

DPDK Project Charter

The Linux Foundation

Effective date: TBD

1. Mission of the Data Plane Development Kit Project (“DPDK”)

The mission of DPDK is to:

- a. Create an open source, production quality, vendor neutral software platform upon which users can build and run data plane applications.
- b. Host the infrastructure for the DPDK community, establishing a neutral home for community assets, infrastructure, meetings, events and collaborative discussions.

2. Sub-Projects

The DPDK project is composed of one core project which is DPDK itself. This has one main repository ([dpdk](#)), a stable release repository ([dpdk-stable](#)), and a number of “next” repositories which are used to apply changes for specific parts of the project before these are pulled into the main repository. The current list of “next” repositories is:

[dpdk-next-crypto](#) Preparation of pull requests for crypto drivers

[dpdk-next-net](#) Preparation of pull requests for networking drivers

[dpdk-next-virtio](#) Preparation of pull requests for virtio/vhost

In addition, a number of smaller but closely related projects are also hosted within the DPDK project. The current list of these projects is:

Apps:

[pktgen-dpdk](#) Traffic generator powered by DPDK

[spp](#) Soft Patch Panel - DPDK resources management framework

Old:

[memnic](#) DPDK driver for paravirtualized NIC based on memory copy

[virtio-net-pmd](#) DPDK driver for paravirtualized NIC based on Virtio

[vmxnet3-usermap](#) DPDK driver for paravirtualized NIC in VMware ESXi

Tools:

[dpdk-web](#) Web pages

New sub-projects may be proposed for DPDK in future. The process for approving any such requests is outlined in section 4. below.

3. Membership

- a. Anybody can use or contribute to DPDK. There is no requirement to be a member of the DPDK project or a member of The Linux Foundation to do so.
- b. The DPDK project shall be composed of Gold and Silver Members. All Gold and Silver Members must be current corporate members of The Linux Foundation (at any level) to participate in DPDK as a member. All members of DPDK enjoy the privileges and undertake the obligations described in this DPDK Project Charter, as from time to time amended by the Governing Board with the approval of The Linux Foundation (“LF”). During the term of their membership, all members will comply with all such policies as the LF Board of Directors and/or the DPDK project may from time to time adopt with notice to members.
- c. Gold Members shall be entitled to appoint a representative to the Governing Board and any other committees (such as a potential future Marketing Committee) established by the Governing Board. If a CI/performance test lab is created for DPDK, then Gold Members shall be entitled to donate hardware platforms to the lab for CI/performance tests to be executed on.
- d. Silver Members shall be entitled to annually elect one representative to the Governing Board and any other committees established by the Governing Board for every five Silver Members, up to a maximum of two representatives. The election process shall be determined by the Governing Board.
- e. Both Gold and Silver Members shall be entitled to identify themselves as members of DPDK. They shall also be given preference for sponsorship opportunities and presentation slots at events funded by the DPDK project.

4. Governing Board

- a. The Governing Board shall consist of:
 - i. One representative appointed by each Gold Member.
 - ii. Up to two members elected annually by the Silver Members. There will be one elected representative for each five Silver Members, up to the maximum of two.
 - iii. The chair of the DPDK Tech Board. As the core project, DPDK will have a technical representative on the Governing Board. If any of the other projects hosted within DPDK reach sufficient size and maturity to justify considering them to be core projects, then the Governing Board will vote on whether to add technical representatives from those projects as well.

Note: I think it’s unlikely that any of the other projects will become big enough to be core projects, but it seemed sensible to allow for the possibility in the charter.

- b. Conduct of Governing Board meetings:
 - i. Governing Board meetings shall be limited to the Governing Board representatives. The Governing Board may decide whether to allow one named representative to attend as an alternate.
 - ii. The quorum required for voting is a simple majority of the Governing Board.
 - iii. The Governing Board meetings shall be confidential unless approved by the Governing Board. The Governing Board may invite guests to participate in consideration of specific Governing Board topics (but such guest may not participate in any vote on any matter before the Governing Board). The Governing Board should encourage transparency, including the public publication of public minutes within a reasonable time following their approval by the Governing Board.
- c. The Governing Board shall be responsible for:
 - i. Approving a budget directing the use of funds raised by DPDK from all sources of revenue.
 - ii. Electing a Chair of the DPDK Governing Board on an annual basis to preside over meetings, authorize expenditures approved by the budget and manage any day-to-day operations.
Note: Should the Chair be elected on an annual basis or for an indefinite duration?
 - iii. Overseeing all Project business and marketing matters including event planning, recruitment of new project members etc.
 - iv. Adopting and maintaining policies, rules and procedures for DPDK (subject to LF approval) including but not limited to a Code of Conduct, a trademark policy and any compliance or certification policies.
 - v. Approving procedures for the nomination and election of (1) Silver Member representatives to the Governing Board, and (2) any officer or other positions created by the Governing Board.
 - vi. Approving any new proposed sub-projects for DPDK. This approval shall consider whether the proposed project is consistent with the DPDK Mission as outlined in section 1, and whether the project proposal includes a reasonable technical governance structure (e.g. initial committers/maintainers have been identified, a process is in place for adding/removing committers/maintainers etc.). This review/approval shall not consider the technical merit of the proposed project (e.g. if a project for a new packet generator were proposed, the Governing Board would not consider the technical merits of this versus the existing pktgen-dpdk project). Details on the procedures for approving new sub-projects, including a project proposal template/checklist, will be determined by the Governing Board.
 - vii. Voting on all decisions or matters coming before the Governing Board.
- d. The Governing Board shall **not** be responsible for:
 - a. Any aspect of the technical governance of any approved DPDK project.

