

NTAF NEWSLETTER

Q1/2013

Issue 4



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From the President's Desk:

Keith Kidd, Verizon

It's been said that nothing endures but change. That's true for us as individuals, for our industry and for NTAF.

In the last year, the NTAF landscape changed as some of our members were acquired by other companies and we bid farewell to friends and colleagues on the Board of Directors and Technical Committee. Shortly thereafter, NTAF was delighted to welcome the dynamic team from Juniper Networks and I'm very pleased to announce our newest member, Huawei. NTAF's membership roster reflects the changes in our industry and the undeniable fact that NTAF is creating value and meaningful change in our industry.

As we look forward to the 2013 year and beyond, I believe that by remaining committed to our mission and focusing on our goals we will thrive in these changing times. Case in point: NTAF members are, right now, building equipment according to our existing specs. Following the 2013

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Technical Committee Roadmap, two new Working Groups, Automation-API and Logging, respectively, have been formed to address the expanding scope of our technical work. We're set to release the next NTAF specification (Inventory) in H1 and work has begun on yet another standard. Attendance on the Technical Committee meetings has increased to the highest level in our short history. NTAF is in demand to speak at industry conferences and membership recruitment is in full swing!

As you know, NTAF was created to address the constant state of change in our industry and help its members cope. With that in mind we must be mindful that NTAF does not exist in a vacuum, rather our charter is to continue to develop meaningful technical specifications that expedite time to market and ease of implementing new networks. NTAF's stated goal – to create specifications that promote interoperability of commercial network testing tools and infrastructure – is as relevant and important a venture today as it was the day NTAF launched in 2010. I remain convinced that the value proposition for our industry is as compelling for new members in 2013 as it was for us in inception.

As we begin this new membership year, let's take this moment to acknowledge the brilliant team work, commitment, and effort that has made NTAF what it is today. And then let's all agree that change is just another word for *opportunity*. I look forward to another great year ahead for NTAF and, on behalf of the Board of Directors I offer my sincere thanks for all of that you do in support of NTAF.

Sincerely yours,

Keith

Keith Kidd, Verizon
President, NTAF

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Membership News: *Huawei Joins NTAF*

We're delighted to formally welcome Huawei to NTAF. After meeting with NTAF President, Keith Kidd, Huawei joined NTAF in January 2013. Huawei will be represented by Tony Chang, Senior Director of Test Solutions and Donald Wang, Senior Architect, Network Solutions.

Volunteer Spotlight. *Mickael Graham, Cisco*

Mickael Graham, Solutions Architect with Cisco joined NTAF in October 2012 and has already made a significant contribution to NTAF's technical committee. Since joining NTAF, Mickael has regularly attended the bi-weekly Technical Committee conference calls (Mickael kindly assures those of us on the West Coast that he is undeterred by the eighteen hour time difference!). Mickael recently joined the Technical Committee Leadership team when he was elected as Chair of the Automation-API Working Group.

Technical Committee Highlights: *Technical Chair, Eric Miller*

For the Technical Committee, 2013 was a year of "slugging it out in the trenches". We went from a rough concept for an Inventory standard at the beginning of the year to a nearly complete standard at the beginning of 2013. Several faithful members worked through discussions about the structure of harnesses, actions and attributes for commands to support Inventory. The result is a base Resource Standard to define resources and an Inventory Standard that defines attributes for resources. A third standard, Utilization, is under construction and also defines attributes for resources. At the beginning of 2013 the Inventory Working Group was reformed to help finalize the Inventory attribute definitions to support the Resource and Inventory standards passing out of committee in H1.

As Inventory work draws to a close there is already work started on new standards. An Automation API working group has been formed to tackle the difficult question of standardizing automation API semantics. A logging working group has been approved and is waiting available personnel for formation. Recent discussions have probed emerging ideas and member needs, including reservation, easier ways to work with topology, abstract and concrete topology definition, protocol support, comparison of NTAF with related protocols like SNMP, and provisioning.

