

ISDCF Main Meeting Notes – September 22, 2021

Upcoming Meetings

ISDCF Main Wednesday December 1, 2021 10am

ISDCF Main Thursday January 20, 2022 10am (after ICTA???)

Social Event in February???

Part 0: Open Mic (15 minutes prior to meeting start time)

Part 1: General Reporting

Housekeeping:

- Zoom meeting (provided by NATO)
- Set next meeting dates (above).
- Thank you Universal for support of the Chairman.
- Thank you to Inter-Society for providing general expenses and admin support.
- Meeting notes from July '2021 approved
- Making Zoom work! (mute/raise hand/front light)
- InterSociety - **Membership Fees coming back 2022!** Erin (evh@natoca.com) if you have any questions about membership. \$500 per company per year / \$100 individual membership.
- Legal reminder / press reminder / Antitrust Disclaimer. The official antitrust guidelines are posted on our website and are linked from the main ISDCF page. A short verbal overview of guidelines was given. Please no-social-media for discussions held at ISDCF.

Attendance is at end of these notes.

Action Items from September 22, 2021

1. **Membership Fees waived for 2021** Join Inter-Society! <https://isdcf.com> \$500 per company per year, \$100 individual membership.
2. Look into a “quick” DCP testing tool that would help validate packages. (Steve, Pierre, James, Jerry)
3. Get terminology list to start the GitHub registry for terminology (Frank)
4. Bring ISDCF language metadata table to SMPTE - IMF would like to use this registry since it is maintained. (Dean/Steve offer to be proponents)
5. January ISDCF field trip to new academy theater?

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EDCF/ISDCF Social Hour

No great pressure or need for a social hour on a monthly schedule, but maybe on a once a quarter meeting would be good.

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Immersive Audio Naming

A release was made using the "IAB" in the naming of the movie and there was confusion for many exhibitors. There was no "backup" 5.1 or 7.1 version that was keyed to the ATMOS theater so the operator was lost - no ATMOS and no other version that would play - ignoring the fact that the IAB version would play.

[There is a second issue of releasing an IAB package with a 7.1 base, but it doesn't seem that this is the issue identified here. The recommendation has been to not include a 5.1/7.1 fall-back base as part of the IAB package, but some studios are playing it "safe" and include those tracks. The identified issue is an operator not trying to play the IAB version since it didn't say ATMOS.]

Some options:

1. We get the word out to all theaters that have either ATMOS or a compatible IAB system that IAB is the new name for immersive sound? [Use studio communication channel.]
2. Send a fall back **version** for theaters as they learn about "IAB" naming. (Sending both an IAB version and a 7.1 version.)
3. Include ATMOS-IAB in the naming convention until people learn that IAB=ATMOS?
4. Just deal with it! Make the name change to IAB and the education will be the help desk (Deluxe/Pixel Logic/etc) to fix the problem. The folks that don't know about IAB will learn really fast!

NATO has issued memos informing operators about the ATMOS = IAB, but these are not being communicated to the on-site operators.

Studios bookers may have the best means to inform operators to get the word out that IAB=ATMOS to all operators that read the files name.

Chairman's Comment: My conclusion is that we just make the change, send out content labeled "IAB" and let individual exhibitor scramble and call the help desk to be informed and play the IAB version. The number of sites that are ATMOS/ Other are very small and it should only take one call to solve the problem for now and in the future. Keep trying to get the word out, but it's time to rip the bandage off.

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SMPTE Trailers

The industry would like to shift to all SMPTE-DCP trailers. This would reduce the need to send multiple hard drives - some with SMPTE-DCP and some with Interop-DCP trailers.

Many of the independent distributors still create Interop-DCP trailers. There is desire to shift on January 1, 2022. We may need to have a "date certain." Not sure who could make that call. Probably a call by studios to give instructions to their vendors.

Side Note: The biggest issue with folks creating a "bad" SMPTE-DCP is the use of the wrong audio configuration. To create a valid SMPTE-DCP the audio MUST be mastered in configuration 4 (WTF).

