

UNH-IOL NVMe Test Consortium

NVMe Integrators List Policy
Version 1.1b
Policy Document



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MODIFICATION RECORD

2012 October 29 (Version 1.0 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Initial Release

2012 November 19 (Version 1.0 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Changed Windows Driver requirement from being exclusively the Windows OFA reference driver to being any Windows driver.

2012 December 3 (Version 1.0 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Added ‘Definitions’ section. Added requirement for testing against Linux Reference Driver. Clarified requirements for NVMe Devices vs. NVMe Host Platforms.

2013 April 30 (Version 1.0 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Modified information to be included in each device listing.

2013 May 9 (Version 1.0)

David Woolf: Final Release

2013 July 29 (Version 1.1 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Modified information to be included in each device listed. Increased number of test platforms used from 4 to 5, and increased number of passing test platforms from 3 to 4. Specified that a Host Platform need only be tested using one operating system.

2013 August 7 (Version 1.1 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Editorial fixes.

2013 November 7 (Version 1.1 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Added exception for test 1.5 which only needs to be tested with one test platform. Added proposed wording for High Volume Listings policy.

2013 December 13 (Version 1.1 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Reformatted policy document. Removed wording for High Volume Listing Policy. Added wording to clarify that all potential NVMe form factors are eligible for the list, and that drives in the same family but different form factors may be listed by similarity.

2013 December 16 (Version 1.1 DRAFT)

David Woolf: Added cross reference to UNH-IOL equipment list to show what platforms are available for interoperability testing. Removed reference to boot test requirements.

2013 December 19 (Version 1.1)

David Woolf: Added links to UNH-IOL NVMe Test Suites page to help readers find the necessary test procedures.

2014 July 14 (Version 1.1b)

David Woolf: Upgraded requirements for interop testing in section 4. Updated Test Suite references.

2014 September 30 (Version 1.1b)

David Woolf: Downgraded requirements for interop testing in section 4 per direction from NVM Express Organization.

2014 October 20 (Version 1.1b)

David Woolf: Added clarification that devices advertising support for an earlier revision of the NVMe specification may still be eligible for newer revisions of the NVMe Integrators List.

INTRODUCTION

The University of New Hampshire’s InterOperability Laboratory (IOL) is an institution designed to improve the interoperability of standards-based products by providing a neutral environment where a product can be tested against other implementations of a common standard, both in terms of interoperability and conformance. The NVMe Promoters Group and UNH-IOL have worked closely to define test procedures and policies for a public NVMe Integrators List. This document describes the Integrators List, how to qualify products for it, and policies surrounding the Integrators List. The goal of the NVMe Integrators List is to help implementers evaluate the NVMe functionality of their products.

REFERENCES

The following documents are referenced in this text:

- 1.** NVMe Conformance Test Suite 1.1b
- 2.** NVMe Interoperability Test Suite 1.1b

Section 1: Integrators List Policies

Overview: This section describes policies and procedures for listing qualifying products on the NVMe Integrators List.

1 - Purpose

The following outlines the policies for the NVMe Integrators list (IL) and shows how companies participating in the UNH-IOL NVMe consortium can have their products included in the public NVMe Integrators List.

The NVMe Integrators List will serve as a means for component suppliers to indicate conformance to the NVMe specification and interoperability with other NVMe products. While listing on the Integrators List does not guarantee conformance or interoperability it provides a reasonable degree of confidence that a testing product will work well in a multi-vendor environment.

2 - Location

The NVMe Integrators List will be hosted on the UNH-IOL website at www.iol.unh.edu. The exact URL will be published by UNH-IOL. This site will be linked to from nvmexpress.org. The list will be maintained by UNH-IOL.

3 - Definitions

NVMe Host Platform - Any combination of PCIe Host hardware (Motherboard or add-in card), NVMe Host Software (OS/Driver), and/or IP, that allows communication with an NVMe enabled SSD. Examples of an NVMe Host Platform are: server, server board, motherboard, add-in card, RAID Controller, or IP device.

NVMe Device - an NVMe SSD, SSD Controller, or SSD Controller IP.

Product Under Test - The NVMe Host Platform or NVMe Device being tested to determine eligibility for the NVMe Integrators List.

Interop Partner - An NVMe Host Platform or NVMe Device that is tested with the Product Under Test according to the NVMe Interop Test Suite Document to determine the eligibility of the Product Under Test for the NVMe Integrators List.

4 - Eligibility

Products must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the NVMe Integrators List.

If the Product Under Test is an NVMe Device: In order for the product to be eligible for the NVMe Integrators List there must be a UNH-IOL NVMe Conformance Test Report for the product with no failing items. The Test Report must be completed according to the most recent version of the NVMe Conformance Test Suite (CTS) Document available publically on the UNH-IOL website (<https://www.iol.unh.edu/services/testing/NVMe/testsuites>).