Marketing Committee Highlights: *Marketing Vice Chair, Ameya Barve*

Brown Bag Lunch Program Launched

The NTAF Marketing Committee focused its efforts on reaching out to NTAF newcomers and industry colleagues. In 2012, the Committee created and produced two "Brown Bag Lunch" programs designed for new volunteers to learn more about NTAF. The first program in August 2012, focused on the Tool Registration and Automation Standards while the second program focused on a product demonstration. If you did not have an opportunity to attend the sessions live, you can find the presentations and recordings of the events on ARO/Documents.

Next-Generation Network Delivery Solutions" Conference

In November 2012, NTAF partnered with industry-conference leader IIR to create the first-ever "Next-Generation Network Delivery Solutions" Conference held in London. NTAF was both co-creator and a co-

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sponsor of the event along with the Metro-Ethernet Forum (MEF). Keith Kidd represented NTAF at the event as a Keynote Speaker as did Ameya Barve who spoke on ITO.

NTAF Industry Survey

In order to understand the needs of the network-test automation industry and to support membership recruitment efforts, the Marketing Committee partnered with Net Events to survey Test Directors, Test Managers and Test Automation experts at major Service Providers in North America / Europe /Asia. The final report analysis will be shared with the Board of Directors and members in an upcoming presentation.

Collateral

After meeting with many of our industry colleagues who wanted more information about NTAF, the Marketing Committee produced the first NTAF brochure and the NTAF White Paper, *“NTAF in Practice: How NTAF can help manage the complexity of the test lab by providing interoperability and integration in heterogeneous network test environments”* written by Milen Andonov (Spirent). Both are now available for download on the NTAF website.

Coming up for 2013

The Marketing Committee is working closely with the Technical Committee to plan and promote a series of Plugfests in Q2/2013 and to promote the new NTAF Specifications as well as execute the upcoming face-to-face meeting.

If you or a colleague are interested in supporting NTAF marketing efforts and joining the Marketing Committee – please join us on the bi-weekly calls at 9:00am PDT. Contact Julianne Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org for more information. All are welcome!

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Upcoming Q1/Q2 2013 Industry Events

- **Ethernet Technology Summit**, April 2-4, 2013 in Santa Clara, CA
- **Interop**, May 6-10, 2013, Las Vegas NV
- **CTIA Wireless**, May 20-23, 2013, Las Vegas NV

Policy Update: IPR

The Board of Directors voted to approve changes to NTAF Intellectual Property Policy (February 27, 2013). The changes include 1) maintaining a list of member- authorized representatives who can participate on the Technical Committee and 2) to limit the obligation of Necessary Claims related to any Technical Committee in which a Member representative does not participate.

After consulting with NTAF legal counsel and discussion among the Board of Directors, the Board felt that the changes simply serve to reinforce the existing policy language. The proposal was therefore approved and the IPR policy was updated to reflect the changes.

Per Section 7.5 of the IPR Policy, the revised language (See sections 1 and 5.1 (a)) is highlighted and posted on the NTAF website on the Policy Library page, http://www.ntaforum.org/members/policy_library.html.

Resources NTAF White Paper “NTAF in Practice”

“NTAF in Practice: How NTAF can help manage the complexity of the test lab by providing interoperability and integration in heterogeneous network test environments” by Milen Andonov (Spirent) was published in November 2012.

Summary: The growing complexity of test labs is a key challenge in reducing time to market for service providers and the lack of interoperability is a barrier to realizing synergies in heterogeneous test lab environments. NTAF helps manage this challenge by providing an open specification-based technology to enable interoperability between diverse commercial and internal test tools and test lab infrastructure. Through the example of High Plains Networks, a collective image of a typical mid-size service provider, we illustrated the process of thinking about the problem, of choosing a standard-based solution, and creating strategic approaches for achieving a level of interoperability that puts the lab on a sustainable path to increased productivity.

The full report can be found on the Resources page, <http://www.ntaforum.org/resources/index.html>.

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[ARO Basics Update](#) 'My ARO' Homepage

Did you know that you can customize the view of your 'My ARO' homepage? To change the view, click on the 'My ARO' tab and then click on the 'My Account' link. Scroll down the page to the 'My ARO Setup'. You can select from the list of pull down menus which items you'd like to appear, in what order and how they appear on the page. To save changes, click the 'Save' button at the bottom of the page.

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