

NTAF NEWSLETTER

Q3/2011

Issue 3



In This Issue

- From the President's Desk - Robert Ormsby, Verizon
- Volunteer Spotlight - NTAF Honors Volunteers at Annual Meeting
- In the News
 - NTAF proudly launches a new series of interviews beginning with industry visionary and one of NTAF's founders, Kingston Duffie. Kingston shares his thoughts on NTAF in part-one of this two-part series.
 - EE Times features NTAF Specifications
- Resources
 - NTAF Specifications & Getting Started Guide are here
- Upcoming Events
 - NTAF invited to speak at Network Automation 2011
- How Tweet it is - Social Media Contributors Wanted
- Join us! Committee Volunteers Wanted
- ARO Basics
 - Uploading a document to ARO
- Contact us - We Want to Hear from You!

From the President's Desk

Dear NTAF Members and Industry Colleagues,

Many of you may remember that not long ago in American football, upon making a touchdown, the scorer would often break into a victory dance to celebrate. Over time, the victory dance evolved into an almost choreographed, Broadway-worthy production! That kind of elaborate display is no longer allowed in American football but I think we can all agree that achieving a hard won point or an important goal must be celebrated. In that spirit, I think now is the perfect time for NTAF to do a victory dance of its own for having achieved our critical first-year goal of successfully delivering the first-ever NTAF specifications. With this win on the scoreboard, we are poised to take on many new challenges and ready to create a winning game plan for the future.

To begin the process of developing NTAF's strategic direction for 2012 (and beyond), the Board of Directors recently solicited input from the Primary Representatives from each member company. I'm delighted to share that the survey responses were unanimously positive when asked if NTAF had met its goals for its first year. Respondents also provided an

"...the best association/marketing money we have ever spent."

- Dmitry Gorin, Linkbit Co-Founder and COO on joining NTAF

Where to reach us:

Home: www.ntaforum.org

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

Linked-in: **Network Test Automation Forum**

NTAF NEWSLETTER

early view of their NTAF enablement roadmaps for their respective products. These roadmaps reflected the value and benefits that our members are striving to provide to their customers. The survey also offered important insight into where companies felt NTAF should focus its resources both from an internal perspective – more volunteers! – and from an external perspective – we must educate the industry about NTAF’s mission and define the business case that qualifies the implementation value as well as the value of NTAF membership. The survey also created a jumping off point for discussions about the benefits and challenges of creating a certification program and other key initiatives. There will be more to come on the results of the survey which we will share with NTAF members in the near future. I think you will be very pleased and interested to read the results.

Before turning our attention completely to future planning, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I must formally acknowledge the incredible efforts of both the Technical Committee and Marketing Committee Chairs and volunteers for delivering and promoting the NTAF specifications. The volunteers in the Technical Committee led by Technical Committee Chair, Eric Miller (Spirent), worked tirelessly to create, test and deliver the specifications under extremely tight deadlines. From there, the Marketing Committee, led by Ameya Barve (Spirent), picked up the baton and created a successful campaign to promote the specifications including creating a well-attended webinar program in partnership with Test & Measurement World. If you have not had an opportunity to listen to the webinar, you can access the archive through the NTAF website, <http://www.ntaforum.org/news/events.html> or directly on the Test & Measurement World website.

As the Board tackles the issues involved in setting NTAF’s long-term goals, the Technical and Marketing Committees remain focused on their essential work to create new specifications and promote the forum, respectively. If you have not had a chance to attend a Technical Committee or Marketing Committee meeting, I would highly encourage you to do so. The Committees each meet on a bi-weekly basis for one-hour and the meetings are open to all members. In each committee, you’ll find a group of energetic volunteers who are literally creating the future of NTAF in real time. Look for more details in the newsletter about their current activities and how you can get involved.

As this is my first official “Letter from the President” since being elected NTAF President in April, I want to close by acknowledging my colleagues on the Board (former and current) who, through their vision and passion, established NTAF and continue to affirm their support through their participation on the Board. I especially want to acknowledge my Verizon colleague Keith Kidd, who, as the first NTAF President, led this team so brilliantly throughout NTAF’s first year. Finally, I want to acknowledge my deep appreciation to the volunteers who show up and contribute to NTAF week after week. *You* are at the heart of NTAF’s success - past and future.

We have a great team assembled at NTAF and with that the next victory is ours for the taking...[dance moves are optional](#).

Sincerely yours,

Robert Ormsby, Verizon

President, NTAF

NTAF NEWSLETTER

Volunteer Spotlight

NTAF held its first Annual Meeting in May, 17-18, 2011 at Cisco's campus in Herndon, VA. Representatives from BreakingPoint Systems, BT, Cisco, Empirix, Ericsson, EXFO, Ixia, JDSU, MRV, Spirent, TCS and Verizon were present for the event.

As part of the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors recognized some of the volunteers who have made a significant contribution to NTAF in the last year.

