OFA WWG Meeting Notes 6/6/13:

Summary:

* We are going to come up with a small number of “propositions” that can lead to a re-chartering of the Windows Working Group (WWG) of the OpenFabrics Alliance (OFA). These propositions will be used to recruit additional participants in the next meeting of the WWG.
* An integral aspect of the WWG re-charting (evolution) is the discontinuation of winOFED binary releases after winOFED 3.2. At this juncture the WWG believes the emergence of Microsoft’s NetworkDirect RDMA APIs in conjunction with the Microsoft sponsored NetworkDirect provider logo program provides a fully supported RDMA network stack for Windows customers.
* Jim will get a list of specific targets to recruit and communicate the proposals in a direct call. We will not rely on email.
* The next meeting will be decisive for the future of the WWG. If we can generate a set of propositions that are sufficiently appealing to get invited companies to participate and commit, then we have a chance to have a useful WWG. If not, we’ll “declare success” in terms of having accomplished our initial objectives and put the working group on hold, with thanks to Stan and others for their contributions and leadership.

Propositions:

* The WWG has achieved its initial objectives of providing software and providing a mechanism for Microsoft to contribute software which in turn helped Microsoft to support RDMA in the form of what is now called NetworkDirect (ND).
* With that important accomplishment, it is appropriate to attempt to “re-charter” the WWG to take on new tasks, but only if the tasks are deemed to be worthwhile for companies to participate in. The proposed work and responsibilities follow:
  + Continue to support DAPL. Alternative: do so within Intel.
  + ISV interface development: Define a mechanism to document and provide access to lower-level interfaces to ND. This would not include SW implementations and would not include source code. The interfaces would be defined for ISVs by IHVs.
  + Expose gaps for the attention of Microsoft to fill. Our best information is this could be of interest to the HPC group within Microsoft, likely a “don’t care” in the core OS group
  + Provide a mechanism to “experiment” with code. This would be as an alternative to NDA-based activities, which can have significant delays due to legal involvement
  + Support vendor coordination for NetworkDirect API extensions. Collectively work to fill functionality gaps in NetworkDirect.
    - Drive the definition of NetworkDirect atomic support which can contribute to the convergence of IB and iWARP.
    - Support User mode Datagrams (UD), in general, beyond verbs and multicast (needed especially by FSI).
  + Support the development of a common management component and diagnostic infrastructure along with other management-related elements.

What is needed for the WWG to be successful in its re-chartered form:

* We don’t need “official” support from Microsoft for the WWG to be worthwhile, though we’d definitely benefit from the participation of individuals such as Fab
* Header files from Microsoft AND the OFA are required to utilize NetworkDirect extensions until such a time that MS has incorporated the extensions into ND header files.
* Documentation from Microsoft which so far has not been developed. The headers that are needed already exist and are public