



SNIA-CTP Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions are answered in the document:

- What is SNIA-CTP?
- How do I get started?
- What is SMI-lab?
- What is the SNIA Technology Center?
- What level of technical support will be required by storage vendors before, during and after the test cycle?
- My solution passes SNIA-CTP testing, what happens?
- What happens if the storage vendor's solution fails SNIA-CTP testing?
- How many providers can be tested simultaneously?
- What is the cost of SNIA-CTP testing?
- Can I run conformance tests on my own prior to final SNIA-CTP testing?
- How do I receive the master test suites?
- How do I get software support?
- How long do the tests run?
- If I need more details, who do I contact?
- Do I have to run all the SNIA-CTP tests to meet conformance?
- What is the architecture of the SMI specification?
- Who is responsible for shipping and return of my equipment from the Technology Center?
- Where can I retrieve the SNIA-CTP Testing Contract?

Q: What is SNIA-CTP?

A: SNIA-CTP is the SNIA Interoperability Conformance Test Program. SNIA-CTP consists of master test suites that are developed, owned and operated by SNIA. SNIA-CTP is an integral step towards providing verification that a storage vendor's product implementation is compliant to industry specifications such as the the SMI specification.

Q: How do I get started?

- A:*
- Download the appropriate specification, such as the SMI specification, from www.snia.org
 - Identify individuals in your organization to start working the SNIA-CTP process (e.g., legal, marketing & product development)
 - Build your product to the specification
 - Download the SNIA-CTP validation contract package from <http://www.snia.org>.
 - Access to the SNIA-CTP test suites and specification available to all companies after completion of the validation contract
 - SNIA-CTP testing is scheduled on a first-come, first scheduled basis

Q: What is SMI-lab?

A: SMI-lab is the SNIA hosted program that is used by storage vendors to pre-test their SMI implementation before entering formal SNIA-CTP testing. While participation in SMI-lab is not mandatory, it is highly recommended. The SMI-lab



SNIA-CTP Frequently Asked Questions

provides manufacturers with access to multi-vendor storage devices as well as a neutral environment to run through the SNIA-CTP master test suites and fine tune their code to the specification. All SMI-labs are hosted at the SNIA Technology Center in Colorado Springs.

Q: What is the SNIA Technology Center?

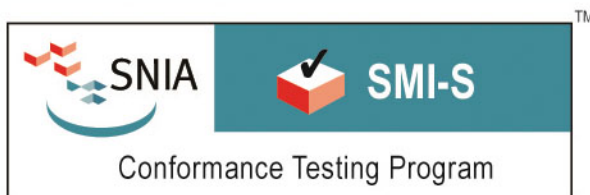
A: The SNIA Technology Center is a classroom and laboratory facility designed to provide access to resources and equipment for interoperability testing. SNIA hosts SMI-lab "plug fests" that are used by storage vendors to pre-test their implementation before entering formal ICTP testing. Use of the center minimizes time and costs associated with set-up and teardown of multiple vendor equipment. For more information on the Technology Center and how to participate, visit: www.snia.org/tech_center.

Q: What level of technical support will be required by storage vendors before, during, and after the test cycle?

A: Pre-test support for SMI-lab requires an individual from the storage vendor to set-up equipment into pre-test conditions. Tear down is required after the test or the storage vendor may choose to retain the equipment in the Technology Center as a loan opportunity to participate in additional SNIA Programs. During formal SNIA-CTP testing, it is not required to have technical personnel on site in Colorado Springs. However, a responsible individual needs to be available on-line to respond to any abnormalities in a timely manner.

Q: My solution passes SNIA-CTP testing, what happens?

A: Storage vendors that successfully complete the SNIA-CTP master test suites will receive electronic artwork containing the appropriate SNIA-CTP mark. This mark indicates that the storage vendor has completed conformance testing and can be used on product packaging and marketing communications when used in conjunction with Notice of Compliance message. The mark which is given for passing the SMI-Provider testing suite is shown below:



Q: What happens if the storage vendor's solution fails SNIA-CTP testing?

