



# Southern Minnesota Section Newsletter

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## **Fibre Channel: Background, Present and Future**

by Horst Truestedt

With the advent of Fibre Channel (FC), a new level of interface performance has emerged which opens up new avenues for computer interconnections. FC was designed from scratch to be a new interface of choice for computer vendors to allow a single adapter card to carry multiple protocols over a long distance, high-speed "pipe" which is independent of any protocol.

Although this was the desire of the ANSI T11 committee in 1989, a number of new interfaces have evolved to minimize the overall impact of a single interface. But, when the word "SAN" is used today, most people agree that the interconnect of choice is Fibre Channel. FC provides the required performance from the device (disk and tape) and from host to host, enough connectivity, and distance for disaster and remote processing to be the ideal Storage Area Networks (SAN) solution.

By allowing one interface at the device as well as the host for multiple protocols a number of factors are minimized: host slots for adapters, development and service training, and field stocking of parts to name a few. By providing long distances, remote processing and disaster recovery becomes an easily implemented target. The large connectivity of FC, allows a diverse group of devices to interconnect without regard to the type of device.

This presentation discusses the background of FC, where it is today, and its perceived future. It provides a high-level overview of what FC was envisioned to be and what it is today. Without a single company mentor to encourage the industry to move to FC, the FC community struggled for a number of years, but the momentum has now picked up and many companies now provide switches, adapters, disks, and tape drives to provide an elegant SAN solution. industry.

## **IEEE Section Meeting**

Horst Truestedt

### **Fibre Channel: Background, Present and Future**

Monday, April 23, 6:30 pm  
Mayo Medical Sciences Building  
(321 3rd Avenue SW, Rochester)

☞ Pizza & socializing at 6:30 pm ☜

Horst L. Truestedt joined IBM in Rochester in 1968 as an Associate Engineer, after conducting physics research for six years at 3M Corp. He has worked in several divisions of IBM (including in Germany and Japan) in the design and development of OCR equipment, as manager of Diagnostics Engineering on S/36 and S/38, and on storage product attachments for the S/36, S/38, 4300, 9370 and AS/400 systems.

Before retiring from IBM in 1997, Truestedt was involved with DASD interfaces and attachment architecture: he was the IBM representative at ANSI T11, FCA, and the RAB; he represented ANSI T11 at ISO; and he consulted for large IBM systems worldwide.

Truestedt attended Gustavus Adolphus College in pre-engineering, and he received a BS in physics and mathematics from the University of Minnesota.

Truestedt is the President/CEO of TrueFocus, Inc., a consulting firm focusing on Fibre Channel and storage product implementations.

## Section Election -- Proxy

IEEE Southern Minnesota Section officers will be elected for the 2001-2002 term at our May section meeting. The following candidates have been nominated:

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Write-In</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Chair: Rob Harveland	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair: Jason Clegg	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary: Bill Gorder	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer: Steve Kerchberger	_____

You may vote by attending the May meeting, or by completing this form and returning the entire newsletter to Bill Gorder (6751 Country Club Road SW, Rochester MN 55902) before May 18.

Check a box to vote for the nominated candidate, or write in the name of any eligible member. *Sign your name* below the mailing label. Your ballot is confidential.



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