

ISDCF Main Meeting Notes – March 8, 2023

In person at Harman / hybrid zoom

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday June 15, 2023 (TBD on SMPTE MEETINGS) Members only.

September 13?? IBC is the 15th



Thank you to companies that have committed to sponsoring ISDCF for 2023.

Part 1: General Reporting

Housekeeping:

- Zoom meeting (provided by NATO)
- Set next meeting dates (above).
- Thank you ISDCF for support of the Chairman.
- Thank you for Harman for the facility / coffee
- Thank you to Susie for breakfast sweets
- Thank you to Dean Bullock for providing general expenses and admin support.
- Meeting notes from January '2022 approved
- 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 March 8, 2023

1. **Membership Invoices 2023 New invoices will be issued following this meeting.**
2. Add OPNCAP for open captions as an alternative to the OCAP marking
3. Create GitHub registry for the terminology document (from the excel sheet supplied)
4. Have the terminology registry available on the ISDCF website
5. PLEASE review when the terminology registry launches and make comments/tweaks

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Future of ISDCF

This March meeting was the last open meeting. Future meetings will be members only.

We are moving to SLACK for future general communication. If you are a member, please ask to be added to the ISDCF SLACK channel. We will continue on the free version of SLACK until we are assured for funding.

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Big Things?

There was an issue with one vendor's TMS crashing content at an unusual time (at 2hr20min) during the playback. A few frames needed to be skipped... The fix was to send a new CPL that skipped over these few frames.

The issue may be a specific playback and/or encoding system (ask off-line for the brand of the encoder) that causes the problem. There is a button for "legacy" encoding that may resolve this issue for some users. (It should be ON.) If you are not sure, a distributor will need to verify the J2C prior to release.

This is a problem that has been on-going for at least the last year.

One distributor had found issues with content that was encoded at just above 250mb/s for no-ingest and/or problems with playback if it did ingest - but random problems. (The favorite kind?) New instructions are to always encode at below

245mb/s. They “think” it has to do with the overhead of encryption. It seems to mainly happening on 4K content.

One exhibitor reported non-crashing, but playback quality problems (like “interlace” or color bars). Seemed to be buffer overflow for a very long reel. Best is to break content into 20 minute reels.

Many are still trying to find the problem and how to fix, PLEASE let the community know.

(One test was to decode the “bad” J2C to baseband, re-encode with a different encoder STILL replicates the problem. It’s a mystery.)

Bottom line: we have a Pain Point on playback that is in process of analysis.

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ISDCF Subcommittees formed

At the last ISDCF meeting we formed four subcommittee. Two have been active the others are yet to really start.

Committees (Slack channels): #metadata-behavior - CPL Metadata, #FIPS-140-3-impact, #led-audio-test-content, #accessibility-protocol - Accessibility using smart phones

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CPL Metadata Subcommittee #metadata-behavior

This subcommittee has met once. Most of the discussion was on how the automated metadata is actually being used. It appears that most of the exhibitors ARE using the CPL metadata as part of the TMS to assist in routing content to the appropriate screen. BUT some find the total number of versions (of audio in particular) problematic so just use the 5.1 in many cases to reduce errors.

We did consider requesting the addition of new metadata to the standard:

One is for audio loudness for the content (mainly for trailers). Not sure what would be the use, but it's not part of the data. There are political issues to be considered as well.

A second request was a way to identify if there is a subtitle was burned into the content. Currently this information is in the CTT, but not in the CPL.

Goal of committee:

Possible outcomes / goals

1. Inform TMS/SMS companies and end users how it can be used / can save time for users
 1. User testimonial / success story
2. How system can deal with metadata
 1. Update current systems being used ("best in show")
 2. Best practices for new suppliers
 3. Provide metadata to other devices (audio processors)
3. Potential for UX for metadata

What problem does metadata solve? How can it be used better?

- Markers automation for lighting
- Audio routing
- Light level, resolution, dimension - projector settings

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Audio Automation Discussion

We are considering creating metadata that is a measure of the sound level of a particular trailer / feature. We don't yet have what that the measurement would be (Leq(m) or equivalent). We MAY see this request come from Europe for all elements of theatrical presentation. There is currently no recommended practice of what to do when/if this metadata is included. BUT it's the start of a conversation.

