

SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum Mission & Charter

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Modification History

Version	Principal Author	Date	Modifications
2.0	David Dale	August 2004	Updated charter, governing board meetings, membership fees and scope of work sections.
3.0	David Dale	March 2009	Changed name, broadened scope of mission, added section on Special Interest Groups, edited membership fees section, other minor edits
4.0	David Dale	November 2012	Changed name, broadened scope, other minor edits
4.1	Jason Blasil	January 2013	Updated charter to keep existing ESF name and new proposed SIGs.

1.0 MISSION

The mission of the SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum (ESF) is to drive the broad adoption of Ethernet-connected storage networking solutions.

2.0 CHARTER

The Ethernet Storage Forum will fulfill its mission by:

- Promoting Ethernet as a transport for converged storage networking solutions,
- Promoting the use of file protocols for data center storage applications, with a focus on the relevant standards, and the industry's implementation of these standards
- Promoting the value of Ethernet-connected storage networking solutions to the industry and its customers
- Accelerating SNIA's evolution to a worldwide organization embracing all storage networking technologies
- Conducting and promoting interoperability demonstrations and plugfests
- Pursuing alliances and leveraging SNIA committees and events to accomplish education and end-user outreach programs
- Advocating customer needs and reflecting user concerns and issues back into the industry standards development process.

The scope of work to be undertaken by the ESF in fulfilling its mission is described in Appendix II, Ethernet Storage Forum Scope of Work.

Participation in the SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum is open to SNIA members who pay the requisite participation fee. The activity of the SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum is governed by the policies and procedures adopted by the Ethernet Storage Forum governing body and those defined by the SNIA Board of Directors.

NOTE: Many of the protocols addressed in the charter also run over other physical transports and this fact may be included in the output of any SIG. However, the primary objective is to focus on Ethernet based solutions.

3.0 STRUCTURE

3.1 Officers

The Ethernet Storage Forum will elect a minimum of five officers: a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a treasurer, a marketing officer, and a membership and business development officer. The responsibilities associated with each of these positions are detailed in Appendix I, Ethernet Storage Forum Board Roles and Responsibilities.

The board shall be elected annually by a vote of the Forum membership. Elections may be held in-person, by electronic ballot, or by email-based vote. Each officer shall hold office for a term of one (1) year or until his or her successor shall be elected and qualified

to serve. A vacancy may be filled by a vote of the Forum membership for the unexpired term at any meeting of the Forum board. Officers may be elected to consecutive terms.

Representatives from the same company can only hold one of these positions. There are two exceptions to this rule. If due to mergers/acquisitions, etc. a company has representatives filling two of these positions, that is allowable through the end of the current terms of those representatives. If representatives from a company volunteer to fill in on an interim basis for vacant spots giving the company no more than two of these positions, that is also allowed.

The Ethernet Storage Forum Board may also include chairs of subgroups or standing committees of the Forum, as appointed (non-voting) officers.

3.2 Subgroups – Special Interest Groups

The Ethernet Storage Forum consists of a number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), each focused on a specific technology. Every member company of the Ethernet Storage Forum belongs to one or more of these SIGs. The role of each SIG is to create and maintain the marketing plan related to their area of focus, create content, and provide subject matter experts to promote and market their technology.

Each SIG elects a chair or co-chairs at the beginning of the fiscal year to drive the SIG's agenda, and represent the SIG on the Ethernet Storage Forum governing board as a non-voting member of the board. Each SIG is also expected to appoint a representative to the Ethernet Storage Forum Marketing Committee.

The Ethernet Storage Forum will initially have two Special Interest Groups: the File Protocols SIG and the Storage Over Ethernet SIG. Additional SIGs may be created by the Ethernet Storage Forum Board at the request of a member company, and the commitment of at least four (4) vendors to participate in the SIG.

