

Driving DASH and SMASH Conformance, Quality and Customer Satisfaction



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Exceeding Customer Expectations

The growth and success of enterprise businesses hinges heavily on the ability to control costs while expanding IT resources. However, desktops, laptops and servers typically lack a standard management framework. This increases complexity and ultimately impedes cost-effective growth of IT systems and the businesses they support. The DMTF Desktop and mobile Architecture for System Hardware (DASH) and Systems Management Architecture for Server Hardware (SMASH) standards dramatically simplify management of these systems, thereby reducing complexity, management and integration costs.

However, for a standard to be successful, more work must be done beyond the initial definition of the standard itself. IT customers expect a certain level of quality and support from hardware and software implementations before considering the adoption of products that support these standards. When standards-based products do not work well together, IT customers cannot realize the benefits of lower complexity and cost. To help facilitate product interoperability, DMTF has created an organization called the System Management Forum (SMF). The SMF is responsible for developing a strong conformance testing and certification process for DASH and SMASH and to host activities such as joint testing events to provide vendors with opportunities to test the interoperability of their products early in their development cycles.

System Management Forum Members

Leadership:

AMD Dell Hitachi
IBM Intel Symantec VMware

Participatory:

Avocent Broadcom Fujitsu-Siemens
HP Novell Raritan

What is DASH and SMASH conformance?

DASH and SMASH profiles provide a normative implementation of the standard that shows which parts of the model are required for a component to be conformant. The SMF conformance test tools test products for these parts of the standard and certify them as conformant if they are implemented correctly.

Strong Conformance Program, Easy Self-Certification

SMF members collaborate to develop conformance test details. Vendor and application developer members combine their expertise so that the resulting conformance requirements match implementation quality and a good customer experience with the products. These requirements are transformed by the SMF members into conformance tests.

Vendors and developers start by creating a DASH or SMASH implementation and performing functional tests. A Forum-developed test application runs the conformance tests against the implementations. This process thoroughly tests DASH and SMASH-enabled solutions for conformance to their respective specifications. This wide test coverage is a strong indication that the target products are expected to be interoperable. These tests can also cut development time and cost, improving time-to-market for vendors.

The SMASH Forum also organizes plugfests to demonstrate the interoperability of participating companies' products. These plugfests ensure the quality of the conformance program and provide a checkpoint with the industry on the state of interoperability among leading DASH and SMASH implementers.

Key SMF Activities

SMF members contribute to interoperable DASH and SMASH management through the following elements:

- **Conformance Test Tool Design and Development:** Test tools developed through the SMF to drive conformance testing as a critical part of the certification process.
- **Conformance Specification Development:** Members evaluate DASH and SMASH specifications and develop conformance tests.
- **Product Certification:** Vendors self-certify their DASH and SMASH implementations
- **Plugfest Activities:** Members participate in plugfests activities to evaluate the conformance program and ensure that vendor implementations are functional, reliable, secure and interoperable.

Interoperable, Standard Management

The programs for verifying the conformance of software and hardware for DASH and SMASH will benefit customers through higher-quality products, enhanced interoperability, and will also benefit vendors through reduced development costs and faster time-to-market. For more information on the SMF, e-mail smf-chair@dmf.org or visit www.dmtf.org/interoperability/smf.

About DMTF

With more than 4,000 active participants representing 44 countries and nearly 200 organizations, the Distributed Management Task Force, Inc. (DMTF) is the industry organization leading the development, adoption and promotion of interoperable management standards and initiatives. During the last 15 years of its history, DMTF management technologies have become critical to enabling management interoperability among multi-vendor systems, tools, and solutions within the enterprise. By deploying solutions that support DMTF standards, IT managers can choose to deploy a mix of systems and solutions that best meet their users' needs, while reducing management complexity and total cost of ownership. Information about the DMTF technologies and activities can be found at www.dmtf.org.