ISDCF Main Meeting Notes – March 27, 2025
In person at Deluxe and Zoom

ISDCF Sponsoring Companies

2024 Sponsoring Companies: AMC, Christie, Barco, Deluxe, Dolby, EIKON, GDC Technologies, Harkins Theatres, Marcus Theatres, Paramount, Pixelogic, Qube, Samsung/Harman, Sharp/NEC, Sony Pictures, Texas Instruments, Universal Pictures, Village Cinemas Australia, Walt Disney Pictures, Warner Bros., Xperi/DTS

Upcoming Meetings

Monday March 31, 2025 CinemaCon - Cinema Systems Summit (9am to 3pm)
Wednesday May 14, 2025 1pm at Universal
Wednesday July 2, 2025 10am TBD Location

Part 1: General Reporting

Housekeeping:

- Zoom meeting (provided by ISDCF)
- Set next meeting dates (above).
- Thank you ISDCF for support of the Chairman.
- Thank you to Dean Bullock for providing general expenses and admin support.
- Meeting notes from January 16, 2025 approved and to post to open website
- 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.

Organizational Issues:
ISDCF and InterSociety have new Logos:
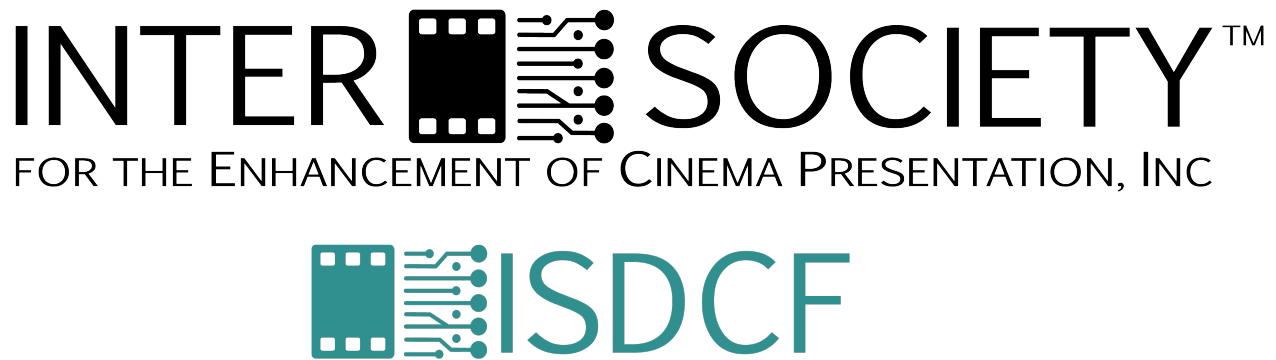
InterSociety Board:

President: Steve LLamb

VP: Reiner Doetzkies

Secretary / Treasurer: Dean Bullock

Executive Director: Jerry Pierce - and chairman ISDCF

Members: Susie Beiersdorf, Mark Collins, Sean Romano, Mark Waterston, Kirk Griffins, Mike Radford

InterSociety financial status: We now have a bookkeeper. Money status is OK.

ISDCF LinkedIn account has been more active. We encourage participation and cross promotion.

The audio for this meeting was horrible. My sincere apologies for those that suffered through it. I've been spoiled by many of our locations that have been set up. We just forgot we needed to do a good setup before the meeting!! Next time we should be better. My Bad. If it makes you feel better, I (Jerry) listened to it for meeting notes so I suffered twice!

Attendance is at end of these notes.

Action Items from March 27, 2025

1. Post the DCP for the ISDCF Audio Test content Version 2 for distribution
2. On a re-encode for version 3 of the test content, lower the "claps" and other segments (not the piano/Patriot) by at least 3db
3. Write up an expectation [Google document](#) that explains each of the segments of the test content.
4. Start a small group to add to the audio test content expectation document.
5. Hold a discussion to formalize the workflow for naming convention physical addresses.
6. Provide feedback to SMPTE on the posted journal articles.

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NATO (National Association of Theater Owners) has a new name: "Cinema United" We will see it next week at CinemaCon!

About 1/2 the room did not know that NATO has changed it's name.

We *think* the mission statement is the same for the new **Cinema United** organization.

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Audio Test Material

Earlier today we held a demonstration of the new Audio Test Content. We alternated between the two rooms at Deluxe. One room has an LED screen installed and the other a traditional projection perforated screen. We played a number of the segments by playing in one room then moving to the other room and listening to the same segment. We went back and forth about 8 times.

The new content has four new sections: 1) with pink noise moving around the room 2) a new Patriot clip with significant use of surrounds 3) the same new Patriot clip with the center channels mute and only the surrounds in use 4) a set of calibration tones for all channels.