The Ethernet Storage Forum has no intention of creating SIGs focused on technologies that are the focus of other industry associations (for example, the Fibre Channel Industry Association which promotes standards created within INCITS T11 committee, and the Ethernet Alliance which promotes standards created within the IEEE 802.x committees). Instead, the Forum will pursue strategic alliances with these organizations to fulfill its mission.

3.3 Subgroups -- Committees

The governing Board of the Forum may create standing committees, as required, and select chairpersons to lead them. Standing committees may include, but are not limited to:

- Marketing
- Education
- End user liaison

- Standards and technical working group liaison
- Membership
- International

All committees work to support the agenda of the individual Special Interest Groups, and the Ethernet Storage Forum as a whole.

3.4 Governing Board Meetings

The governing board of the Forum will meet (by conference call) on a monthly basis. At least two meetings per year will be a face-to-face meeting.

If a Board member misses three (3) consecutive meetings, the Board may request a written explanation. In the absence of a satisfactory explanation, the Board may declare that Board position vacant, and initiate an election to fill the vacancy.

4.0 WORKING RULES

4.1 Reporting

The Chair of the SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum shall report on request to the SNIA board, not less than once per quarter. An annual report shall be furnished to the SNIA and the Forum members effective the end of each fiscal year. The annual report shall contain a full accounting of the previous year's activities and financial status for the fiscal year. An Annual membership meeting will be held.

4.2 Voting Rules

For issues requiring a vote of the membership, the following rules apply. These rules apply only to voting members of the Forum.

- One vote per SNIA member (a company or an individual) who has registered as a Forum participant and paid the participation fee. A company will identify its Ethernet Storage Forum voting member when it joins the Forum.
- Voting members of the Ethernet Storage Forum will be able to vote on Ethernet Storage Forum issues even if they are associate members, and not voting members, of SNIA.
- A quorum will be established if 40% of the Forum voting members are present at a meeting if the vote is being conducted in person. A quorum can also be established if 40% of the voting members have voted by the deadline in a vote being taken electronically.
- Any changes to this charter document will require the approval of at least 60% of the membership of the Forum.

4.3 Budget & Membership Fees

The Ethernet Storage Forum will charge each member company according to the following schedule:

- Hardware and software manufacturers
 - Five thousand US dollars (\$5000) per year per SIG for voting members
 - Three thousand US dollars (\$3000) per year per SIG for non-voting members
- Resellers and Integrators
 - One thousand US dollars (\$1000) per year per SIG for voting members
 - Three hundred US dollars (\$300) per year per SIG for non-voting members
- Individuals
 - Three hundred US dollars (\$300) per year for voting members
 - One hundred US dollars (\$100) per year for non-voting members

Twenty five percent (25%) of the Forum membership fees will be given to the SNIA general fund to pay for administrative, website and PR/marketing activity that the Ethernet Storage Forum generates on common SNIA infrastructure.

The Ethernet Storage Forum treasurer will ensure that expenditures related to each SIG's specific marketing plan are proportional to the SIG's membership fees compared with total Forum membership fees.

Participation in industry events may carry an additional fee above the SNIA and Forum membership fees. Specific marketing initiatives may also require additional fees from those participating in such initiatives.

The annual budget for the Ethernet Storage Forum will be prepared by the treasurer and approved by the governing board of the Forum. The governing board of the Forum through fifty-one (51%) percent approval will approve the annual budget. Any changes to the budget during the year must also be approved by the Forum governing board. The governing board of the Forum will review the budget at least quarterly.

4.4 Rules of Engagement

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum operates within the policies and procedures adopted by the Ethernet Storage Forum governing body and those established for SNIA Industry Forums by the SNIA Board. Marketing and promotional activity should be conducted with professionalism that reflects mutual respect for other SNIA members and their diverse interests.

Appendix I - SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum Governing Board Roles and Responsibilities

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum is a marketing organization, and hence, the Ethernet Storage Forum governing board is collectively responsible for the Ethernet Storage Forum Marketing Plan. The members of the governing board are also expected to represent the Ethernet Storage Forum at various industry events.

