

NVM Express Ratified Technical Proposal Policy

Approved by NVMe Promoter team on July 15, 2013

Technical Proposals define new features that build on top of a previously ratified specification. The definition includes red-line changes describing the specific changes to the previously ratified specification. In addition, the NVMe Technical team takes into account other Technical Proposals in development to ensure there are not conflicting changes among the set of Technical Proposals. Each Technical Proposal is individually reviewed by the Technical team. After the Technical team has completed the proposal, it is sent to the NVMe Promoter/Board for 30-day review approval. The Promoter/Board reviews the proposal and then sends it to the NVMe membership for a final 30-day review. After the membership review, any feedback received is considered and the Technical team makes a recommendation to the Promoter/Board for any changes. The Promoter/Board determines the final changes to be made and then ratifies the Technical Proposal. After the Technical Proposal is ratified, it is considered part of the specification.

Each NVMe specification revision is a collection of ratified Technical Proposals that is integrated into the main body of the specification and then published as a complete document. The Promoter/Board team determines the appropriate point at which to publish an integrated document, taking into account the scope of new features to be added, marketing, and other considerations. Thus, there may be a significant time gap between when an individual Technical Proposal is ratified and when it is included in an integrated specification revision.

The NVMe Marketing team may market a feature prior to its inclusion in an integrated specification. For example, the Marketing team may release whitepapers or presentations that describe the basic capabilities of a feature. However, the detailed Technical Proposal is only available to NVMe members prior to inclusion in an integrated specification.

NVMe members may begin implementation of a Technical Proposal as soon as it is ratified and proceed to ship this feature prior to inclusion in an integrated specification revision. The NVMe Workgroup treats a ratified Technical Proposal in the same manner as an integrated specification revision. This ensures that companies producing NVMe products may respond quickly to customer and market needs, even for small features, while avoiding a large number of specification revisions that could cause confusion with the larger customer base.

When implementing a Technical Proposal, the NVMe product should report the last integrated specification revision that is supported. Each feature is intended to be independently discoverable and backwards compatible. NVMe host software should not use the specification revision reported to determine feature support, but rather should review the individual features reported.