

**OFA XWG Meeting
August 24, 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 / Divya Kolar for Jim Pappas
Jump Trading / Christoph Lameter
LANL / Susan Coulter
LLNL / Matt Leininger
Mellanox / Bill Lee for Gilad Shainer
NetApp / David Dale
Oak Ridge / Scott Atchley
Oracle / David Brean
Sandia / Mike Aguilar
Unisys / Lilia Weber

Also present:

LANL/Jesse Martinez
OFA/Jim Ryan
Intel/Paul Bowden
LANL/Parks Fields

2. The XWG minutes from 10 August 2017 was motioned by Susan Coulter (LANL) and seconded by Divya Kolar (Intel).
3. Budget discussion / prepare for approval
 - Currently, the OFA has ~\$200,000 in cash reserve in the bank account balance.
 - There was a discussion of the current and upcoming budget for the OpenFabrics Alliance (OFA). Bill Lee (Mellanox), acting as Treasurer, mentioned that we need a budget set before we can start signing necessary contracts, going forward. Also, he stated that he would like us to have a discussion about closing current open items.
 - In the process of discussing the budget, Divya Kolar (Intel) mentioned that no invoices have been received by Jim Pappas (Intel) for their current 2017 support of the OpenFabrics Alliance. Also, she noted that despite the ongoing discussions about the possibility of OFA ending the use of Intel funds for support, Intel has

not received any notice regarding the cessation of funding before 31 December, 2017. Bill Lee (Mellanox) stated that he will examine both the invoices and funding payments from Intel to help get the funding invoices current.

- Items that we need to discuss for budget for are: a Maintainer who also could be responsible for OFA support, Interop UNH-IOL (University of New Hampshire-Interoperability Lab) for on demand testing (in the future with Jenkins or Beaker testing software), and an Executive Director.
 - Susan Coulter (LANL) mentioned that we would want to understand how far into the ‘red’ the OFA budget would be with new contractors to perform the function of a Maintainer and Executive Director far into the ‘red’ we are with our current membership levels.
 - Christoph Lameter discussed working with the Linux Foundation.
 - Currently, the OFA has ~\$200,000 in cash reserve in the bank account balance.
- 4. Office of Treasurer----Currently, Bill Lee (Mellanox) is graciously helping out with the Treasurer work. We are still looking to vote in a new Treasurer. Jim Ryan is available to perform the work of the Treasurer position only on an interim basis.
- 5. New ED and Maintainer job descriptions

OpenFabrics Alliance Executive Director Job Description
DRAFT

The role of the Executive Director (ED) of the OpenFabrics Alliance (OFA) is to implement the strategic plans of the OFA in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner. This requires the ED to assist in complex and long-running projects, providing insight and leadership to achieve successful completion. The ED will be expected to lead the effort to both retain existing OFA members and encourage new membership in the OFA.

Other responsibilities include playing a strong role in both the logistics and technical content planning for the annual workshop, as well as participating in the identification of other organizations and conferences with whom the OFA could build synergistic relationships. The ED may be expected to fill in as Secretary or Treasurer in the absence of those officers. In the case of hiring staff, the ED will play a role in the work required to define, advertise and fill these positions. The ED reports to the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors grants the ED the authority to perform tasks. The ED is accountable to the Chair of the Board of Directors and will be required to provide status reports on a regular basis.

- After Susan Coulter (LANL) went ‘off-line’ with 7 promoter members, the feedback suggested that Jim Ryan’s (OFA) role as an Executive Director is to continue to lead the group and to get a general sense for the tasks that we need done.

OpenFabrics Alliance Maintainer Job Description
DRAFT

The role of maintainer, as implemented by the OFA, would require that the individual chosen already be active in the development of the RDMA subsystem and user space code. They should already have an existing trust relationship with others in the field and be able to resolve any conflicts that arise and provide feedback and guidance to the community. This is can be demonstrated by frequently giving feedback to proposals put forth by others and helping to find the approaches that make the most sense. This feedback and assistance is necessary to guide the future architecture of the RDMA subsystem. This role includes kernel maintenance, but also the maintenance of user space code that is part of the larger code base that supports RDMA technology. The maintainer will ensure proper patch flow and submission to larger projects as needed. Because the RDMA subsystem gets merged into the kernel and the user space libraries are included in various distributions, the ability to communicate and coordinate with other maintainers is critical. All maintainers work in accountable relationships with other key contributors, other maintainers, and upstream. The OFA maintainer role, therefore, includes a large community aspect, which requires communication skills and responsiveness – both of which are essential for success.

- Eddie Wai (Broadcom) stated that he wanted more background on the Maintainer contractor position.

6. Mission

- Our current draft Mission Statement is as follows: **‘Create an environment where highly performant networking can be developed, enhanced, and integrated with new and emerging technologies.’**
- The old mission of the OFA was to get software out.
- There were concerns about whether or not the OFA should still exist? Do we provide a service beyond a Workshop?
 - Susan Coulter (LANL) mentioned that we had a series of conversations and a Town Hall meeting in Austin to discuss the value of the OFA to the members and to outsiders was.
 - OFA provides unique value.

7. Future funding and expenditures

- Membership levels---The numbers of members at each level of the OFA will dictate the amount the OFA will operate in the ‘red’ or ‘black’ with new expenditures. An Executive Director position responsibility would be to help to increase the membership of the Alliance.
- Paid contract staff---Susan Coulter (LANL) stated that she believed that the OFA should be bold and be a leader in the community and be willing to

operate in the 'red' for a period of time necessary to achieve the goals of a new Mission Statement.