

NTAF NEWSLETTER

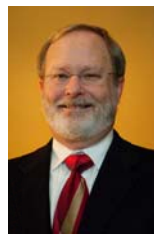
Q2/2013

Issue 5



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From the President's Desk:

Keith Kidd, Verizon

We recently surveyed a group of Test Directors, Test Managers and other Test Automation experts based in Europe, Asia and North America. The goal of the survey was to better understand their challenges and, frankly, to educate folks who may not have had an awareness of NTAF, our mission and how NTAF standards could help them meet their real-world testing challenges.

The survey results were indeed illustrative and, I believe, reflect many of our own experiences and decisions to invest in NTAF. **I want to share some of the key findings with all of you:**

- The majority of respondents state that extreme circumstances or market pressures impact testing and quality assurance in their organizations.

Where to reach us:

Home: www.ntaforum.org

Twitter: [@NTAforum](https://twitter.com/NTAforum)

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- The vast majority rate their testing as “efficient but with room for improvement”.
- 21 out of the 33 respondents are manually testing.
- A majority of respondents agreed that standards in network test equipment will help improve efficiency.

For those of us already gathered around the NTAF table and in the midst of creating test automation standards, the conditions and challenges cited by the survey respondents may seem all too familiar. To me, they reinforce just how critical NTAF’s work is to our industry. The results also reflect that we have more work to do to spread the word about the value of NTAF standards and toward meeting the goal of widespread industry adoption of those standards. You can find the full survey results posted on ARO, ntaf.2013.016.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming [2013 Technical Committee and Annual face to face meeting in Westford MA \(September 17-19, 2013\)](#) hosted by *Juniper Networks*. Until then, keep up the great work and enjoy your summer.

Sincerely yours,

Keith

Keith Kidd, Verizon
President, NTAF

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Technical Committee Highlights: *Technical Chair, Eric Miller*

If it seems to you that the Inventory Standard has been “near completion” for a very long you would be correct. The process of solidifying inventory attribute definitions, sample values, and usage has been time consuming. The Inventory Working Group has put in many hours hammering out details and comparing with real-world situations. In addition the Inventory Working Group has spent considerable time delineating the relationship between connectors and owning resources. At the end of 2013 Q2 the completion of the Resource and Inventory standards is in sight. Definitions have been finalized and are ready for review by the full Technical Committee. Finishing touches now include providing use cases and going through final editing of the document. We plan to have the document out of committee and tested by plug fest before the end of Q3.

Meanwhile, there has been other activity in the Technical Committee. Most prominent has been work by the Automation API Working Group. The group has refined its scope and begun work on a document that defines the framework for developing high level API. Developing a comprehensive API is a huge task and it seems best to first provide a roadmap for that work. The framework document seeks to do that. Besides Inventory and Automation API work, the committee has elected a Logging Working Group chair and produced an XMPP Session Flow Examples document.

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

Following the completion of the NTAF Survey (referenced in Keith’s President’s Letter), the Marketing Committee continues to focus on a series of initiatives intended to engage current and potential members. Like the successful Brown Bag Lunch Program launched in 2012, the Marketing Committee is developing a workshop for existing members seeking support to implement NTAF specifications. The committee is also developing a webinar to showcase how NTAF standards provide solutions to the test automation challenges identified by our survey-respondents and industry colleagues. The dates for the workshop and the webinar will be announced soon!

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 Q3/Q4 2013 Industry Events](#)

NTAF Technical Committee and Annual Meeting

September 17-19, 2013

The NTAF Board of Directors is pleased to announce the NTAF Technical Committee and Annual Meeting will be held on September 17-19, 2013 in Westford MA at Juniper Networks.

REGISTER NOW! To register for this meeting, please log-on to [ARO](#) and click on the MEETINGS tab and complete the online registration form (If you do not have your ARO user name and password to access this page, please contact Julianne Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org to request a username and password reminder.)

