Webex Call – July 19th, 2pm PDT

- https://isspimeetings.webex.com/isspimeetings/j.php?MTID=mba42303de4671a23561a931138b9c286
- Use Voice over IP (VoIP) built into your device, or
- Phone in: +1-415-655-0002 US Toll
  - ID: 736586008#
- Open Mailing List:
  - Send email to the list (must be subscribed): datacenter@snia.org
  - Subscribe (empty email to): datacenter-subscribe@snia.org
- Please take Doodle pool for weekly slot:
  - http://doodle.com/poll/gdd95v2gexdnxiz
Issue

Datacenter Customers – Hyperscalers and Enterprises building their own data centers
- Are big enough that they can demand custom features in drive firmware
  - Similar to Enterprise Storage System vendors historically
Can and do create an API that drive vendor is expected to support in order to get their business
But each customer may have varying features they put in those APIs
Drive vendors then have multiple APIs to support with firmware, proprietary extensions and API plug-ins
Why not push right into a standard?

- Standards groups take a long time to add features to a standard
  - This can be good, leading to stability of interoperable interfaces
  - But this delays the availability of the new features
- Standards groups dominated by Enterprise Storage Vendors
  - Somewhat hostile to different requirements coming from Datacenter customers
  - Requirements for Datacenter drives sometimes in opposition to those from other participants for Enterprise drives
- They just need the features
  - Not religious about interoperability if they get what they need
How can SNIA help?

- Good relationships with INCITS and NVM Express groups
  - Tutorials, Forums and Initiatives promote and educate
    - SMR, NVM, etc.
- Open Development Process
  - SNIA Software, CLA, Open Repositories
- Encourage adoption of new features
  - Storage Developer Conference, BrightTalk webcasts, social media
- Key drive vendor stakeholders already involved
Drive API Project

- Get Datacenter customers to work with drive vendors to quickly establish a common API
- TWG focused on adding agreed features to a Software project
- Functionality is “pre-standard”
  - Quickly bring new features to market with proprietary extensions to SATA, SAS, NVMe
- Each drive vendor supports a software plug-in (in the short term)
  - Makes calls to their drive using existing platform support
  - Windows, Linux, etc.
Push new features into standards

- Once new version of standard is stabilized (may be pre-publication)
  - Develop a common plug-in via SNIA Software open source
- Drive vendors no longer need to support their plug-in
- Datacenter customers see minimal changes to their API and software
- Adoption of new standard features is accelerated
- SNIA is seen as a place to “get things done”
This is “Software first” not “Standards first” approach
- This is the way the world is moving – “the software IS the standard”

However, this approach keeps the standards relevant
- It lets standards proceed in orderly fashion as before

Serves as a “proxy” for Datacenter feature requirements
- Forming proposals from working code that have built-in drive vendor support should accelerate new standard features
Formed this Taskforce to investigate forming:
- “Datacenter Storage” Initiative – to fund and promote involvement in the technical project, adoption and involvement by Datacenter customers, Software Defined Storage vendors
- “Datacenter Storage” TWG – with SNIA Software/Architecture charter for API and common plug-in, leverage existing code and standards

Take “open” approach to involvement
- Allow non-SNIA members to help with formation, open formation meetings
- Aggressively recruit the right stakeholders
- Convert Datacenter customers to SNIA membership in order to participate in Governance of the projects
Technical Work

- Create draft TWG Charter with software license, open repository (Github) and CLA Project status
  - Requirement: 3+ members to form
- Document candidate Datacenter features and priorities
  - e.g. Streams, DePop
- Which languages to support?
- Which standards do the features extend?
  - Eventual targets for standard features
Promotion

- **Draft initiative charter**
  - Requirement: 5+ companies to form

- **Conferences**
  - SDC, LinuxCon, O’Reilly OSCON, OCP Summit, etc.

- **Webcasts**
  - Launch, Each Project Announcement, Focused Topics

- **Social Media**
  - Get multiple “personalities” involved, build the momentum
Roadmap

- Open Mailing List (ongoing): datacenter@snia.org
- Kickoff – today (this call)
- Doodle poll for weekly slot – logistics to the list
  - [http://doodle.com/poll/gdd95v2gemxdnxiz](http://doodle.com/poll/gdd95v2gemxdnxiz)
- Technical Call – draft TWG charter & sign up
- Initiative Call – discuss scope, goals, fees
- Successive calls: ½ Technical, ½ Initiative
- Launch each when requirements are met
  - Dissolve Task Force when complete
Discuss

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