Birds of a Feather: System Admin

Chris Beggio, Susan Coulter and several others

Los Alamos National Laboratory
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User BoF Takeaways

• Changes are afoot due to new fabrics and topologies, including OmniPath, and high-speed Ethernet
• Challenges due to a lack of common, upstream commits into Linux kernel
• Customers are faced with a lack of a common issue tracking mechanism, such as Lustre Jira
• Issues are scattered across kernel, OFED/MOFED, distributions
  — Openfabrics wiki: https://www.openfabrics.org/mediawiki/index.php/Main_Page
• Upstream kernel wiki good first source
• Red Hat using up to date upstream kernel
• OFED backports patches which is a valuable service to the community
• OFA has become vendor driven vs. customer driven
  — How do promoting members affect change?
  — Community influence should be affected by contributions to code base and direction of the product
• How do we encourage contribution to the community?
• Government contribution to the open source community is very very difficult
• Laboratories as promoters: the stack is fundamentally different than it was at inception
• InfiniBand vs. 40-100GbE
  — Driven by big data and cloud markets
User BoF Takeaways

- OFED not standard part of distribution is a big challenge
  - Standardize open fabrics as ethernet is
- HPC community good at finding edge cases
- Subnet manager errors: error text mysterious, source indeterminate, and severity not hierarchical
- Documentation is lacking in vetting by the community
- Wiki articles: subnet manager errors and multicast messages
  - OpenFabrics wiki: https://www.openfabrics.org/mediawiki/index.php/Main_Page
- Communicate existence and function of various mailing lists
  - User mailing list: http://lists.openfabrics.org/mailman/listinfo/users
- Capture who the user community is
  - git.openfabrics.org
- Include the link to the user community as part of the download: ib core init

- Call to action: do we create an OFA User WG?