Optional features may be included in the testing defined in the CTS document. If a device does not support certain optional features, those items would be marked as ‘Not Applicable’ in the Conformance Test Report, and would not be considered a failing item. If a product claims support for an optional feature, and that feature is included in the current CTS document, the product under test must pass the test for that feature in order to be eligible for the NVMe Integrators List.

If a product advertises support for an earlier revision of the NVMe specification, but supports all mandatory requirements in a newer version of the NVMe specification, the product would still be eligible for listing under the newer version of the NVMe Integrators List Program. This may be the case if a new NVMe Integrators List Program Revision introduced support for new optional features, but no new mandatory features.

Additionally, in order for an NVMe Device product to be eligible for the NVMe Integrators List there must be a UNH-IOL NVMe Interop Test Report for the product. The Test Report must be completed according to the most recent version of the NVMe Interop Test Suite (ITS) Document available publically on the UNH-IOL website (<https://www.iol.unh.edu/services/testing/NVMe/testsuites>).

The Interop Test Report must document testing of the Product Under Test with at least 5 different NVMe Host Platforms, and the product under test must pass with at least 4 of the NVMe Host Platforms.

Among the 4 or more passing NVMe Host Platforms, there must be at least one Linux-based OS and at least one Windows-based OS represented and at least 2 of the following drivers represented:

- NVMe Linux Driver (since Kernel Version 3.3.0)
- Windows OFA Reference Driver 1.3 or 1.4
- Microsoft StorNVMe.sys Driver

If the Product Under Test is an NVMe Host Platform: In order for an NVMe Host Platform product to be eligible for the NVMe Integrators List there must be a UNH-IOL NVMe Interop Test Report for the product. The Interop Test Report must document testing of the NVMe Host Platform using a single operating system with at least 5 different NVMe devices, and the product under test must pass with at least 4 of the 5 NVMe Devices.

Note that the number of platforms or devices required for Integrators List Eligibility may increase in the future at the discretion of the NVMe Promoters Group. A complete listing of NVMe Hosts and Devices is available through UNH-IOL for interoperability testing can be found at <https://www.iol.unh.edu/services/testing/NVMe/equipment.php>.

Some tests in the Interop Test Suite may be defined as optional and are not considered necessary to qualify a device for the NVMe Integrators List.

When UNH-IOL issues reports for a product, they will include a notice on whether the Product Under Test is eligible for the Integrators List or not. In order to have an eligible product included on the Integrators List, the participating company must specifically request UNH-IOL to list the eligible products. Products will not be automatically listed. UNH-IOL will not list products that are not eligible. UNH-IOL will not list products that the participating company has not requested to have listed on the Integrators List.

A participating company could request conformance and interop testing according to the most recent version of the CTS and ITS, but not immediately request a product be posted to the IL, perhaps waiting for the product to be announced publically. If the CTS or ITS changes after the product is tested, but before the request for listing occurs, the product would remain eligible for listing, but the listing would indicate which CTS and ITS version the test was performed to.

A participating company may request testing be performed on their product according to the previous version of the CTS or ITS (rather than the most recent version). If the testing is performed using the previous version of the CTS or ITS, within 6 months of the release date of the newest CTS or ITS, the product would be eligible for the Integrators List. If the testing is performed using the previous version of the CTS or ITS, more than 6 months after the release date of the newest CTS or ITS, the product would not be eligible for the Integrators List.

5 - Information in Listing

The following information must be provided with each listing request, this information will be included in the listing on the public NVMe Integrators List.

- Product, includes Manufacturer, Model Name and Family Name (i.e. different capacities of one SSD are in a single family)
- Product type (accepted products types are: NVMe SSD, SSD Controller, or SSD Controller IP, server, server board, motherboard, add-in card, RAID Controller, or IP device).
- Operating System (Host Only)
- Driver (Host Only)
- Firmware revision (Device Only)
- Interop Program Revision (i.e. 1.0, 1.1, 1.2 etc...)
- Date of listing
- Test ID
- Further Information (primary contact or website)

IL listing is considered permanent. If the CTS or ITS is revised, listings for previously tested products will remain on the public IL (i.e. listings for products tested against version 1.0, are not removed when version 1.1 becomes available).

6 - Listing by Similarity

It is expected that some products will have differences that do not affect NVMe operation, such as form factor, storage capacity, or endurance parameters. In cases such as this, a participating company can request that certain products be added to a product listing, thus they are listed by similarity. The products listed by similarity must have the same Firmware revision and Model Name, and the listing company confirms that the products are materially similar with no substantive changes to the NVMe interface. A Listing by Similarity request form will need to be submitted to UNH-IOL.