OFA Workshop Wrap-up

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Date: 3/28/12

Logistics

- Food is much better, but we need better attention to vegans

- Meeting room is too crowded and too cold. Screen wasn't viewable until raised

- We're cramming too much into a day, esp Monday

- Most seem to prefer Monterey, some want Sonoma

- Speakers and content was highly praised, though perhaps too much on storage
  - Some tendency to get into the weeds, not making the relevance of the topic to the workshop clear

Annual General Meeting: Discussion and Votes

- Informal vote: whether to create a new form of relationship other than conventional membership for national labs and government entities: **Yes**

- Informal vote: whether the first priority of OFA should be engineering followed by marketing or the reverse: *Engineering then marketing*

- Informal vote: the relative priority of EDC viz. HPC: *Expansion to EDC makes sense, but not at the expense of HPC*

AGM Discussion and Votes (cont'd)

- Informal vote: whether to establish OFA Certified Engineers and Systems Administrators: *Yes, and explore "test out" option*

- Informal vote: whether to develop the designation of "OFA Fellows": *Yes*

- Formal vote: whether program cost shortfalls for the OFA Interoperability program should continue to be paid out of the OFA general fund: *Analysis period of 6 months to develop and evaluate alternatives, then report back membership*

Issues/Opens/Decisions

- Consider granting access to Bob's issues data base for other sys admins

- Propose a change to the IB spec re retry semantics

- Ira is developing some diagnostics tools which he'll make available soon

- Suggest the development of tools for fault tolerance for OFED

- Steve suggested OFA's TAC should analyze SW development opportunities

Issues/Opens/Decisions

- Consider proposing nonlinear timeouts to the IBTA for the IB spec

- Consider requesting proprietary tools to ID bottlenecks to be made available for OFED

- Support the effort to make Automatic Path Migration (APM) open source

- There appeared to be support both for the need for a system administration course and for the syllabus

Issues/Opens/Decisions

- TAC suggestions for things to investigate:
  - Exascale software
  - Manageability, scalability and opaqueness of SM. Administrators are nervous about IB and RDMA – familiar with Ethernet
  - Enterprise vs. HPC – how much do goals overlap? Some could be orthogonal. Should we have the same strategy or different?
  - Live migration – Common API for virtualization
  - Security
  - Resiliency and fault tolerance
  - Real-time OS Support

Issues/Opens/Decisions

- Support the effort to make "Unstructured Data Accelerator" (UDA) open source

- Investigate the potential benefit of CCI for OFED

- Consider enhancing the NVMe spec to include RDMA

Issues/Opens/Decisions

- EWG issues:
  - How often to release OFED? 2X yearly? Every new kernel.org kernel?
    - Keep up w/kernel releases, possibly w/some form of subset testing to minimize strain on resources. Effort is in testing the back-ports
  - Can we drop SDP from OFED? It's not upstream and not going there (license issues). It's being dropped from both distros
    - It would affect some of our users, per the audience
    - Suggest the change and take it out and see if anyone complains
  - Back-porting process discussion
    - New proposal from Vlad has been discussed in the EWG meetings
  - Verbs extensions, e.g., XRC. Need a way to build extensions w/o breaking APIs
  - How to get more people to help? Hire someone?
    - ***Investigate this***

Issues/Opens/Decisions

- What suggestions do you have for next year?