

ISDCF Main Meeting Notes – July 2, 2025

In person at Universal and Zoom

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday August 20, 2025 10:00am In Person / Zoom / Universal

Wednesday October 22, 2025 10:30am In Person / Zoom / Universal



Part 1: General Reporting

Housekeeping:

- Zoom meeting (provided by ISDCF)
- Set next meeting dates (above).
- Thank you ISDCF for support of the Chairman.
- Meeting notes from May 14, 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:

Question of using AI to generate (or help generate) ISDCF meeting notes: should we try it? Does anyone have any experience? Suggestions?

One person requested that we NOT use live AI capture, but do experiments after-the-fact to generate notes. Suggestion to check the Terms and Conditions of any system that we might try.

InterSociety Board:

President: Steve LLamb

VP: Reiner Doetzkies

Secretary / Treasurer: Dean Bullock

Executive Director: Jerry Pierce - and chairman ISDCF

Bookkeeper: Michelle Hurst

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

InterSociety financial status: We have about \$50K in bank which should be good for the end of the year. 21 corporations have paid. 15 individuals have paid. We are looking for a membership management tool (excel is not cutting it). Any suggestions?

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

There is a request to have a joint UNIC / EDCF / ISDCF call in October. In process. If you want to participate let Jerry know.

Attendance is at end of these notes.

Action Items from July 2, 2025

1. Request for experience with AI assisted meeting note tools. (Do you have a system that seems to work?) Feedback on suitability to use AI tools from members.
2. ISDCF to create a small group to figure out how to discuss security issues that are becoming more evident. (Steve/Guillaume) Ultimately to help the industry understand the issues.
3. Update Audio Test website with description of expectations. Add 7.1 QuickTime version.
4. Revisit BYOD subcommittee. Steve to follow up with Howard K on the other committee.
5. Restart the font rendering subcommittee with Dean Bullock, Matt Sheby, and Mike Radford.

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EDCF Meeting Summary

EDCF has a (new) executive director - Guillaume

EDCF shared meeting notes from June 2025 and we did a quick review of the topics. (Report attached to these notes.) There is a need to coordinate across the globe for Digital Cinema issues.

One major issue is how to deal with “legacy” systems. A problem for the whole industry.

Discussion of EDCF notes:

The Cybersecurity seems to be limited in what is discussed because of the sensitivity of the information. There may be a need for a forum that is “safe” to discuss vulnerabilities and details. Not sure where to have the discussions. Even studios can’t talk to each other to share the specific vulnerabilities due to the legal issues.

It’s not necessarily a DCI issues since the problems are for equipment that was pre-DCI certification or using software/firmware that was not certified. Or similar issues that fall outside of the DCI umbrella.

One studio has said that they are making decisions of what equipment will not be supported for upcoming titles based on known security vulnerabilities of those systems. Serious stuff!!

We really need to be able to talk in detail what is going on. Steve/Guillaume have volunteered to start a small group discussion to see how we can talk about the issues (maybe via anonymous

identification of equipment). It will probably be a joint InterSociety / EDCF meeting. If you want to join the committee, please contact Steve.

Next topic: KDM delivery methods. ISDCF talked about this years ago and it is back to the front burner for EDCF. (It's still amazing that we still use email to delivery KDMs - there are much more efficient ways!) Where did TKR go?

There may be a EDCF summary day at IBC that could involve more ISDCF topics as well.

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DCI Request for feedback

DCI submitted a number of questions (last pages of these notes) for review by ISDCF members to help DCI in updating their DCSS (Digital Cinema System Specification) documents. It's been almost 20 years, time to check on the terminology to make sure they are still relevant.

ISDCF sent these out to the discussion list and has received some feedback. We will be providing these to DCI. David Deelo asked for feedback directly (contact Jerry for the email.)

The suggestion for the terminology was to use a standard style meeting (i.e. SMPTE process) to have these discussions. The proposed method of submitting a request and going back to evaluate is very inefficient.

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Audio Test Material

We have posted the audio test material to the ISDCF website (<https://www.isdcf.com/audiotest/> It is in both QuickTime and DCP format). Anyone can download the DCP for testing.