COMING SOON! Hotel information and the meeting agenda will be announced soon.

INTEROP

Javits Center, New York City

For more information, www.interop.com/newyork

September 3-October 4, 2013

TIA 2013

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Washington D.C.

For more information, www.tia2013.org.

October 8-10, 2013

NTAF President Keith Kidd will be a featured speaker on a panel session to discuss M2M Standardization on Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

Broadband World Forum

RAI Exhibition and Convention Center, Amsterdam

For more information, www.broadbandworldforum.com

October 22-24, 2013

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2013 Leadership Elections:

The Board of Directors approved the 2013 Election Schedule as follows:

<u>ELECTION ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Call for leadership nominations	Monday, July 15, 2013
Nomination statements due	Monday, July 29, 2013
Ballots sent to voting representatives	Tuesday, July 30, 2013
Ballots due	Tuesday, August 13, 2013
Election results announced	Wednesday, August 14, 2013
Board Officer ballots sent to Directors	Thursday, August 15, 2013
Board Officer ballots due	Thursday, August 22, 2013
Board Officer results announced	Friday, August 23, 2013
First meeting of 2013-2014 Directors & Officers	Wednesday, August 28, 201

Leadership News: Welcome New NTAF Director, Sumit Grover_(Tech Mahindra)

The Board is delighted to announce the appointment of Sumit Grover from Tech Mahindra to the Board of Directors. Sumit was appointed to fill the vacancy left by former Director, Gordon Eddy.

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Resources

NTAF recently released a new white paper, “Why Carriers Should Join: *The Business Case for NTAF Standards*” which features Verizon’s experience since joining NTAF. The paper is worthwhile reading for all members – and prospective members so please pass it along to your industry colleagues.

Executive Summary:

Service providers face increasing pressure to deliver a higher quality of experience while increasing profit margins. The network lab is one area that is particularly suited for increasing efficiency and reducing capital and operational expenses. **By embracing the standardization and automation work of member companies of the Network Test Automation Forum (NTAF), one prominent carrier, Verizon, has realized the benefits of reduced cost and increased efficiency in the areas of tool management, inventory management, and service testing.** The focus of new NTAF working groups promises to extend the existing benefits of automation and standardization to new areas, including tool APIs and results and log file viewing and analysis.

To view the full report, please go to the Resources page, www.ntaforum.org/resources/index.html.

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[ARO Basics: How to Register Online for the NTAF Technical Committee Meeting](#)

- 1) Log-in to ARO <http://www.ntaforum.org/members/aro.html> with you user name and password. *(If you do not have your user name and password, please contact jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org for a reminder.)*
- 2) Click on the "Meetings" tab on the top of the page
- 3) Click the link "Q4/2013/ Technical Committee and Annual Meeting"
- 4) On the Right side of the screen go to "My Registrations" and click on the "Click here" to register for this meeting.
- 5) On the Left side of the screen
 - a) select your Registration Type (Onsite attendee or Remote attendee)
 - b) select your menu preference - Standard/Vegetarian/Kosher/Allergy Sensitivity
 - c) indicate whether you will attend the Membership Reception/Plugfest/Workshop from the pull down menus
- 6) On the Right hand side of the screen, click the REGISTER box
- 7) You will receive a notice confirming your registration has been entered
- 8) If you are an Onsite Attendee, click the link to return to the Main Page and then click on your REGISTRATION NUMBER to be taken to the Payment Screen.

****You must pay the meeting fee at the time of your registration. If payment is not made at the time of registration, your registration will be automatically cancelled.****

- 9) Click the "Pay" button on the right side
- 10) Enter the valid credit card information and click the Pay Now button. Our system accepts valid Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards. A confirmation email will be sent to you directly.

PLEASE NOTE: This screen will allow you to securely submit a credit card payment for your Meeting registration. Payments are processed immediately. Please do not interrupt your browser while your payment is processing. Confirmation of payment will be sent to you via email.

[Contact us](#)

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