

Q&A: The STAC Network I/O Special Interest Group

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Q: What is STAC?

A: STAC® (the Securities Technology Analysis Center) facilitates the STAC Benchmark™ Council (www.STACresearch.com/members), which is a group of trading organizations and vendors with two missions: 1) to define and use standard technology benchmarks based on trading-related workloads, 2) to facilitate substantive dialog among customers and vendors with respect to technology topics. STAC also provides members with tools and research conducted by STAC, vendors, and others.

Q: What is the STAC Network I/O SIG?

A: The SIG is a subset of Council members interested in improving the performance (latency, throughput, etc.) of network I/O in the context of trading. While many STAC Benchmark workloads depend on high-performance network I/O, this SIG focuses directly on the host network stack and how applications can make best use of it.

Q: What does the SIG do?

A: The SIG spends most of its time:

- Specifying research projects and reviewing the results.
 - Discussing performance issues (app optimization, network API usage, NIC configuration).
 - Refining the STAC-N™ Benchmark specifications.
- There is also the opportunity to learn about new products through invited vendor presentations.

Q: How does the SIG operate?

A: There is generally one teleconference per month, with occasional in-person meetings.

Q: What are the benefits of participation for end user firms?

- A:
- Influence the STAC research agenda and obtain access to results.
 - Learn new ways to minimize latency and maximize throughput.
 - Learn more about new products.
 - Influence benchmark standards to ensure they correspond to your needs.

Q: What are the benefits of participation for vendor firms?

- A:
- Convey your company's value proposition and expertise to key customers.
 - Influence and understand key benchmark standards.
 - Leverage an important channel for collecting end-user requirements and priorities.
 - Shorten the sales cycle for new products.

Q: What kind of firms can participate and at what cost?

A: The SIG is appropriate for:

- Financial trading organizations that are members of the STAC Benchmark Council with a Trade Flow STAC Track subscription (see www.STACresearch.com/enduser_memberships.pdf).
- Vendor firms in the Council (www.STACresearch.com/vendor_memberships.pdf).

For more information or to indicate your interest, visit STACresearch.com/nio