President's Award – Keith Kidd (Verizon)



For his excellence in leadership and extraordinary dedication to the growth and development of NTAF through creativity, imagination and goodwill which fostered a spirit of gracious professionalism and cooperation that fueled the meaningful and ongoing evolution of test automation standards.

Champions Award - Kenneth Green (Ixia); Kingston Duffie (Fanfare); Bruno Giguere (EXFO); Todd Law (Spirent)

NTAF Champions were recognized by the Board of Directors for their significant contribution to NTAF and the network test automation industry as members of the NTAF Technical and Marketing Committees, respectively.



NTAF Champions (from left): Kenneth Green (Ixia); President's Award Winner, Keith Kidd (Verizon); Bruno Giguere (EXFO); Todd Law (Spirent); Kingston Duffie (Fanfare) not shown

NTAF NEWSLETTER

In the News

NTAF proudly launches a new online series featuring leading voices in the Network Test Automation community. The first interview with Kingston Duffie, “**NTAF through the Eyes of a Former Member and Founder: An Interview with Kingston Duffie**” (Part 1 of 2) can be viewed on the NTAF website <http://www.ntaforum.org/news/AnInterviewwithKingstonDuffie.html>.

EE Times recently published an article, “Network Test Specs Promote Multi-Vendor Interoperability in the Lab” by Ameya Barve, Spirent.

For all the latest forum news and announcements, check out the [News & Events](#) page on the NTAF website.

Resources – NTAF Specifications & Getting Started Guide

In June NTAF approved the release of the first set of specifications for enabling multi-vendor interoperability in network test labs. The specifications define tool registration, discovery and activation functionalities that enable software and hardware from multiple vendors to automatically and seamlessly recognize and communicate with each other.

The specifications and Getting Started Guide are available on the NTAF website, <http://www.ntaforum.org/resources/request.html>

Upcoming Events

NTAF has been selected to present at the upcoming Network Automation 2011 Conference in Paris, November 8-10, 2011.

Network Automation 2011 will bring together leaders from service providers, network equipment vendors, and providers of network management and operation solutions to discuss industry challenges, present new ideas, and share best practices around the topic of network automation.

For more information or to register for the event, please go to the conference website: <http://www.uppersideconferences.com/networkautomation2011/networkautomation2011intro.html>.

NTAF NEWSLETTER

Love to Tweet? Social-Media Contributors Wanted

Want to share your experience with NTAF and how it's making a difference to your business? NTAF hosts a [Linked-in Group](#) and a [blog](#) on the NTAF website. You can also find us on Twitter, [@NTAforum](#). If you would like to contribute to the blog or start a conversation on Linked-in – we welcome your messages and posts. The guidelines are broad but please keep content in line with NTAF's External Communications Policy, http://www.ntaforum.org/documents/NTAFExternalComm.Policy_Approved.pdf.

For more information, please contact Julianne Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org or Todd Law at todd.law@spirent.com.

Join us! Committees Volunteers Wanted

The Technical Committee and Marketing Committee meet every other week, respectively and are open to *all* NTAF members. New volunteers are invited to join and participate at any time! If you or a colleague would like to attend a meeting, contact the Committee Chairs for the meeting schedules and information.

Technical Committee Chair – Eric Miller (Spirent)

eric.miller@spirent.com

Marketing Committee Chair – Ameya Barve (Spirent)

ameya.barve@spirent.com

NTAF NEWSLETTER

ARO Basics - Uploading a document to ARO

Step 1 – Log into ARO <http://www.ntaforum.org/members/aro.html> You will be asked for your user name and password. If you do not have this handy, contact Julianne at AMS at jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org for a reminder.

Step 2 – On the top of the page you will see a tab marked “Documents” – click on the tab

Step 3 – Underneath Documents you will see a list of sub-tabs in Grey beginning with “Configure...” Select the “Create” option and you will be taken to a form.

Step 4 – Complete the document data form and hit Save.

Step 5 – A new page will appear and on the left hand side you will see the document data information. On the right hand side, you will see a header “Upload file”.

Step 6 - Select the document type from the drop-down menu.

Step 7 - Add any comments (optional).

Note: The "Send Notification" pull down control whether or not ARO sends and email to all of the members of the document notifying them of the new file / revision.

Step 8 - Click the "Browse" button to see a list of files on your computer. Select the file you want to upload.

Step 9 - Click the "Upload" button. You will receive a notice on the top of the page that the upload was successful (or not).

If you have any questions about ARO, please contact Julianne Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org.

Contact us! We Want to Hear from You!

Volunteers, members and industry colleagues - we want to hear from you! If you want to get involved or share ideas, feedback, comments please send us an email, tweet, or leave a comment on our Linked-in Group.

Thank you for your interest and contributions.

NTAF is managed by Association Management Solutions (AMS), www.amsl.com.