

2005 INCITS Technical Committee Officers Symposium

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T11, Fibre Channel Interfaces

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1. Scope of T11

- T11 standardizes Fibre Channel Interfaces.
 - Fibre Channel implements Storage Area Networks
- Work includes:
 - Physical layer (T11.2)
 - Protocol layer, including framing, switching, routing, upper layer protocols (T11.3)
 - Management definitions and APIs (T11.5)
- Also HIPPI, IPI, SBCON
- About ½ go to ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG4

2. Significant Accomplishments

- Focus of activities:
 - Extend present capabilities, Assure Interoperability, Improve data rate and cost of physical layer, Provide for remote access, Improve security, and Provide management interfaces.
- Standards published: 6
- New projects: 6
- Projects under consideration: 3
- Total projects active about 35
- Documents developed 1250

3. Significant Challenges

- Increasing interest in (and scope of) Fibre Channel in a business world of limited resources impacts T11 work load.
- OID now provided from INCITS.
- ISO IP requirements inconsistent with INCITS.

4. Expected Challenges

- Economy and effect on available resources for necessary standards development
- Spreading of resources over multiple technologies
- Long-term resolution of hosting for web-site and e-mail reflectors

5. Liaison Activities

- Technical Advisory Group, ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG4
- Other liaisons, all active, some formal
 - INCITS T10 FCP
 - IETF (imss and ips) FCIP and MIBS
 - FCIA Industry Roadmap
 - SNIA SMI-S management
 - SFF Committee Physical Layer
 - OPTX OHI, ITU-T SG-15 GFP-T
 - OIF CEI and XFI
 - IEEE 802.3 10GFC, technologies
 - DMTF SMI-S management

6. Future Trends and Related Technical Activities

- Storage Area Networks based on Fibre Channel, required for high performance, storage consolidation, security, data protection. Needs are increasing.
- Bandwidth increases, Distance solutions, Management, Low-cost extensions in development.
- Consortia and industry organizations appearing as alternatives to standards from Accredited Standards Committees. Implications to policies.

7. How Can INCITS Help?

- INCITS should pick up web-hosting and e-mail reflector maintenance in near future. See IN050373
- ANSI/INCITS should harmonize IP disclosure mechanisms with ISO/IEC requirements.
- INCITS policies should continue to support open participation. Any change would be very detrimental to T10, T11, T13 activities. See IN050227.