Currently we *think* that many exhibitors that have the ability to automate auditorium sound levels (not all can), reduce the sound level for trailers and turn up the sound for features. Most that don't make the shift play all at a lower-than-ideal sound level for the feature.

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Audio Test Material #led-audio-test-content

This content is designed to play content on a variety of screens - including non-perf screens (LED) - to see how the sound issues are resolved. The content is being designed with the understanding that it would be used to reveal known issues with LED screens (localization, reflection, intelligibility, etc.). Our current methodology is to use 5.1 content.

Work is continuing on creating this content. We have a google doc that is evolving for a play-list for the content. One of the issues being addressed is the “intelligibility” of the playback. We have reached out to an expert to see if we can get content to be used.

Work continues in committee on this.

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ISDCF Immersive Audio

Why are we still using Atmos label instead of the IAB label?

There is a problem with international releases and they don't want dual inventory. There is no difference with the files, only in the name in the content title text.

The general feeling is that we want to change the name. A number of studios stated that they were going to change to IAB starting in January 2023, but this has not happened. There just doesn't seem to be urgency. Disney is expecting to make the change very soon (June?).

If we can't do something as simple as this, can we really do anything more complicated?

This is different than a format difference. This is NOT DTS-X vs IAB.

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Accessibility Subcommittee #accessibility-protocol

No meeting has taken place.

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FIPS 140-3 requirements #FIPS-140-3-impact

No meeting has taken place.

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Naming Convention

Is there a need for a NearField content identification? No, there is no way to deal with a near field in current systems.

Use of OPNCAP for open captions as a defined / official entry.

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SMPTE update

27C Exhibition Display Study Group

Problem being solved: "What should be changed / updated in the existing standards" "Are they any missing any standards that need creation?" This may include direct view and HDR.

Many documents for digital cinema SMPTE standards are being updated and moving to html on-line editable versions. These are very important and need review. The on-line versions are at <https://github.com/SMPTE>

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Website and IT updates

We will be making the transition to Slack / removing the discussion list / move site to Amazon / Move isdcf.com registration to Amazon.

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Terminology Registry

Initial terminology document has been started. We will move to GitHub as a joint ICTA / ISDCF project.

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The Cinema Foundation

No updates.

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EDCF

No updates.

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DCI Updates

DCI has published updates to HDR/Direct view (now version 1.1). (Biggest change is that non-active pixels can be full “off.” This can deal with fitting different aspect ratios on the screen.)

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Reports:

SMPTE held an event at Amazon Facility in Culver City with display of LED screens. This is a commercial theater. With both 4K and 8K displays. Mostly Samsung ONYX displays.

Some discussion on the audio system and there may be a need for a separate mix for these kind of screens. Also some discussion for a need for a separate image master.

There are about 60 deployed screens worldwide. There are roughly 7 screens in the US (most at the Amazon facility in Culver City).

One studio commented that it is too easy to play back content on these screens in the wrong mode (colorspace, brightness, etc.). They really should be reading the metadata to be in the correct mode for playback.

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Review of Action Items from last meeting.

Action Items from January 12, 2023

- 1. Membership Invoices 2023 New invoices will be issued following this meeting.**
2. Create a members-only section to website - **Not gonna happen**

3. Create an agreement between contributing companies and ISDCF - **posted and working**
 4. Create and post a budget for ISDCF - **posted and done**
 5. Member only discussion list - **SLACK**
 6. Form new subgroup to discuss server/LMS behavior with metadata (Steve Chair)
Please go to [Committe Signup](#) know if you want to be a part. **Meeting**
 7. Form new subgroup to discuss the details of impact of FIPS 130-4 on product design and testing. Please go to [Committe Signup](#) know if you want to be a part. **Not yet started**
 8. Form new subgroup for accessibility with personal devices. Please go to [Committee Signup](#) if you want to be a part. **Not yet started**
 9. Continue moving forward on creating new audio test content for non-perf screens.
Underway
 10. Looking for volunteer to find edit list for a short StEM-2 segment. Go [Committee Signup](#) to sign up. **On hold**
- From last time:
11. Remaster ISDCF/DCPL still images for use on LED displays (Still desired)
 12. Get ISDCF 3D48 content available on the website. Does someone have information what to look for? (Steve - Still desired)

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Attendance on next last page.