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Network Test Automation Forum (NTAF) Members Demonstrate Interoperability

BreakingPoint Systems, Fanfare, Ixia, Spirent, and Verizon Take Part in Successful Network Test Automation Plugfest

Fremont, CA, November 16, 2010 -- The [Network Test Automation Forum](http://www.ntaforum.org) (NTAF), an industry forum launched earlier this year to develop and promote interoperability standards for the network test automation industry, conducted its first "plugfest" in which NTAF members succeeded in demonstrating initial interoperability of their respective implementations of draft NTAF specifications. Five leading companies, BreakingPoint Systems, Fanfare, Ixia, Spirent and Verizon tested their code in "real world" scenarios by successfully interconnecting to the implementations from other NTAF members and resolving the challenges of getting prototypes to interwork. The event validated the draft NTAF specification and demonstrated acceptance from multiple NTAF members including Cisco and EXFO. The Technical Report detailing the event and the test results can be viewed on the NTAF website, www.ntaforum.org.

“This event tangibly demonstrates the progress NTAF has made since its formation less than one year ago. The solutions demonstrated this week are the result of contributions from all [NTAF members](#) both in defining the specification and in overcoming technical obstacles in real NTAF implementations. The plugfest is an exciting milestone on the path to a finalized specification,” said Keith Kidd, President of NTAF.

The demonstrations consisted of software prototypes implementing NTAF entities which communicate with each other across the automation network. NTAF entities are either "requestors" or "providers" allowing test solutions to achieve basic communication such as discovery and registration and ultimately drive one another to execute various automation tasks including starting and stopping traffic on a piece of test equipment. Establishing a common framework for how test solutions communicate with each other is an important first step in the network test automation space. With the intent of locking down this basic framework, NTAF is working towards a finalized framework specification over the next few months.

The demonstrations were conducted at NTAF's quarterly [Board of Directors](#) meeting held via Cisco Telepresence across various world locations.

About Network Test Automation Forum (NTAF)

The Network Test Automation Forum (NTAF) brings together users, vendors, and other telecommunications and data communications industry experts for the purpose of creating interoperable testing solutions for service providers, network equipment manufacturers, and other enterprise organizations with large network deployments, <http://www.ntaforum.org>.