



DMTF Organization Backgrounder

Overview

With more than 3,500 active participants representing 39 countries and nearly 200 organizations, the Distributed Management Task Force, Inc. (DMTF) is the industry organization leading the development of management standards and the promotion of interoperability for enterprise and Internet environments. DMTF standards provide common management infrastructure components for instrumentation, control and communication in a platform-independent and technology neutral way. DMTF standards include the Common Information Model (CIM), communication/control protocols like Web-Based Enterprise Management (WBEM) and Web Services for Management (WS-Management), and the Systems Management Architecture for Server Hardware (SMASH) initiative. Information about DMTF's standards and activities can be found at www.dmtf.org.

Organization

Founded in 1992, the DMTF brings the technology industry community and top vendors together in a collaborative, working group approach that involves DMTF members in all aspects of specification development and refinement. Board member companies include Cisco Systems; Dell Computer Corp.; EMC; Fujitsu Limited; Hitachi, Ltd; HP; IBM; Intel; Microsoft; Novell; Oracle; Sun Microsystems; Symantec; and WBEM Solutions.

The DMTF works closely with its Alliance Partners, including Blade Systems Alliance (BladeS), CompTIA, Consortium for Service Innovation, Enterprise Grid Alliance (EGA), Federation Against Software Theft (FAST), Global Grid Forum (GGF), Interoperability Technology Association for Information Processing (INTAP), IT Service Management Forum (itSMF), Network Applications Consortium (NAC), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Object Management Group (OMG), The Open Group, Organization for the Advancement Of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) Web Services Distributed Management (WSDM) Technical Committee, Printer Working Group (PWG), Service Availability Forum (SA Forum), Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) and TeleManagement Forum (TM Forum). These top industry standards bodies are working with and participating

in the development of DMTF standards, including the Common Information Model (CIM) – and its semantically rich definitions of management information – as a common approach to address the challenge of providing interoperable distributed management.

The DMTF is led by its Board of Directors, which is responsible for establishing direction and strategies for the organization and the standards it delivers; a Technical Committee, which oversees the Work Groups, to develop and document the DMTF's standards; a Marketing Committee, which directs the DMTF's overall industry marketing and communications efforts; and an Interoperability Committee, which supplements the resources of the DMTF so that multi-vendor implementations of DMTF technology can be compatible in the industry. All of the committees collaborate closely with DMTF members, particularly active members of the Work Groups.

Technologies

Common Information Model (CIM)

CIM allows for the exchange of management information in a platform-independent and technology-neutral way. It is an object-oriented model, describing an organization's computing and networking environments (its hardware, software and services). All managed elements are positioned within this model, clarifying semantics, streamlining integration and reducing costs by enabling end-to-end multi-vendor interoperability in management systems.

Web-Based Enterprise Management (WBEM)

WBEM is a set of management and Internet standard technologies developed to unify the management of distributed computing environments. WBEM provides the ability for the industry to deliver a well-integrated set of standard-based management tools, facilitating the exchange of data across otherwise disparate technologies and platforms.

Systems Management Architecture for Server Hardware (SMASH) Initiative

The SMASH initiative is a suite of specifications that deliver architectural semantics, industry standard protocols and profiles to unify the management of the data center. The SMASH Server Management (SM) Command Line Protocol (CLP) specification enables simple and intuitive management of heterogeneous servers in the data center independent of machine state, operating system state, server system topology or access method, facilitating local and remote management of server hardware in both Out-of-Service and Out-of-Band management environments. The SMASH initiative also includes the SM Managed Element Addressing Specification, SM CLP-to-CIM Mapping Specification, SM CLP Discovery Specification, SM Profiles, as well as a SM CLP Architecture White Paper.

Alert Standard Format (ASF)

ASF is designed to fill the gap of OS-absent systems management. The problem of systems manageability without an operating system has historically been solved with proprietary and relatively expensive solutions. ASF defines remote control and alerting interfaces for networked devices, and thereby reduces the downtime associated with typical triage and repair required to solve hardware and software failures.

System Management BIOS (SMBIOS)

The SMBIOS Specification addresses how motherboard and personal computer vendors present management information about their products in a standard format, extending the BIOS interface on x86 architecture systems. SMBIOS defines the structure of this system information, allowing its retrieval by management applications that use the Desktop Management Interface (DMI), CIM or direct access, and eliminating the need for error prone operations, such as probing system hardware for presence detection.

For more information, visit the DMTF Web site at <http://www.dmtf.org>. DMTF press releases can be viewed at <http://www.dmtf.org/newsroom>.

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