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DCP Validation

Do we need a freely available DCP validator? It has worked in IMF. Open source code. Phase 1 would be a CPL validator. Later to test the MXF. There is an on-line open source tool "Clairmeta" tool at <https://github.com/Ymagis/ClairMeta>.

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Other New Stuff

Another side-screen presentation system is being deployed / tested. ICE has been installed at LA Live. It uses side-car delivery of content.

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CinemaCon Highlights

Chairman's cryptic notes on what happened:

- CinemaCon during Covid (in Las Vegas)
 - Coliseum / Attendance (2,000 vs 3,500) 900 International not attending
 - Great meetings - Zoom OK, In-Person BETTER!
- Technical Trade Show was a disappointment
- Elephant in the room was exclusive theatrical windows
- Finding / Hiring / Retaining Staff Challenging
 - Question: is anyone was working on more in-booth automation?
Hollywood software may be working on it.
- Open Captions (provided on-demand / always?)
- Alt Content / biz models - minimal traction so far
- PLF (premium large format) is preferred
- LED? No Buzz
- Xenon projectors selling well
- Some creative pushback on laser image quality
- Theater sound levels
- Closed Captions - change in landscape
- Content Delivery Methods - getting beyond hard drives
- First non DLP-Cinema (but DLP) projector shown (has DCI approval)

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Open Captions

Bill H pointed out that the local AMC theaters is having open caption showing. We had a short discussion that AMC (and other chains) are testing the waters for offering open caption shows.

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SMPTE update

Public CD process... looking for comments 429-20 <https://github.com/smp/st429-20>

Waiting for blank subtitle track (st428-22) Public CD process to start.

Other document links: <https://www.smp.org/public-committee-drafts#listing>

st430-17 ... process has been finished, headed to publication (in a few months)

Need participation in subtitling group... HELP! It may shut down due to lack of participation - PLEASE if you are interested in non-english on-screen rendering.

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Updated Test Package

LOTS OF WORK NECESSARY! Still in the cue.

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ISDCF Immersive Audio

Cocoon Rendering System (DTS) work underway. Supply and pandemic delays - testing appropriate later.

Perhaps 2022Q1+ for another plugfest.

Has anyone implemented new features in IAB devices that others have implemented that need to be part of an IAB profile 2? (Nope)

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Website and IT updates

All good. More Facilities and Studios have been added. Some new languages have been added.

SMPTE LMT has gone quiet.

Bring ISDCF language metadata table to SMPTE - IMF would like to use this registry since it is maintained. (Dean/Steve offer to be proponents)

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ISDCF Terminology Document

ICTA is working on a terminology/glossary document. ISDCF will help host the registry for a joint effort. We are waiting for the first batch of entries from ICTA to start the effort.

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EDCF Update

No updates to report.

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DCI update

No update to report.

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Digital Cinema Picture Levels

On hold.

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Vendor report

Cinecert reports - Has moved to cloud based services and includes a drag-drop inspector available. <https://cinecert.com/online-tools/inspector>

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Review of Action Items from last meeting.

Action Items from July 27, 2021

1. **Membership Fees waived for 2021** Join Inter-Society! <https://isdcf.com> \$500 per company per year, \$100 individual membership.
2. Can KDM generation software include a notification system for certificates that are going to expire soon (6 months)? How can a theater operator know a certificate is going to expire?
3. NATO should make a formal announcement confirming CinemaCon is still on. (Some are questioning due to changes to Las Vegas covid status.)
4. Jerry/Dean will meet up to discuss how to hold a “cheap” hybrid ISDCF meetings
5. Continue nudging to get new test content created.
6. The IAB rendering solution called “Cocoon” needs to be explained so keys can be issued. (Studio request.) DTS to respond?? Please!?
7. Bring ISDCF language metadata table to SMPTE - IMF would like to use this registry since it is maintained. (Dean/Steve would offer to be proponents)

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Attendance on next page.