A: SNIA strongly recommends that storage vendors take advantage of the SMI-lab pre-test activities. This eliminates the possibility of failure during the SNIA-CTP test process. In the event that a SNIA-CTP test fails, the vendor has the opportunity to *retest three times*; however, this is only limited to vendor implementation errors such as:



SNIA-CTP Frequently Asked Questions

- The wrong version of firmware was loaded in the product under test
- The product was not initialized properly prior to the validation test
- The vendor specified the wrong set of tests suites

When the SNIA-CTP test fails, all testing stops until the testing technician can reach the technical contact for the solution.

Q: How many SMI providers can be tested simultaneously?

A: The number of simultaneous tests is limited by the number of SNIA-CTP test systems.

Current SNIA-CTP test capability is for three simultaneous validation runs, provided that the equipment under test can be isolated from the other equipment under test. Additional test systems can be added as required.

Q: What is the cost of ICTP testing?

A: Pricing is based upon whether a company is a member of SNIA or is not. In addition, price structures exist based upon the level of testing. Please see the SNIA-CTP Request For Conformance Testing form for the most up to date price schedule.

Q: Can I run conformance tests on my own prior to final SNIA-CTP testing?

A: Once the SNIA-CTP conformance contract has been signed, vendors will have access to the test suite source to use for their own testing. SNIA strongly suggests that the test suites be run in the vendor's own environment before attending a plug fest or final SNIA-CTP testing to speed up problem resolution and debugging efforts.

Q: How do I receive the master test suites?

A: Vendors will be offered access to the test suite distribution site once the appropriate paperwork has been completed. Vendors will also gain access to the site if they are a member of the currently active SMI lab.

Q: How do I get software support?

A: The SNIA-CTP development team provides software support. The SNIA-CTP Administrator will arrange for the appropriate support on an individual basis.

Q: How long do the tests run?

A: The test run duration will vary depending upon the device under test and the set of tests being run. Current indications are that complex arrays and switches can run several days. Most individual tests run in minutes to hours.

Q: If I need more details, who do I contact?

A: Send an e-mail to snia-ctp-admin@snia.org.

Q: Do I have to run all the SNIA-CTP tests to meet conformance?

A: The vendor specifies the set of profiles, subprofiles and recipes. There is no need to test against all profiles, subprofiles and recipes. However, once the vendor specifies which profiles, subprofiles and recipes, appropriate for their hardware,



SNIA-CTP Frequently Asked Questions

they will be required to pass all tests indicated in order to successfully exit SNIA-CTP testing.

Q: What is the architecture of the SMI specification?

A: The SMI specification consists of two parts: the common information model object manager (CIMOM) and the provider. The interface for both the CIMOM and the provider reside on a central component (such as a management appliance or management console). There is only one CIMOM; however a SMI provider exists for each storage array type. The CIMOM is the repository for all device and service information. The CIMOM contains CIM objects and acts as the point of contact for CIM-enabled management software.

The SMI provider is the interface between the element manager software (such as Command View XP) and the CIMOM. There are five provider types:

- Instance provider – supply instances of a given class
- Method provider – implements method invocation for classes
- Property provider – implements property value get and set methods
- Association provider – implements association traversal
- Event provider – handles event subscription and notification

Q: *Who is responsible for shipping and return of my equipment from the Technology Center?*

A: Shipment of equipment is the responsibility of the vendor seeking final conformance testing. The administrator of the testing center will be responsible for signing for the equipment. After SNIA-CTP testing, equipment will be available for shipment back to the vendor or for use at the Tech Center in additional programs.

Q: *Where can I retrieve the ICTP Testing Contract?*

A: The SNIA-CTP contract package can be downloaded from the SNIA-CTP website at: <http://www.snia.org>.