One note to fix: the "clap" sequences were too loud and should be reduced by 3 to 6db. One person suggested that the piano and the Patriot scenes were at correct volume, but all the other test segments were 3db too loud.

The general conclusion was that the test material was excellent for revealing issues with screens of all types. It was interesting that some felt the claps were the best part, others the piano and others the Patriot clips. It's great that we have all the sections in the test!!

We believe that we need to create a "what to listen for" document that describes each section and what to expect. We will create an open [Google Doc](#) for people to add comments. We could add closed caption on the content describing what we expect. We will start from the comments that Brian Vessa made when creating content.

Plan to create an small group to create these comments.

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DCI Issued CTP (compliance test plan) update

CTP from 1.4.1 to 1.4.2. Noted as a minor update with no impactful changes.

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BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) updates

AKA Caption device plugfest. A meeting is being planned for a new committee ISCAF (InterSociety for Cinema Accessibility Forum). Let [Howard Kiedaisch](#) or [Jerry Pierce](#) know if you want to participate in the meeting.

A question was asked based on our plugfest last cycle: Is what we heard/saw long term acceptable as a solution for BYOD?

Is the HI track playback we heard acceptable. Short answer: NO. It MUST be better alignment with the audio. It was too far out of sync from the audio in the room. It MUST be frame accurate to be a long term (possible replacement for existing in-theater) solution.

Is the closed caption solution acceptable in the long term? Short answer: NO. The devices had too much scattered light and would not be as good a solution as could be provided by in-glass solutions that were once offered by Sony and might be part of an AR (augmented reality glasses) solution going forward. The current custom-built solutions offered protection against scattered light.

Most felt the Descriptive Track and the Sign Language track was acceptable for long term solutions. (With the understanding that the scattered light from the sign language track was still an issue.)

Chairman still feels that a synchronization solution is needed to enable these solutions.

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On Screen Text Rendering

Dean offered to form a committee to have the discussion for a long term solution / requirements for moving forward.

From Harold Hallikainen : I think the long term solution is to obey the font file, including vertical metrics. I agree on authoring font file. Current font compressors remove vertical metrics.

Still needed, no work has been done on this topic.

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Global SMPTE Roll out

Many in Asia are still using InteropDCP. Korea/Thailand - No update this time.

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Image Artifact issues (playback issues)

No update for ISDCF, keep on list. There are meetings held by some that "talk about this problem" often. It won't solve the problem, but it means that ISDCF doesn't need to start a new effort.

Some legacy equipment exhibits serious playback failures (including crashes) that seem to be the result of a defect in the playback system (it is not an error in the JPEG2000 bit stream). The problem is repeatable, but it will take serious investigation to determine the trigger for the problem. Since the equipment is legacy there is not much (any?) effort being applied to find the problem. The resources needed to solve this problem has not been assigned.

None of the recently deployed systems exhibit these problems, only legacy equipment. This is part of the bigger issue of what to do with legacy equipment that has problems with playback and certs. At some point of time these legacy devices might not be supported by new content, i.e. no KDM issued, since playback of content on this devices are unreliable. Unfortunately there are up to 40% of installed systems that are in this legacy category.

The industry COULD gather some legacy equipment in a location/facility for testing. We might just need to continue to live with the problem.

It MIGHT help if new CTP test content included content that better stress-tests decoders. But that would not solve the installed base problem.

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End-of-Life Playback issues

Yet again, some new CERTs have expired were not able to play them. Nothing for us to do. Known problem, known solutions (get your system upgraded for software fix. There may be a problem with some systems that can not be upgraded).

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Cinema Systems Summit 2025

ICTA/ISDCF/Intersociety planning one day conference at the start of CinemaCon this coming Monday. It will run from 9am to 3pm.

The schedule is posted. We have "sold" out all 220 spot for attendees. We are still short of paying for lunch and contributions are welcome!

Cinema Systems Summit 2025 Schedule

Programming begins at 9:00am • Neopolitan Ballroom III+IV – Promenade Level
Registration is required, space is limited. Times are approximate and will fluctuate:

9:00am – Welcome
  • Frank Tees & Jerry Pierce
9:05am – "I have a dream" what is the future of the booth?
  • Mark Collins
9:15am – Getting New Content – Diversifying a film desert.
  • Moderator – John Fithian, Partner, The Fithian Group
  • Panelists: Patrick Corcoran, Partner, The Fithian Group, Lynne Schmidt, SVP Operations & Strategic Partnerships, Fathom Entertainment, Mark Waterston, Executive Vice President, Qube Wire
9:50am – Your Cinema, Your Team: Why In-House Technicians Make the Difference
  • Matt Basford, VP, Head of Global Technical Services, Regal Cineworld Group
10:10am – How theaters are investing in their future.
  • Moderator – Bryan Braunlich, Executive Director, The Cinema Foundation
  • Panelist – Eric Kohn, Southampton Playhouse, Jacob Schulman, Schulman Theatres, Siva Shan, Apple Cinemas
11:00am – Finally, a Roadmap to Protecting My Content Network!
  • Presenter – Terri Davies, President, Trusted Partner Network, Kari Grubin, Membership Services Director, Trusted Partner Network
NOON-ish – Keynote: A Call to Arms – "Avatar: Fire and Ash" and the Future of Theatrical Exhibition

