

**OFA XWG Meeting  
July 13, 2017  
11am Mountain**

1. Roll Call:

Board Members:

At-Large / Jason Gunthorpe  
At-Large / Bob Noseworthy  
Broadcom / Eddie Wai  
**Cray/Paul Grun**  
HPE / Andy Riebs  
Huawei / Daqi Ren  
IBM / Bernard Metzler  
**Intel / Jim Pappas**  
**Jump Trading / Christoph Lameter**  
**LANL / Susan Coulter**  
**LLNL / Matt Leininger**  
Mellanox / Gilad Shainer  
**NetApp / David Dale**  
Oak Ridge / Scott Atchley  
Oracle / David Brean  
Sandia / Mike Aguilar  
Unisys / Lilia Weber

Also present:

**OFA/Jim Ryan**  
**Intel / Divya Kolar**

2. Budget/Mission/Bylaws ... all rolled into one ☺

The only item on the agenda this time was to work on a mission statement for the Open Fabrics Alliance. A first revision of a mission statement is as follows:

‘Create an environment where highly performant networking can be developed, enhanced, and integrated with new and emerging technologies.’

- This statement will be edited over a time-period and then finalized, later.
- Susan Coulter (LANL) discussed a potential Open Fabrics Alliance (OFA) Mission statement with Christof Lameter (Jump Trading), Jason Gunthorpe (Obsidian Research), and Robert Woodruff (Intel). She reported back with the feedback she received from their input. Susan wanted to discuss with the smaller group whether they believed that the OFA should be a contributor or simply a facilitator to a larger outside Linux community.
  - She learned from discussions with this smaller group that they felt that there was a difference between member companies providing employees that work on projects that the Open Fabrics Alliance might be interested, projects that were specifically created for OFA member

companies, and projects that a developer working only for OFA might be interested in.

- Currently, the Open Fabrics Alliance policy is that the Alliance doesn't provide money but we provide people that provide code through their member companies.
  - For example, if Intel, Mellanox, Chelsio, or LANL needs something specifically created for their company, they have a developer for that specific item.
  - The current company developers work with a common code-base and resolve interoperability issues within the Open Fabrics Alliance.
  - The Alliance represents like-minded member companies that are interested in RDMA (Zero-Copy) related networks that perform data exchanges over high-speed networks.
- There might be some interest in hiring an Open Fabrics Alliance developer versus having only new RDMA related features and bug fix code contributed from OFA member companies that have their own developers.
  - A dedicated OFA developer and code maintainer might be able to help resolve conflicts or help create an API change for the betterment of the entire OFA membership and outside groups. A developer could act as a conduit for input and information and help maintain consensus and interoperability between members of the Alliance.
  - A dedicated OFA developer could act as an arbiter in between the Alliance membership and other groups. A dedicated developer could act as a communal voice for RDMA subsystem within the linux kernel so we can have a seat at the table for other conferences and other discussions.
    - Christian Lameter (Jump Trading), as a contributor to the Linux kernel, stated that he felt that a developer, working on behalf of the Alliance, would get a very different perception and impact on outside communities because this person can state that 'the Open Fabrics Alliance pays me and I work on behalf of the Alliance'.
  - However, hiring an OFA developer would cost more money in a budget. Would hiring a developer change our membership charges?
- Susan Coulter (LANL) felt that an 'outside community' consisted of the people who are not members of the Open Fabrics Alliance but

depend on the Open Fabrics Enterprise Distribution (OFED) network software stack for RDMA purposes.

- For example, Redhat, SUSE, Microsoft, and Ubuntu bundle the OFED core software stack into their Operating Systems. They might want to contribute code to the OFED stack.
  - Thousands of individual people, many that are scientists or companies that need to get computational work performed over RDMA networks, depend upon the OFED stack, provided by the Alliance.
  - New technologies are being developed and are on the way, like NVME over fabrics.
- During discussions, Paul Grun (Cray) stated that he felt that the Open Fabrics Alliance Annual Workshop was important as an emblem of what the Alliance does, maintain interoperability and help demonstrate new ideas and RDMA and high-speed network technologies. Paul stated that he felt that the ‘Open Fabrics Alliance was the organization where you go to find out about high-speed networks and how they interact with other technologies’.
  - The OFA members are interested in RDMA technologies and APIs that affect touch the Application layer while other outside groups have other interests.
3. Paul Grun (Cray) made note that at the next board meeting, there will be discussion on how to fill the open vacancy on the board (Treasurer) and how to fill Board vacancies going forward. In addition, the number of membership levels will be discussed and the amount charged to each member will be discussed.
- There was discussion on the group of the Alliance and how to welcome other members that might be interested in cloud work and data centers, not just HPC interested groups.