The particular responsibilities associated with the various Board positions are as follows

Chair: The Chair is the primary Forum representative to the industry, to the SNIA Board, regional SNIA subsidiaries and Forums, and to other SNIA Forums. The Chair presides at all Ethernet Storage Forum meetings and shall have such other powers as may be prescribed by the Forum Board or Membership.

Vice-Chair: In the absence of the Chair or in the event of the Chair's disability, inability, or refusal to act, the Vice-Chair shall perform all of the duties of the Chair and, in so acting, shall have all of the powers of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Forum Membership or the Chair.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the Forum and shall keep and maintain or cause to be kept and maintained adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Forum, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses. Treasurer may discharge these duties by working with the staff of the SNIA and the SNIA Treasurer. The books of accounts shall at all times be open to inspection by any Forum Member. The Treasurer shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Forum Board.

Marketing Officer: The Forum's Marketing Plan, which the Forum collectively owns, is maintained by the Marketing Officer. The Marketing Officer is Forum's primary interface with SNIA marketing, and with the press. The Marketing Officer oversees the creation and maintenance of presentation and marketing materials used on an ongoing basis by Forum representatives. The Marketing Officer shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Forum Membership or the Chair.

Membership and Business Development Officer: The Membership and Business Development officer is responsible for maintaining the membership status and primary representatives of Forum member companies. The Membership and Business Development officer may discharge these duties by working with the staff of the SNIA. The Membership and Business Development officer is also responsible for driving membership recruitment programs for the Forum.

Appendix II: SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum Scope of Work

The scope of work for the SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum includes, but is not limited to:

1.0 Marketing Collateral and White Papers

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum will develop marketing collateral and white papers to explain the principles, features and benefits of Ethernet-connected storage networking solutions and technologies.

2.0 Education

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum may develop educational materials (presentations, CDs, DVDs, etc) for distribution to customers and the industry and for posting on the SNIA and other industry web sites. The educational activities may be performed independently within the Ethernet Storage Forum or coordinated with the SNIA Education Committee and SNIA Marketing Committee.

3.0 Forum, Panels, Speaking Engagements

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum may establish its own promotional or educational events or leverage industry events such as Storage Networking World (SNW), Network+Interop (N+I), CeBIT, etc., for participation in forums, panels, demonstrations and presentations.

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum will identify subject-matter experts and approved speakers for each SIG and for the Forum, so that members of the Forum can actively participate as speakers and on panel discussions, etc. to properly and adequately represent Ethernet-connected storage networking solutions and technologies and the Ethernet Storage Forum.

4.0 Interoperability and Showcase Demonstrations

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum may create interoperability and showcase demonstrations for highlighting the benefits of Ethernet-connected storage networking technologies and solutions. Such activities may be developed independently by the Ethernet Storage Forum or coordinated with the SNIA Interoperability Committee, the SNIA Technology Center, or other non-SNIA organizations.

5.0 Participation in SNIA Events

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum can leverage other SNIA resources and activities, including workgroup and committee face-to-face meetings, Technical Symposiums, Technology Center meetings and events, Web-based events, regional SNIA events, and

Storage Networking World to conduct meetings and promote Storage Protocol Forum activities.

6.0 Liaisons

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum will coordinate via its Special Interest Groups and Technical Liaison Committee with the relevant standards bodies and technical groups for the technologies it promotes. This will result in information flow in both directions.

The Ethernet Storage Forum will pursue strategic alliances with other industry associations to bring information on relevant technologies not represented by a ESF SIG into the Forum's agenda, and to extend the Forum's outreach.

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum will co-ordinate with other SNIA Forums to ensure complementary messaging and efficient use of SNIA resources.

The SNIA Ethernet Storage Forum will also coordinate with the SNIA Global Steering Committee, and regional SNIA affiliates and Forums to ensure a coherent global approach to the market.