

Enterprise SSD (Solid State Drive) Form Factor 1.0 Final Specification released by SSD Form Factor Working Group.

Dell, EMC, Fujitsu, IBM and Intel announce the release of Enterprise SSD Form Factor Specification 1.0.

May 3, 2012, San Francisco — To promote greater storage efficiencies in the data center, a broad coalition of industry-leading IT solutions providers today announced the release of the “Enterprise SSD Form Factor 1.0 Specification” to advance the benefits of Peripheral Component Interconnect Express (PCIe) storage drives through standardization.

This specification standardizes a 2.5in and 3.5in form factor and a new connector which remains compatible with existing SATA 3.0 and 12Gb/s SAS. Furthermore, this working group has worked cooperatively with SATA IO, SCSI Trade Association (STA), SFF Committee and the PCI SIG with the goal of a single common connector which adds PCIe connectivity while remaining compatible with existing interconnect standards.

“The advent of higher performance SSDs creates the need for a high performance, scalable interface such as PCI Express. The new connector enables the use of PCIe as a device-level interface, while maintaining compatibility with existing high volume storage devices. We are pleased with the work of the SSD Form Factor Working Group and believe that their specification will contribute to the adoption of PCIe storage devices,” said Mladen Luksic, SATA-IO Board Chair.

The SSD Form Factor Working Group was formed with the following goals:

- Bring the benefits of PCIe interconnect to the established 2.5in and 3.5in form factor ecosystem.
- Work with key storage standard organizations to define a unified connector supporting all leading storage interconnects.
- Drive connector spec through SFF to achieve high rate of deployment.

The connector portion of the 1.0 specification has been submitted to the SFF Committee and is currently being developed as Project SFF-8639 which allows cross industry collaboration.

“Once again, we have seen the Storage industry come together, to do what’s best for the customer” said Harry Mason, president, SCSI Trade Association. “It’s rare that you see such collaboration between groups, at this grand scale, to create a common multifunction connector that promises broad based adoption. “ Everyone should be encouraged by the option to support the latest 12Gb/s SAS devices and emerging PCIe based storage devices, using a single connector.”

The SSD Form Factor 1.0 Final Specification was released in December 2011 and is available from http://www.ssdformfactor.org/docs/SSD_Form_Factor_Version1_00.pdf.

About the SSD Form Factor Working Group

The SSD Form Factor Working Group consists of 56 companies with the focus on driving specifications for PCIe SSD's. Their objective is to deliver key customer benefits including performance, features, form factor, availability and serviceability. For information on joining the working group, please contact the promoters at info@ssdformfactor.org.

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