OPENFABRICS
A L L I A N C E

12th ANNUAL WORKSHOP 2016

NATIONAL LABS FORUM UPDATE

April 8, 2016

HOW WE GOT HERE
Sample subtitle here

- Discuss forms of participation in the OFA Board

FOUR PROJECTS PLUS PARTICIPATION ISSUE

- **Jim and Paul committed to a few things on behalf of the OFA in support of the forum:**
  - Managing four projects identified by the forum as being needed and as a way to show value to the forum:
    - IB router: Collect requirements and engage with vendors on behalf of the labs – are we finished based on recent announcements and sessions?
    - OFED "vs." MLNX_OFED
      - Understand when and why MLNX_OFED or OFED is used
    - Linux OS support – discussion, no slides
      - Investigate the potential Linux variants beyond Red Hat, including, but not limited to Ubuntu and Debian
    - Problems with OFED – packaging, distribution and so on
      - Document obstacles to effective use of OFED
      - Understand the need for "post processing" of OFED by some of the national labs

  - Working organizational issues within the OFA to ensure this group has a durable voice in the OFA, and the OFA will be accountable for responding to that voice.

TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

- **Two of the projects identified have reasonable fit with the TAC**
  - Linux OS support:
  - OFED vs. MOFED

- **The task boils down to:**
  - Analyze and document the reasons why the National Labs make use of software provided by the OFA from different sources, including:
    - OFED
    - OFED packaged with other OFA SW (OFS)
    - Vendor-specific packaging of OFED with their unique value add, e.g., MOFED
    - Linux distros

- **Call to Action**
  - We need TAC and other OFA members that know of the appropriate contacts in the National Labs that can articulate the reasons for their choice and post those names to the TAC mailing list or to me.   tac-moderator@openfabrics.org
  - We need members to collaboratively gather the information and create a summary

  - So far discussion of these projects, even a discussion of should the TAC take on this work at either the TAC meetings or via the TAC mailing list have been unsuccessful.

PROBLEMS WITH OFED

■ **Selected comments from the 12/18 meeting:**

"Apparently various sites still do work to post-process OFED to get it to a point where it's usable by the labs."

"It is still a struggle to get things into open source"

"Process is slow and some good, needed content is not contributed to open source"

"Very hard to use OFED, slow turn-around for response to requests and ideas. OFED is, at best, a follower, not a leader"

■ **Which turned into this AR:**

• "Problems with OFED – packaging, distribution and so on

   • Document obstacles to effective use of OFED

   • Understand the need for "post processing" of OFED by some of the national labs"

PROBLEMS WITH OFED (CONT'D)

- **The plan:**
  1. Understand and document the existing flow from developer's fingers to end user's machine
  2. Understand in detail: "Apparently various sites still do work to post-process OFED to get it to a point where it's usable by the labs." (Ira, can you help?)
  3. Understand where the existing process impedes the labs' work
  4. Develop recommendations for improvements to the flow, if possible

- **To succeed, will need:**
  - An energetic individual to bird dog this (me)
  - Active participation from Alliance members (code language for, "knowledgeable labs constituents")
  - (maybe) Engagement with the EWG (that one's easy)

PARTICIPATION ISSUE

- **The request for participation is reasonably clear, but the solution is not:**
  - Working organizational issues within the OFA to ensure the National Labs have a durable voice in the OFA, and the OFA will be accountable for responding to that voice.

- **Problem: some national labs have joined, others have not:**
  - Exactly what is the action item for the OFA to respond to?