Brian Vessa updated the [Google Doc](#) with expectations for playback.

This describes what you should hear/how to analyze the test content. More feedback is welcome! We seek to see if this is sufficient for the content.

We would like to understand how this test content is being used.

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BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) updates

We are heading down two paths: one to help in “standardization” of specifications and creating material for current caption/ audio smart phone apps. The second path is to improve the design of systems to meet all the goals of devices for the application.

Path one: Products are being deployed and need to have structure for getting content, security issues, the approval process. There is a need to create methods of making these systems work within the ecosystem of the industry. Main focus of ISCAF subcommittee.

The current systems are not good enough for the long term. They can’t provide the functionality for all needs of the users - like providing captioning for trailers and all content in the playlist. (That requires pre-loading of content.) They do not seem to provide frame accurate HI playback. They have issues with getting content prior to arriving at theater.

Path two would “innovate” solutions that would overcome path one issues.

ISDCF could create a document stating the current situation so “buyers” would be aware of what is being done with pros and cons.

One observation was we are in a time like before DCI was formed. There are a variety of solutions to the problem (use of personal devices for language, caption, HI, VI) that have come to market - like the MPEG digital cinema solutions of 2003-4. It went to SMPTE to try and “standardize” but they could not direct the industry to one solution. DCI was formed and “innovated” the DCP/JPEG2000 DCSS system to have a single technical standard for the industry. Path 2 is looking for the methodology to achieve this same style of results for BYOD.

Another observation was Path one is good enough and we just need to fix the “boring” stuff of delivery and approval.

There is not agreement on the status of current technology. Some feel the current group of “audio correlation sync/pre-download content” systems are good enough for the needs and others feel that these systems are 90% good enough, but not good enough for the long-term future needs of all patrons (meaning theaters would need to continue providing ADA equipment even when these BYOD systems are widely used).

The Qube / Dolby systems seems to address most of the shortfalls of the “audio correlations sync/pre-download content” and could be the basis of a Path two solution. There is a desire to include alternative languages and the current Dolby/Qube systems

don't offer that right now (but could). Dealing with out-of-band delivery of content is an important consideration.

Comparison (a starting point)

	Path one	Path two
Type	Audio correlation / cloud download of content	In-Theater sync (WiFi?), in-theater delivery of streaming content
HI track	Not good enough sync	OK
Ease of getting content	Requires customer action before arrival at theater	Requires customer to get connected to WiFi in theater
VI / Captions / Sign Language	Good	Good - if DCP has content
Trailers	Requires customer action before arrival at theater (currently not provided)	Good
Security	Each system different	Current security approved
Ease for studio to provide content	Each system different	Would be part of DCP
Cost	Free to Theater, theater could purchase devices for customers	Could cost a WiFi hub, theater could purchase devices for customers
Future ADA compliance	Unknown, issue with sync and trailers	Probably OK

No clear next steps. We still need to consider if we want to form a group. Revisit next time.

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On Screen Text Rendering

Dean is to form a committee to have the discussion for a long term solution / requirements for moving forward. One studio is very supportive of moving forward with this effort. Matt Sheby may help to move this forward.

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End-of-Life Playback issues

One company did a wide email announcement of a product that reached "End-of-Life." The first time we have seen a public announcement. We want to encourage companies to give this information to exhibition as soon as possible.

One company publishes an end of life matrix for their products. <https://dolby.ent.box.com/s/zdbitjetos6eg5usbqoy2hddr529x8tm> Is this something that ISDCF should have links to these pages for many hardware manufacturers? Last time we decided that ISDCF shouldn't maintain a list, but maybe links to individual companies website.

The real issue does this information provide actionable tasks when they receive this information? For some, yes. It is helpful for information, at least.

We recognize that at some point in time individual studio may designate that certain end-of-life devices won't receive content. There is a desire that exhibition be given an 18 month head's up. Studios need to be aware of the EOL to help them make these end of KDM delivery decisions.

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Image Artifact issues (playback issues)

Dolby found one issue (AKA CZ issue) and has found a software fix for their systems. Asking for more data on errors found. There are meetings held by some that "talk about this problem" often.

