

OFA XWG Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2017
11am Mountain

1. Roll Call:

Board Members (present in **bold**):

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 / Chris Beggio (Michael Aguilar)

Unisys / Lilia Weber

Also present:

OFA / Jim Ryan

LANL / Parks Fields

Mellanox / Bill Lee

2. Approval of minutes from meeting on 4/27

2.1. Tabled, received too late to be reviewed

3. OFED / EWG

3.1. Summary and conclusions

- There was a good deal of spirited discussion regarding the value of OFED, but no clear conclusions
- Also, no conclusion on whether to market or promote OFED
- Three specific actions were agreed to:
 1. Develop a simple survey of OFA Board members to find out whether they use OFED and, if so, what they value about it
 2. Summarize participation in EWG meetings
 3. Ask for information on who downloads OFED from our web site

3.2. Discussion

- Board oversight
 - Susan provided some background explaining before the OFED 3.18-3 release the Board wasn't actively involved with the workings of the EWG including approving OFED releases. Only the last two releases have caused EWG to seek Board approval. Therefore, this has been new to Susan and the Board. Details not known and there is grumbling from the open community as to why we even produce OFED

- Susan's concerned Board should have more knowledge and visibility into all this.
- Susan is specifically concerned about a driver that might be causing conflicts. Susan learned at Monday's EWG meeting non-upstream drivers are in a different part of the tree – not just bundled, must be sought specifically. Therefore, not a huge problem.
- Woody provided some information on specific issues that may have led to concerns expressed by Christoph Helwig: one had to do with Xeon phi code and one with support for XRC. Therefore, we now have "Tech Preview" to separate these elements out. There aren't many such drivers or components, but having this capability avoids needing to create a "derivative" such as Mellanox's MOFED. MOFED is not the concern of the OFA, but avoiding fragmentation is, so this would not be an ideal solution for the OFA
- Who uses OFED?
 - Susan asked this fundamental question to start off a discussion and received a number of comments and recommendations in response. Susan explained it was important we understand how this looks to the open community – saying she just doesn't know. She explained OFED is the OFA "blessed" code, therefore we must show ownership
 - Susan went on to suggest since we are now upstream and there is a big user community relying upon the distros, have things changed fundamentally? Historical justification may no longer hold. Maybe we only release to member companies? Should we stop "marketing" OFED?
 - Jason believes the OFA shouldn't be making OFED available. He went on to explain he objects to 3 versions of "OFA SW" being available: vendor, OFED and upstream
 - Woody made several statements regarding OFED, including the fact it is used for interop testing and early access. The distro versions are good enough unless some special need exists. OFED is community-developed and allows for vendor derivatives to be developed relatively easily. Interop is a critical need for some and the reason the OFA and OFED were created.
 - Woody suggested further the fact vendors invest time and effort in OFED is a statement of its importance. Jim took the AR to come up with a summary of participation at EWG meetings (later in these minutes).
 - Paul asked if there is any way to find out who uses OFED and why and how they value it? Jim replied this has been considered in the past but rejected as being "inconsistent with the working of the open community". This will be revisited
 - Susan: sounds like 2 issues: use OFED internally and available for anyone who specifically needs it. Is there way to strike a balance, in not "promoting" it to end users?
 - Susan suggested starting with a simple member survey as to who uses OFED and why. Paul offered to take a first cut

- What is OpenFabrics Software (connected to #6)
 - There wasn't time to dig in to this, but it was acknowledged as a source of significant confusion
- 4. Dormant working groups
 - 4.1. Susan: 3 are now "dormant" we want to ID them as such. Any reason not to do so? There didn't seem to be any concern or objection
- 5. Budget – no time
- 6. Bylaws – no time
- 7. Removing old repos from OFA site – no time
- 8. OFA representation at industry Conferences / Workshops
 - 8.1. SNIA collaboration – member companies interested in NVMe over Fabrics?
 - 8.1.1. Susan explained there has been a proposal for some specific area for collaboration. Board members are invited to learn more or participate. Bill explained this is dealt with in the MWG meetings
 - 8.2. Who pays for the travel
 - 8.3. Which conferences
- 9. Call for nominations at the next Board meeting:
 - 9.1. Four positions need to be filled: Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary.
 - 9.2. Needn't be a director, could be an agent of a Promoter.
 - 9.3. The intentions of Susan and Paul WRT to the Chair and Vice-chair positions they currently hold were not expressed
 - 9.4. Bill is not seeking reelection as Treasurer. He subsequently provided a job description (follows).
 - 9.5. Still need a nomination for Secretary. Susan asks for this in time for the Board meeting and took the AR to provide a job description for the Secretary position.

Treasurer Position Description:

- The Treasurer works with a business manager to see that all of the paperwork is completed. Our current business manager is the Linux Foundation.
- Maintain membership rolls, report to MWG any changes (ongoing)
- Review incoming invoices and approve payments (ongoing)
- Monitor progress against budget, report monthly to the Board of Directors
- Generate annual budget (August-November)
- Coordinate with the OFA business manager to issue quotes and invoices for membership payments (October-December)
- Coordinate with the OFA business manager and OFILG WG chair to issue quotes and invoices for logo plug fest payments (November-February)
- Follow up with members delinquent with either of these payments (January-March)
- Oversee the generation of our tax returns (February-March)

Participation in EWG Meetings:

Participation in EWG Meeting, number for each company for each date											
EWG Date	Broadcom/ Avago	Chelsio	Cray	IBM	Intel	LANL	Mellanox	Qlogic/ Cavium	Sandia	SW Forge	VMWare
5/8/17	1		1	2	3	1	1		1	1	
4/24/17				1	3	1	1			1	1
3/13/17				2	3	1				1	1
2/13/17		1		2	3		1			1	
12/5/16					3		1	1	1	1	
11/21/16					3		1			1	
11/7/16	1	1		1	4	1	1				1
8/1/16	1	1		1	2		1			1	
7/18/16		1		1	2		1				