitter.

35. The apparatus of claim 13, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising a value of a logical link layer / subnetwork access protocol field, wherein the second type of header does not include the logical link layer / subnetwork access protocol field.

36. The apparatus of claim 13, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising header information of a previously transmitted packet to the receiver.

37. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 19, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising a value of a destination address to be used in the second type of header.

38. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 19, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising an indication of a presence of a key used to perform a decryption function on a message from the transmitter.

39. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 19, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising a value of a logical link layer / subnetwork access protocol field, wherein the second type of header does not include the logical link layer / subnetwork access protocol field.

40. The non-transitory computer readable medium of Claim 19, the indication of information stored at the receiver comprising header information of a previously transmitted packet to the receiver.