



NCOIC Update to Members – August 2017

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NCOIC and NATO Moving Forward with Interoperability Verification

In July, leaders from NCOIC and NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT) met to map out plans for the Interoperability Verification Initiative. The project is aimed at enhancing interoperability for NATO's Federated Mission Networking (FMN) capability, which is being developed to support decision making in future operations through improved information sharing.

NCOIC will assess the evidence of interoperability of products and services and whether they meet FMN needs. Having this evaluation take place before purchase can assist NATO, its 29 member-nations and mission partners to reduce cost, delays and risk in the development and introduction of the FMN environment. The costs associated with using multiple products in an integrated environment have been increasing over the last 20 years. The FMN team estimates can save up to 40 percent of its current integration costs by having information on product interoperability up front. On the industry side, verification will help vendors understand that interoperability is a basic requirement and their solutions are more likely to be acquired if they have evidence to confirm it.

NCOIC members are encouraged to get involved now with the IV activities and help determine the interoperability foundations for FMN. The consortium is expecting great interest among firms in Europe and the U.S. that want to be part of the effort to establish the FMN interoperability verification environment. It is also anticipating the marketplace will expand with more qualified vendors representing all FMN affiliates. New NCOIC membership levels for organizations are being rolled out to reflect this interest and enable more providers to take part in the IV Initiative. Look for this membership information on the NCOIC website in the next few weeks. To get involved with the IV Initiative, contact Ed Barger at ed.barger@ncoic.org.

Sept. 13 Meeting to Focus on NATO Interoperability Verification

The NCOIC Interoperability Verification Initiative is the key topic for the consortium's next discussion event on Wednesday, September 13. NCOIC directors, advisors, members and guests will meet in Arlington, Virginia, and others will join online from the U.S. and Europe to learn and provide input that can help NATO enhance interoperability for multi-national missions. In addition to the afternoon discussion event, there will be a one-hour virtual meeting beginning at 9 a.m. ET that will focus on NCOIC membership and a short overview of the IV framework, its use in the NATO operational test environment and how to become involved in the project. Go to the NCOIC website for more information and to make your reservation. <http://www.ncoic.org/news-events/events>

Inter-cloud Interoperability Meeting Set for August 31

IEEE and NIST are starting a collaborative effort on inter-cloud interoperability and cloud federation, topics the NCOIC Cloud Computing Working Group has been addressing. Dr. Craig Lee of The Aerospace Corporation is co-chairing the NIST Public Working Group on Federated Cloud. The kickoff

meeting is August 31 and interested NCOIC members are encouraged to call in. Following the kickoff meeting, the Tech Team will examine how NCOIC will be able to participate.

http://standards.ieee.org/news/2017/intercloud_interoperability_and_federation.html

In Tribute: Terry Morgan, Visionary NCOIC Leader

Terrence C. Morgan, NCOIC Executive Council Chair Emeritus, passed away in late July. With strong support from Cisco Systems, Inc., Terry joined NCOIC as a founding member in August 2004 and served on the Executive Council before being elected Vice Chairman in October 2007 and Chairman in October 2008. He helped establish many of the concepts and approaches for creating cross-domain interoperability that are the hallmarks of NCOIC. Terry's main accomplishment as Chairman was to provide an international focus, which became an important part of the NCOIC agenda. He provided advice and direction to the NCOIC team that has been developing a unique relationship with NATO – a project that took a major step forward during Terry's final days. He also expanded the consortium's international focus beyond Europe, including projects with the Australian Department of Defence, which adopted NCOIC tools and approaches for ensuring interoperability.

“Terry carried no personal agenda -- his thoughts and direction were for the greater good. Thanks to him, we have been successful in establishing a close working relationship with NATO,” said Harry Raduege, NCOIC Chief Executive Officer. “Since our founding, his clear vision has had a profound impact on NCOIC. Our entire team will greatly miss Terry's contributions and leadership.”

Executive Staff Changes Announced

Early in August, the NCOIC Board of Directors approved three organizational changes to better align executive staff members with the roles they actually are performing. Karen Mowrey has assumed the title of NCOIC Executive Director, previously held by Carl Schwab. Carl Schwab has moved to the position of Legal Counsel and acting Treasurer. Marilyn Cohen now has the role of Secretary, previously held by Karen Mowrey, in addition to her responsibilities as Librarian. Their contact information remains unchanged.

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