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Management Matters is a monthly publication covering the Distributed Management Task Force and its member organizations.

Message from the Chairman: New Possibilities in FY 2008

By Mike Baskey, DMTF Chairman

April 1 marks the beginning of the 2008 fiscal year for DMTF. As I take stock, I'm very excited about how far we've come, the present initiatives within DMTF, and the potential to expand our contributions within the industry even further.

During the past year, we've continued to streamline the processes both within our organization and in our work with [alliance partners](#). We are also developing a Conformance Program that will enable customers to test conformance with the set of standards that DMTF and our alliance partners are defining.

Moreover, we expect to launch several key initiatives this fiscal year. In addition to the great work within the System Virtualization, Partitioning, and Clustering ([SVPC](#)) working group around models and profiles, we expect to publish the Open Virtualization Format ([OVF](#)) specification for virtual appliances.

Upcoming Events

April 28–May 2, 2008

[Microsoft Management Summit](#)

Las Vegas, Nevada

Watch this space for [other DMTF events](#)

For More Information

DMTF Membership

503.220.1655 (main line),
503.296.2432 (fax) or visit the
[DMTF Web site](#).

Editorial Staff

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Ann Jansen, Editor

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Another DMTF initiative focuses on federation of CMDBs (configuration management databases); we expect a preliminary release of the [CMDBf](#) standard this year as well. The CMDBf work within DMTF will connect our organization to the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) and related process management space to increase the relevance of the work we do in this area.

A third DMTF initiative involves power and energy management and ties into our collaborative work with [The Green Grid](#). This important development will improve energy efficiency in the data center, which has great social significance as we wrestle with the challenges in that domain.

DMTF will also continue to make significant strides in the areas of server and desktop management – particularly in the integration of Web services into those and other related device management initiatives. In addition, a greater degree of interoperability and conformance testing/certification will become a reality in this coming year – a very exciting milestone for our organization. We’re also moving forward in getting more of our specs submitted to the International Standards Organization ([ISO](#)), an increasingly important requirement as we expand our role in the world of international standards and our industry ecosystem.

Finally, I’d like to encourage members of DMTF to think about how you would like to advance the organization. One area slated for improvement is the integration and coordination across the various DMTF initiatives to enable customers to see more consistency and connections between the various specifications. We’re looking for additional domains where DMTF’s expertise and capabilities can be leveraged – whether for mobile devices, industry-specific resources, or some other adjacent spaces. These areas will most likely require partnerships with groups that have subject matter expertise but lack some of the management disciplines that the DMTF represents through our collective experience and insights.

All in all, FY 2008 should be a very exciting year, and I’m looking forward to working with the entire organization to make these possibilities a reality. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments at chair@dmtof.org.



Mike Baskey
DMTF Chairman

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Welcome New Members

[Tail-f Systems](#)
[Verari Systems](#)
[Zenith Computers Limited](#)



FEATURES

DMTF Technical Committee Reorganizes

By Jeff Hilland, VP of Technology

DMTF has seen significant growth in its standards efforts during the last several years. While an exciting time to be involved with the organization, this growth has not come without issues. The DMTF membership has voiced concerns on a number of issues facing the [Technical Committee](#) (TC) and its working groups. Although previous DMTF processes and procedures served us well, so much new standardization work has been brought into the group that the TC could no longer focus on strategic specification development, and instead had become a tactical body that was micro-managing specification and schema changes. Additionally, the working groups charged with spec development were having so much interaction with each other that it was affecting the time and effort required to get a specification through, resulting in process-based delays of spec development.

As a result, the TC has been working for more than a year to evolve the DMTF processes to solve the problems which have come with our successful growth. We are pleased to report that the reorganization of the TC, and the sub-committees and working groups that report to it, is reaching completion. We have chair positions established in most of the organization and charters awaiting final board approval.

