OFA XWG Meeting
September 14, 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:
    　　Mellanox / Bill Lee
    　　LANL/Jesse Martinez
    　　OFA/Jim Ryan
    　　Intel/Paul Bowden
    　　LANL/Parks Fields

2. Approve XWG minutes from 8/24

    A motion was introduced by Susan Coulter (LANL). The motion was seconded by Michael Aguilar (Sandia).

3. Interop Working Group (IWG) discussion

    Susan Coulter (LANL) mentioned that there were concerns being stated by the Open Fabrics Alliance members about the age of the testing equipment, the cost of testing to the OFA, and the version/age of the items being tested. Paul Bowden (Intel) stated that concern over the fact that no new hardware was being tested is unfounded. Paul used the example of both RoCE and iWARP area as examples of testing that was being performed by IWG and UNH-IOL.

    Paul Bowden (Intel) gave a presentation on the IWG group. Paul stated that the IWG has a specific focus, they run an Interoperability not a Compliance Testing Suite

through the University of New Hampshire-Interoperability Lab (UNH-IOL). Currently, the tests are being performed on Infiniband, RoCE, and IWarp.

Paul Bowden (Intel) and Bob Noseworthy (At-Large) explained that companies pay a fee, as subscribers, that is separate from their OWA membership fees. Member companies, as part of their subscription, get a confidential report from UNH-IOL. The UNH-IOL report is treated with complete confidentiality until a company decides to make their own report. Facilities at UNH-IOL allow testing of server endpoints, black appliances, switches, and storage appliances. Most of the Interoperability testing is for Infiniband products. There are slightly more RoCE tests performed than there are IWarp tests.

There are 2 possible steps to the testing. UNH-IOL does Interoperability debug testing and Logo testing. When a product passes a Logo test, a vendor can claim and market interoperability by using the OpenFabrics Interoperability Logo (OFIL).

In the Interoperability testing phase a stable release candidate of OFED is used. During the on-site testing. Interoperability debug events at UNH-IOL, vendors get to try out their new pieces of hardware and software to see how their equipment operates with the equipment from other vendors. During the debug testing 2 or more vendors will be represented and may be participating. The UNH-IOL and the IWG do not publish details of failures. Confidentiality allows vendors to resolve compatibility issues in a cooperative manner.

During Logo testing, a common set of equipment is provided by UNH-IOL. The equipment is solely owned by UNH-IOL. The Logo testing team uses a production released version of OFED. The production released OFED version is used so that publicly available device drivers are used in the software stack. Using production device drivers allow multiple vendors to interoperate. The knowledge of knowing that you've gone through a test cycle lets a company verify their product in a mixed-environment.

4. Budget discussion

   4.1. The OpenFabrics Alliance will be holding its next Workshop in Boulder, CO, in early April. Currently, we don't know what the current cost projects for the Workshop are. However, the 2018 budget has a $20,000 cost buffer built-in. The 2017 Workshop was actually over budget by $7,000. Jim Ryan (OFA) as Acting Treasurer or Bill Lee (Mellanox) as out-going Treasurer and a member of the Marketing Working Group (MWG) will continue to work out Workshop cost details.

5. Operating Reserves / ED and Maintainer / Increased fees

A question was raised by both Jim Pappas (Intel) and Susan Coulter (LANL) about drawing down the OFA reserves to hire and Executive Director and a Maintainer. Jim Pappas is concerned that the OFA has not yet taken any action on developing an Executive Director, a position that he believes is necessary for a non-profit organization, like OFA, to operate properly.

Jim Ryan (OFA based a proper level of Operating Reserves for non-profit organizations on a rule of thumb that shutdown costs plus a year of Operating Costs should be amount in the Operating Reserve for the OFA. Jim Ryan stated that the OFA has initial Operating Reserve targets for the 2018 budget of around $128.000. The OFA is in discussion about income, and ultimately, about the amount that will be charged to OFA members as dues. While noting that OFA income is driven by the level of membership, it is a possibility that member dues might increase to support an Executive Director and a Maintainer, if the OFA chooses to hire contractors to fill these positions. Jim stated that he expects that the OFA will initially expect a 2018 budget surplus of $11,402, if no Maintainer or Executive Director were to be hired.

The OFA has currently got Operating Reserves of $380,028. If the expected budget surplus for 2018 is added in, the OFA should have an Operating Reserve of $391,430. Jim Ryan (OFA) subtracted the cost of a Maintainer ($55,000) from the Operating Reserve and projected that the Operating Reserve would be at $336,430. Jim then subtracted the cost of an Executive Director ($45,000) and projected that the Operating Reserve would be left with $346,430. With an Executive Director hire and a Maintainer hire, Jim projected that the Operating Reserve would be left with $291,430.

To gauge the reaction of Program Managers and Division Leaders at Los Alamos National Laboratory in the increase dues to fulfill a new OFA mission that revolves around High Speed software, Susan Coulter (LANL) discussed the possibility of membership costs increasing from $10,000 to $15,000 or $20,000. After explaining the changing mission of the OFA, Susan stated that the discussion appeared to be a success.

6. Draft Mission Statement:

Provide a neutral environment for community assets and infrastructure in support of the development and enhancement of highly performant networking software, and the integration of that software with new and emerging technologies.