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Website and IT updates Naming Convention

All good. Business as usual.

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SMPTE update

EG 428-23 ready for DP

RP 428-22 ready for pub

Next SMPTE Tech Committee meetings: Sept 17-19 in Warsaw, Poland at Faculty of Mechatronics of Warsaw University of Technology - Warsaw, Poland & Online

Study group on Digital cinema history underway

Maybe present something from ISDCF at the SMPTE Fall Conference

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InterSociety Newsletter

Not sure if we have sufficient interest to actually create the newsletter.

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Vendor Updates

Action Items from May 14, 2025

1. Consider a virtual conference/webinar on special topics. Could start building a library of educational material for training (on specs). 45 minutes on a topic. **Nothing done**
2. Post ISDCF audio test material **done**
3. Brian will lead the group to create expectations on the [Google Doc](#). **done**
4. Try to schedule demo at Amazon of the audio test material (August 20 ISDCF meeting?) Possible hold ISDCF meeting close to that location. (Bill will check) **Decided not to hold on August 20.**
5. Create BYOD subcommittee to propose novel methods for in-theater delivery of captions/audio/sign language to personal devices **in process/under discussion**
6. Find history of devices from Georgia Tech on in-theater delivery. Reach out to ETC for a project on BYOD open domain solutions. **done**
7. Present at SMPTE Fall Conference (maybe audio test content - Steve) **Not sure**

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DCI Questions:

== First Topic: Input on DCSS User Accounts

Per DCSS [7.4.1.3 User Accounts](#)

The SMS and TMS are required to support multiple levels of user accounts. The following is an example of multiple accounts: Projection, Show Manager, Super-user, and Administrator with password-protected appropriate log-ons.

- A. Projection – Required to be able to perform the following functions
- Browse and activate current shows
 - Play content, including starting and stopping playback
 - Assemble shows

B. Show Manager – Required to have access to the following functions*

- All projection functions
- Assemble or Delete Shows to/from storage
- Import/Delete Content to/from storage

C. Super-user – Required to have access to the following functions

- All Show Manager functions
- User Management
- Theater System Setup

D. Administrator – Required to have access to the following functions

- All Super-user functions
- System Setup
- Security Setup

Questions:

1. Are these user accounts/roles and functions still representative of what is typically found at exhibition?
2. Is the term “projection booth” still the preferred term for that physical location that facilitates a movie showing for a given auditorium? Are there any other terms also used?

= Second Topic: Input on DCSS environmental requirements =====

- Per DCSS [7.2.3.9 Environment](#)

The theater is required to provide an adequate environment for the equipment, with an operating temperature range of 10-35°C and operating Humidity of 10% to 85% Non-Condensing.

DCI would like to understand whether these requirements are still valid, and if not, what are contemporary parameters?

== Third Topic: Input on DCSS Theater Management Network =====

Per DCSS [7.5.9.3 Theater Management Network](#)

Not all multi-screen complexes will have Theater Management Networks. When present, the Theater Management Network

is a low bandwidth, shared interface, made up of Theater System devices and an Ethernet distribution system. This is required to be accomplished using 100Base-T Ethernet [IEEE 802.3]. This network is required to support all of the control, configuration, security, software upgrades, testing and status of the Theater Systems.

The Theater Management Network can be sub-divided into two networks that support two main categories of communications:

- Control and status communications – The sending of commands and data to the Theater System devices and receiving status back from those devices. TCP/IP is required to be the protocol to send commands and configuration. SNMP/UDP/IP (Simple Network Management Protocol over User Datagram Protocol over Internet Protocol) can be used for status of the equipment.
- Operational Message communications – This messaging supports pre-playback, playback and post playback operations and thus interfaces with the security subsystem(s). Such communications may take place over the same networks as above. However, Operational Message communications is required to employ Transport Layer Security (TLS) per the security requirements of Section 9..

Figure 13 depicts an exemplary multiplex theater system architecture with four auditoriums.