We chose a minimalist approach to these changes in our processes by allowing the formation of sub-committees, groups of subject matter experts can focus on specifications and their requirements. There are currently three major sub-committees, plus one special sub-committee that report to the TC. The three major sub-committees are:

- **Infrastructure:** concentrates on the areas of protocol, operations, federation, discovery and any function necessary to build a general CIM server infrastructure
- **Platforms:** concentrates on applying DMTF interfaces to computing platforms such as desktops, servers, telco and virtualization as well as developing internal communications mechanisms within physical platforms.
- **Schema:** concentrates on developing new and maintaining existing DMTF Schema.

The special sub-committee is **Standards**, a committee dedicated to submitting DMTF specs to the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards ([INCITS](#)) to help them become American National Standards Institute ([ANSI](#)) and International Standards Organization ([ISO](#)) standards.

The impact of the organizational change on specification development has been less than anticipated. Most Working Groups within the DMTF have been continuing undaunted by the reorganization. You can see the updated organization and charters as they come through by going to the groups page [here](#) (available to DMTF members only). An organizational chart has been developed and is posted [here](#) (also only available to DMTF members) along with more detailed information on the reorganization.

I realize that there are going to be questions about the reorganization. Please direct any questions to the appropriate current working group or sub-committee chair. If they are unable to answer the question, please direct your question to

me at vp-technology@dmtof.org and please make sure you copy the appropriate chair to help with communication.

Conformance Sub-Committee Charter

The DMTF Interoperability Committee is pleased to announce that the DMTF Board of Directors recently approved the formation of Conformance Sub-Committee charter. The purpose of this sub-committee is to create, define, design and deliver the document(s) that define the policies and process for a DMTF Conformance Program. These activities include but are not limited to the following:

- Conformance Program policies and process
- Conformance framework – includes items such as terminology, and optional and required “entities,” i.e., Testing Authority, Certificate Authority, Arbitration Committee, etc.
- Templates and checklist
- Common conformance program infrastructure, which include but are not limited to:
 - Legal agreements and legal support
 - Defining specific conformance release guideline criteria
 - Web site/publishing requirements and guidelines
 - Logo guidelines (if branding)

This is an exciting milestone for DMTF. It shows the organization’s commitment to support the delivery of an efficient Conformance Program for its members, including common conformance processes essential to a first-rate user experience.

At this time, the Interoperability Committee is extending an invitation to all eligible members, as noted in [DSP4002](#), who are interested in participating and contributing to the deliverables of the Conformance Sub-Committee. To join the Conformance Sub-Committee, please [click here](#).

For more information about the Conformance Sub-Committee, please contact Sharon Smith, VP of Interoperability, at vp-interop@dmtof.org.

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Alliance Partner Feature: Storage Networking Industry Association

The Storage Networking Industry Association ([SNIA](#)) and DMTF have been collaborating since 1999 to advance the adoption of storage networks as complete and trusted solutions. The DMTF's alliance partnership with the SNIA has provided a channel for the DMTF to receive requirements, design input and standards review feedback from the SNIA, while also delivering a channel for the SNIA to receive requirements and design input and standards review feedback from the DMTF.

SNIA has been working on DMTF's Common Information Model ([CIM](#)) and the Web-Based Enterprise Management ([WBEM](#)) standards and has been contributing work to the DMTF via the Storage Management Initiative Specification (SMI-S), an ANSI INCITS ratified SNIA storage technology that is based upon the aforementioned DMTF standards. DMTF is also relying on SNIA to supply storage management models for the continued development of CIM. This includes the management of, but is not limited to, Storage Arrays, File Systems including Network Attached Storage (NAS), iSCSI, Fibre Channel Fabrics, Host based storage and Information Lifecycle Management (ILM). This month, DMTF members can get CIM and WBEM technical training at sessions offered by SNIA. To learn more about this technical training opportunity, [click here](#).

SNIA is a non-profit organization committed to delivering standards, education and services that will propel open storage networking solutions into the broader market. Made up of some 400 member companies and nearly 7,000 individuals spanning the global storage market, the SNIA connects the IT industry with end-to-end storage and information management solutions. To learn more about the DMTF and SNIA alliance partner work register, [click here](#).

