DMTF Organization Backgrounder

Overview

As the global industry organization leading the development, adoption and promotion of management standards and interoperable systems management, Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF) enables more effective management of millions of IT systems worldwide. By facilitating IT industry collaboration, DMTF quickly develops standards that meet current IT management needs and supports vendors to implement interoperable standards-based solutions. DMTF management standards are critical to enabling management interoperability among multi-vendor systems, tools and solutions within the enterprise. DMTF is comprised of more than 160 member companies and alliance partners, and its 4000+ active participants represent 43 countries around the world. Information about DMTF technologies and activities can be found at www.dmtf.org.

Organization

Founded in 1992, 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 Advanced Micro Devices (AMD); Broadcom Corporation; CA, Inc.; Cisco; Citrix Systems, Inc.; Dell; EMC; Fujitsu; HP; Hitachi, Ltd.; IBM; Intel Corporation; Microsoft Corporation; Oracle; and VMware, Inc.

DMTF works closely with its Alliance Partners, including:

- Blade Systems Alliance (BladeS)
- Cloud Security Alliance (CSA)
- CompTIA
- Consortium for Service Innovation
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- Open Grid Forum (OGF)
- Object Management Group (OMG)

- The Open Group (TOG)
- Printer Working Group (PWG)
- Service Availability Forum (SA Forum)
- Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA)
- TeleManagement Forum (TM Forum)
- The Trusted Computing Group (TCG)

- Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI)
- SNIA/DMTF CR Process Flow
- The Green Grid (TGG)

DMTF members collaborate to develop IT management standards that promote multi-vendor interoperability worldwide. Together with a broad range of alliance partners, the group is at the center of the systems-management industry, developing standards that are continually improving the IT management landscape.

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 DMTF's standards; a Marketing Committee, which directs 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.

Initiatives

Common Diagnostic Model (CDM)

CDM is used to evaluate the health of computer system components in multi-vendor environments. It specifies diagnostic instrumentation that can be utilized by vendors (OEMs and system builders) and platform management applications to determine the health of a computer system component. Because it uses CIM as its foundation, CDM diagnostic tests can be integrated into critical management functions. The CDM Initiative strives to make it easy for component vendors to implement CDM diagnostics tests and ultimately deliver more robust, easy-to-manage systems to users.

Desktop and mobile Architecture for System Hardware (DASH)

DASH is a suite of specifications that takes advantage of the DMTF's Web Services for Management (WS-Management) standard – delivering a web services-based standard for desktop and mobile management. DASH provides the next generation of standards for secure, in-band, out-of-band and remote management of desktop and mobile systems. The DASH Initiative strives to promote the DASH standard in the industry and enable vendors to implement compliant, interoperable DASH solutions.

Storage Management Initiative (SMI)

SMI is a Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) Initiative to standardize interoperable storage management technologies, based on the rich foundation provided by DMTF's Management Profiles, and CIM and WBEM standards.

Systems Management Architecture for Server Hardware (SMASH)

This suite of specifications, which also takes advantage of the WS-Management standard, delivers architectural semantics, industry standard protocols and profiles to unify the management of data center systems, including servers, blades and racks. SMASH specifies a programmatic web services interface for secure in-band, out-of-band and remote management of server hardware, which enables server hardware management in both out-of-service and out-of-band environments. SMASH also describes a Command Line Protocol (CLP) that provides a standard command line interface for managing heterogeneous servers in the data center independent of machine state, operating system state, server system topology or access method. The SMASH Initiative strives to promote the SMASH standard in the industry and enable vendors to implement compliant, interoperable SMASH solutions.

Virtualization Management Initiative (VMAN)

VMAN unleashes the power of virtualization by delivering broadly supported interoperability and portability standards to virtual computing environments. As another initiative based on the CIM and WBEM standards, the suite of management standards helps IT managers deploy virtual computer systems, discover/inventory virtual computer systems, manage the lifecycle of virtual computer systems, create/modify/delete virtual resources and monitor virtual systems for health and performance. The VMAN initiative strives to promote standards for virtualization management within the industry and enable vendors to implement compliant, interoperable virtualization management solutions.

Standards

Common Information Model (CIM)

CIM is a proven, object-oriented model for describing computing, networking and storage environments. It defines "rules" and provides the details for integration with other management models. CIM is the foundation for many management standards by providing the basis for a set of management tools and applications for fostering interoperability within IT environments.

Web-Based Enterprise Management (WBEM)

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

System Management BIOS (SMBIOS)

(SMBIOS) is a specification that addresses how motherboard and system vendors present management information about their products in a standard format by extending the BIOS interface on x86 architecture systems.

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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