Questions:

- Is the above description and requirements of a Theater Management Network comprised of two categories of communications representative of what is typical today? If not, what is more representative?
- Are there recommendations on how Figure 13 should be revised to better represent an exemplary contemporary multiplex, including responding to the above question

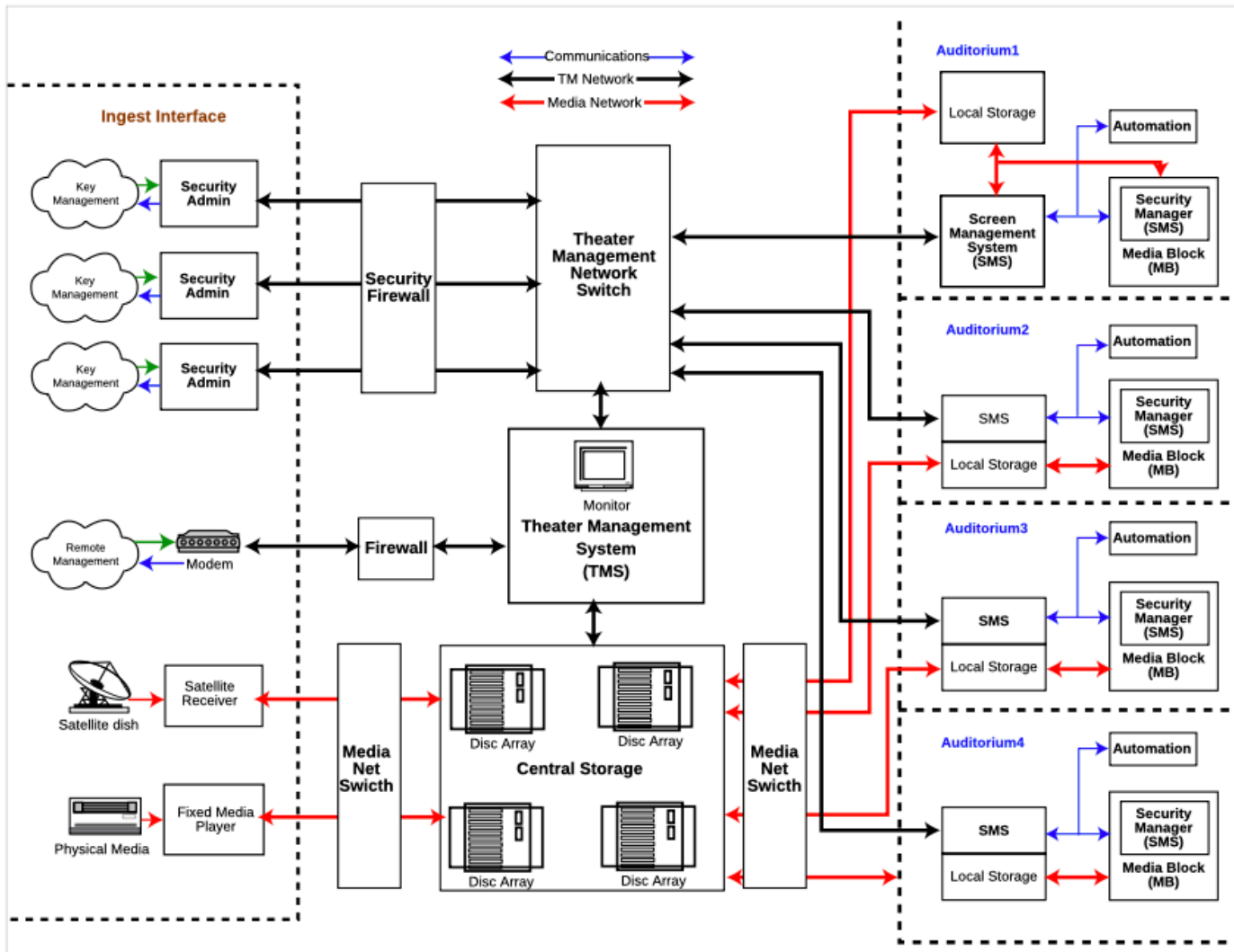


Figure 13: Multiplex Theater System Architecture

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Attendance on last page.