



SATA-IO: Enabling the Future

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In this issue:

- [SATA-IO Successfully Launches the Interoperability Program](#)
- [SATA-IO Work Group Updates](#)
- [Intel Developer Forum: Spring 2006](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [News From Our Members](#)
- [Where Are We Going?](#)

SATA-IO Successfully Launches the Interoperability Program

By Brian Dees, Intel

With the completion of the 1st Interop Workshop, the kick-off for the SATA-IO Interoperability Program testing has begun. Over 200 hours of testing were conducted over 5 days during the Workshop. A total of 25 products (16 devices, 9 cables) were tested during the week, representing 23 member companies. As a result of successful testing completed at the Interop Workshop, products with a passing result will be listed on the [SATA-IO Integrators List](#). This site will be the focused location for listing products which have successfully completed the defined tests within the Interoperability Program.

A second result of the 1st Interop Workshop is the enabling of independent test labs to execute testing in an external environment from the Interop Workshops. The independent test labs are a key part of the Program, as they enable testing to be completed year round to accommodate product availability and readiness without direct dependence on the bi-annual Workshops & Plugfests. Information regarding the selected independent test labs approved to execute testing for the Interop Program can be found on [SATA-IO](#).

The 1st Interop Workshop was held in conjunction with the 6th SATA-IO Plugfest in Milpitas, CA in February. 115 attendees from 44 companies attended the Plugfest, showing a continued industry support for the growth and advancement of Serial ATA products.

For general information on the Interoperability Program and future testing events, please visit [SATA-IO](#). At this time, the SATA-IO is putting plans in place for another Interop Workshop and Plugfest in Q3 '06.

Membership Update

These industry leaders are proud new members of SATA-IO:

- [Emulex Corporation](#)
- [IIX Consulting](#)
- [Kawasaki Microelectronics, Inc.](#)
- [Panasonic Semiconductor](#)
- [RITEUP Co., Ltd.](#)
- [SiliconStor Inc.](#)
- [SimpleTech](#)
- [VMC Consulting](#)

SATA-IO Work Group Updates

By Knut Grimsrud, SATA-IO President and Chairman, Intel

Since the January newsletter, the SATA-IO organization hosted the annual Board of Directors meeting and annual Members Meeting as part of the spring Plugfest and Interop Workshop. The annual Board meeting included fulfillment of legal obligations, election of new board members, annual budgeting, and organization planning.

2006 marks a major new direction in our planning. For the first time, substantial resources are being allocated to properly support the marketing and promotional functions of the organization. The marketing arm of SATA-IO created a comprehensive plan to better support marketing activities and determined how to allocate their budget appropriately. The increased focus on marketing aspects reflects the maturing of the organization (and the SATA technology). Additionally, the group continues to drive new technical enhancements with the same discipline and efficiency as in the past.

On the technical front, a number of new development areas are being pursued. The next version of the consolidated specification is now being developed. It will incorporate a number of the "component" specifications that have been developed since the 2.5 specification was released, including the "Slimline" connector specification, some enhancements to the NCQ capabilities, an upcoming "mini 4X" interconnect, and the accumulated errata to date. New development efforts being launched include the definition of a connector solution for 1.8" disk drives that will fit on the narrow side of the drive, as well as the imminent start of the much-anticipated 6Gbps Gen-3 definition effort.

Finally, the interoperability program for the SATA-IO organization is hitting its stride and will continue to be a major new focus of the organization. The initial February launch of the program covered a subset of the device types supported by the SATA-IO specifications. Enhancements to the program continue, including the expansion to include additional classes of products. Products that successfully passed the February Interop Workshop will be identified and posted on the Integrators List once the data analysis from the workshop is complete.

I continue to be impressed with the performance of the SATA-IO organization. We have a number of different programs running concurrently, and the selfless contributions of SATA-IO members to drive these programs is remarkable.

Tech Topics

Check out these new whitepapers!

- [NCQ For Power Efficiency – White Paper by ULINK](#)
- [eSATA – White Paper by Silicon Image](#)

Feature of the Month Topics:

- [NCQ](#)
- [eSATA](#)
- [Port Multiplier](#)
- [SATA 3Gb/s](#)

Intel Developer Forum: Spring 2006

By Joni Clark, SATA-IO Marketing Co-Chair,
Seagate

It's fast, it's easy, it's Serial ATA RAID...

Sponsored by AMCC, Fujitsu, Seagate and Synopsys, the SATA-IO IDF booth featured a very powerful media editing server with twelve, yes twelve, Serial ATA 2.5" Fujitsu Mobile and Seagate Momentus 7200 RPM drives. The controller to help pull off the job was the AMCC 3ware 9550SX RAID controller. This system streamed a movie while crazy marketing folks unplugged drives in an attempt to break it. In real life, the system would allow a movie editor to make super fast edits, massive rendering on digital files, and experience screaming performance even if a drive fails - but we know drives never fail.

In addition, Synopsys demonstrated their complete DesignWare SATA solution- SATA link layer with the Synopsys 90nm SATA PHY layer. Booth visitors were able to see a visual representation of "native command queuing" performance in certain workloads. Synopsys' DesignWare IP provides designers with a broad portfolio of implementation IP, verification IP and hardened PHYs. The ultimate success of DesignWare IP is the ability for designers to have a faster and lower risk path to chip success.



SATA-IO thanks the Sponsors of the IDF Booth and looks forward to another year of success!

Upcoming Events

Storage World Conference 2006

June 20-22, 2006

Long Beach, CA

SWC offers the most comprehensive education program in the Storage Industry. SWC's program has been designed to give IT end-users a broad perspective of the storage industry encompassing the points of view of the end-user, the analyst, and the vendor.

News From Our Members

See news from other SATA-IO members in the storage industry!

Fujitsu to Showcase Serial Storage Solutions at Annual Intel® Solutions Summit

March 9, 2006

New Serial ATA Host Controller from Silicon Image Enables eSATA Connectivity for PC and CE Applications

March 7, 2006

Promise Technology Introduces New 16-Port SATA RAID Controller for High Capacity Servers and Storage Systems

March 7, 2006

From Handhelds to Bulk Storage – Seagate Demonstrates New Storage Capabilities at IDF

March 6, 2006

Did You Know?

Access to the Serial ATA 2.5 specification, errata and design guides provides a valuable member benefit. Non SATA-IO members are assessed a \$25 fee for access to the specification.

Make sure members of your company have a SATA-IO Members Only username and password. [Sign up now!](#)

Where Are We Going?

The SATA-IO Marketing team hosted an evening of drinks, appetizers and industry discussion at the recent SATA-IO Industry Forum in Milpitas. The topics of this event ranged from SATA transitions in desktop, notebook and enterprise, trends driving the massive storage growth, and a feature categorization brainstorm meeting. Late comers were greeted with "standing room only," as more than 100 SATA-IO members provided comments and discussion on the future of SATA technology within the storage industry. After the Forum presentation ended, the 55 companies in attendance lingered to network and ask technical questions.

Event details for the October Industry Forum will be coming soon!

Please submit any future article ideas and topics to [Joni Clark](#), SATA-IO Marketing Chair, Seagate.

Sincerely,

SATA-IO Administration