5. Technical Governance

Each sub-project within DPDK shall be responsible for its own technical governance and technical decision making, including issues such as:

- a. Determining the process and tools to be used for development, CI, validation etc.
- b. Reviewing proposed changes (patches) and making decisions on which patches are and are not accepted into the project.
- c. Scheduling of releases.

5.1 DPDK

This includes the [dpdk](#), [dpdk-stable](#), [dpdk-next-crypto](#), [dpdk-next-net](#), [dpdk-next-virtio](#) and [dpdk-web](#) repositories, plus any additional “next” repositories for DPDK that are created in future.

Note: Text needs to be added here to explain the scope and responsibilities of the DPDK Tech Board (<http://dpdk.org/dev#board>), Tech Board Chair (who’ll be part of the Governing Board), repository maintainers ([dpdk](#), [dpdk-stable](#), [dpdk-next-crypto](#), [dpdk-next-net](#), [dpdk-next-virtio](#) and [dpdk-web](#)), and other maintainers (<http://dpdk.org/browse/dpdk/tree/MAINTAINERS>), including the process for adding and removing people from these roles.

5.2 Pktgen

5.3 Soft Patch Panel

5.4 DPDK Test Suite

Note: Similar text to DPDK needs to be added to describe the technical governance of each of these projects.

Note: I’m assuming we don’t need to cover the “Old” items ([memnic](#), [virtio-net-pmd](#), [vmxnet3-usermap](#)).

6. Intellectual Property Policy

Note: This needs to be updated to describe the parts of DPDK that use other licenses besides BSD (out of tree kernel modules etc.).

- a. All new inbound code contributions to DPDK shall be made under the 3-clause BSD License (available at <https://opensource.org/licenses/BSD-3-Clause>). All contributions shall include a “Signed-off-by:” line which certifies that the contribution complies with the Developer Certificate of Origin (<http://developercertificate.org>).
- b. All outbound code and documentation will be made available under the 3-clause BSD License (available at <https://opensource.org/licenses/BSD-3-Clause>).

- c. If an alternative inbound or outbound license is required for compliance with the license for a leveraged open source project or is otherwise required to achieve DPDK's Mission, the Governing Board may approve the use of an alternative license for specific inbound or outbound contributions on an exception basis. Any exceptions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire Governing Board and must be limited in scope to what is required for such purpose. Please email <TBD> to obtain exception approval.
- d. Subject to available Project funds, DPDK may engage The Linux Foundation to determine the availability of, and register, trademarks, service marks, and certification marks, which shall be owned by the LF.

7. Budget

- a. The Governing Board shall approve an annual budget and never commit to spend in excess of funds raised. The budget and the purposes to which it is applied shall be consistent with the non-profit mission of The Linux Foundation.
- b. The Linux Foundation shall provide the Governing Board with regular reports of spend levels against the budget. In no event will The Linux Foundation have any obligation to undertake any action on behalf of DPDK or otherwise related to DPDK that will not be covered in full by funds raised by DPDK.
- c. In the event any unbudgeted or otherwise unfunded obligation arises related to DPDK, The Linux Foundation will coordinate with the Governing Board to address gap funding requirements.

8. General & Administrative Expenses

- a. The Linux Foundation shall have custody of and final authority over the usage of any fees, funds and other cash receipts.
- b. A General & Administrative (G&A) fee will be applied by the Linux Foundation to funds raised to cover Finance, Accounting, and operations. The G&A fee shall equal 9% of DPDK's first \$1,000,000 of gross receipts and 6% of DPDK's gross receipts over \$1,000,000.
- c. Under no circumstances shall The Linux Foundation be expected or required to undertake any action on behalf of DPDK that is inconsistent with the tax exempt purpose of The Linux Foundation.

9. Antitrust Guidelines

- a. All members shall abide by The Linux Foundation Antitrust Policy available at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/antitrust-policy>.
- b. All members shall encourage open participation from any organization able to meet the membership requirements, regardless of competitive interests. Put another way, the Governing Board shall not seek to exclude any member based on any criteria, requirements or

reasons other than those that are reasonable and applied on a non-discriminatory basis to all members.

10. Code of Conduct

- a. The Governing Board shall adopt a specific Project code of conduct, with approval from the LF.

11. General Rules and Operations

The DPDK project shall be conducted so as to:

- a. Engage in the work of the project in a professional manner consistent with maintaining a cohesive community, while also maintaining the goodwill and esteem of The Linux Foundation in the open source software community;
- b. Respect the rights of all trademark owners, including any branding and usage guidelines;
- c. Engage The Linux Foundation for all DPDK press and analyst relations activities;
- d. Upon request, provide information regarding project participation, including information regarding attendance at project-sponsored events, to The Linux Foundation;
- e. Coordinate with The Linux Foundation in relation to any websites created directly for DPDK; and
- f. Operate under such rules and procedures as may from time to time be approved by the Governing Board and confirmed by The Linux Foundation.

12. Amendments

- a. This charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire Governing Board, subject to approval by The Linux Foundation.