- Speaker – Geoff Burdick – Senior Vice President, Production Services & Technology at Lightstorm Entertainment
- Q&A Moderator: Jackie Brenneman, Partner, The Fithian Group

12:50pm – Why I hate my TMS and Why I Shouldn't –
- Moderator – Chase Taylor, Owner, SoundVision Technical
- Panelist – Trevor Endo, GDC, Jerry Alverson, Star Cinema Grill, Shawn Martin, Arts Alliance Media, Andreas Stier, OneCinema, Frankie Vaquerano, Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

1:30pm – Are you thinking of installing a Direct View LED cinema display?
- Presenter – Frank Tees, VP, Moving Image Technologies/ICTA Past President, Trevor Endo, GDC

1:50pm – Promoting theatre technologies to customers.
- Presenter – Bobbie Bagby Ford, Chief Creative Officer and EVP, B&B Theatres, John Bloemeke, President, Golden Ticket Cinemas Inc.

2:55pm – End

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Other Resources

We were made aware of a background document for DCPs https://sherpadown.net/dcp-inside/TOC It has not been reviewed, but on the surface it seems valuable. This (and other like it) could be submitted to an editorial review committee to consider adding to our list of resources on the ISDCF website. With a disclaimer, this link will be added for now.

We might ask the authors to join us for a meeting to discuss their work.

The author is: Benjamin GIGON dcpinside@sherpadown.net

Benjamin was CTO of the Digital Cinema division of the Eclair film laboratories (Eclair Digital Cinema), then CTO R&D of Ymagis from its creation in order to set up the workflow necessary for the Digital Cinema Initiatives (DCI). Creation & CTO of the audiovisual distribution company Ekyo. Technical, film and security consultant for various companies in the film industry. At Doremi Cinema / HTS as an engineer and consultant, he will participate in the Qalif project, a cinema calibration camera used in cinema and in particular at the Cannes Film Festival. Finally, a return within the Ymagis / Eclair group to restructure and manage the Theatrical Deliveries branch. Also, Member of the Higher Technical Commission of Image and Sond (CST). At the same time, he participates in film and audiovisual production as a co-producer, assistant-réal or chief operator or as a script-doctor or co-writer.

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Website and IT updates Naming Convention

All good. Business as usual.

Digital Cinema Naming Convention: Do we need to improve the consistency of the physical address we enter in the registry. We might use ChatGPT to improve the consistency. We will find a standard workflow. Dean will join the discussion.

ISDCF may want to add a service to more officially publish documents. It would include using a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) and having an IPR (Intellectual Property Statement - i.e. you own it, can't charge for it). It might be under InterSociety rather than ISDCF.

Barco has moved forward with their naming of BarcoHDR. We expect to get a URL for making it official.

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SMPTE update

pDCDM Published.

Next meetings in Tokyo in June.

Back issues of the Journal are now on-line! https://journal.smpte.org/ If there are comments/suggestion for the new posting please contact Pierre. We need to provide feedback to SMPTE for what is desired. PLEASE capture in writing comments/suggestions. (My first comment is allow on-line viewing in addition to download the PDF. Can there be one download of all .pdf pages at one time for an issue. Some wanted embedded ads with the pages.)

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EDCF Update

EDCF tour happening right now and tomorrow.
Convention in February.
New ED hired for EDCF - Jürgen Burghardt and General Secretary

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InterSociety Newsletter

Under consideration - watch this space

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Vendor Updates

Mark Collins will be leaving JVC/Harman and is offering his services.
John Hurst: Cinecert is the distributor of Clipster and will honor the service agreements

for current owners of Clipsters and a product plan for the future is underway!

Action Items from January 16, 2025

1. We need to hold votes for InterSociety board members. It will probably be a Google Form. Paid Member companies will vote. Kirk Griffins and Mike Radford have joined the board.
2. Call for a committee under InterSociety to have discussions for requirements for BYOD for the theatrical environment. Steve, Jerry, Howard to lead. Underway.
3. Form a committee to discuss requirements for on-screen rendering and suggest a path to solve this going forward. (Dean) Not yet.
4. Request for presentations for the Cinema Systems Summit at CinemaCon. Done.
5. Encourage use of pDCDM for the efficient loss-less storage and transfer of source files. Write up a short description of pDCDM and why vendors should encourage it. Posted.

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Attendance on last page.