Technical Training Opportunities

DMTF members are encouraged to take advantage of technical training courses being offered by our alliance partner – the Storage Networking Industry Association ([SNIA](#)). Current course offerings include the Common Information Model ([CIM](#)), Web-Based Enterprise Management ([WBEM](#)), and Common Management Provider Interface (CMPI). Future classes will cover the Common Diagnostic Model ([CDM](#)), Desktop and mobile Architecture for System Hardware, ([DASH](#)), Systems Management Architecture for Server Hardware ([SMASH](#)), Storage Management Initiative (SMI), and [WS-Management](#). Delivering high impact training from industry experts, the classes are designed to accelerate adoption of DMTF standards based management technologies and shorten your standards based products' time to market.

The course "Understanding CIM and WBEM" will take place from April 15-16 at the SNIA Tech Center in Colorado Springs. For more information and details [click here](#).

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Call for Contributors

DMTF invites you to contribute to *Management Matters*. DMTF welcomes letters to the editor, topic suggestions and other contributions. If you would like to participate, email us at press@dmtof.org.

Quote of the Month

John Weigelt, national technology officer at Microsoft Canada, said in an *eChannelLine* article published on March 10, 2008:

“When it comes to their list of IT concerns, businesses tend to rank interoperability near the top. The reason for this is simple. They want to make full use of their existing software investments, minimize the potential for user disruption, and ensure their IT department doesn't have to spend precious time knitting systems together.”

EVENTS

DMTF Technologies to be Featured at MMS 2008

DMTF is proud to again sponsor the [2008 Microsoft Management Summit](#) (MMS), held April 28–May 2 at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The organization will have a booth at the event to highlight key DMTF technologies.

The theme of this year's event is Integrate IT, reflecting the increasingly complex world of IT management and the key role integration has to play in reducing complexity while maximizing flexibility, availability and performance. Sessions, speakers and industry experts will focus on how the latest wave of management solutions support the following:

- Integration with your business objectives
- Integration across your IT disciplines
- Integration between your management products and technologies
- Integration across platforms and vendor boundaries

This year's event will once again offer more than 100 technical breakout sessions covering a broad range of management topics. Attendees will have opportunities to meet presenters and discuss session content informally during Q&A and Chalk Talk sessions and more than 9,000 Hands-On Labs.

[Click here](#) to view the conference agenda and to access registration information.

Call for Papers Now Available: SVM08

DMTF has issued a call for papers for the Academic Alliance's second annual Systems and Virtualization Management (SVM) event. The submission deadline is May 2, 2008. This international workshop is dedicated to academic research on standards and new technologies for systems and virtualization management. [SVM08](#), taking place October 21–22 in Garching near Munich, Germany, follows the successful SVM07 conference held last year in Toulouse, France.

The goal of SVM08 is to illuminate related standards and research issues. These include: the implications of virtualization on distributed systems management; the advancements in information models and protocols aid in managing virtualization; new problems that will incur when managing virtualized systems and services; and how management itself might benefit from virtualization. Submissions on topics related to managing distributed systems, virtualization of distributed resources/services, and work in management standardization are thus particularly encouraged.

For more details on submission topics and guidelines, please visit <http://www.dmtf.org/svm08/papers/>.

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Member Feedback Welcomed

We are continually improving our newsletter and welcome your input. Please send any comments or suggestions to press@dmtof.org.

REGULARS

2008 Member Survey Results: Emerging Technologies

In this series, DMTF continues to report on findings from its annual member survey conducted in January 2008. About 106 members responded at length to our survey. We asked members to select the most important emerging technology for his or her company in 2008.

Emerging Technologies	
Grids	18.9%
Service Management	53.8%
Web Services	56.6%
None	3.8%
I don't know	18.9%
Other (please specify)	7.5%
• Virtualization	
• Power Management	
• Sensor/Stream Data Management	
• CMDB Federation	
• Portions of ITIL	

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