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

FEATURES

Message from the President: The Road to Interoperability

By: *Winston Bumpus*, DMTF President

Many of you have seen the recent announcement of our newly formed Virtualization Management Forum ([VMF](#)). This is the latest DMTF effort to continue driving adoption of our standards. Many can attest, however, that the creation and adoption of standards and specifications is merely the beginning of the process. The promises of the standard are only fulfilled once interoperable implementations are available.

Several years ago, DMTF understood the need for – and value of – creating programs and tools to foster compatibility between various products and implementations of our specifications. The Interoperability Committee and Vice President of Interoperability position were both established to drive this important aspect of DMTF's mission. The Interoperability Committee serves as a place to coordinate and oversee the activities of our various

Upcoming Events

May 4 – 7, 2009
[Citrix Synergy 2009](#)
Las Vegas, Nevada

September 14 – 17, 2009
[Storage Developer Conference](#)
Santa Clara, California

November 16 – 19, 2009
[2009 Management Developer Conference](#)
Santa Clara, California

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

interoperability forums, while driving consistency and efficiencies into DMTF's overall compliance and certification programs.

Today there are three forums: the Common Diagnostic Model Forum ([CDM Forum](#)), System Management Forum ([SMF](#)) and the VMF. These forums allow constituencies from various management domains to come together and pool resources. The result is the development of plugfests, interoperability tools and compliance programs to enable the true interoperability DMTF customers demand.

Any company incorporating DMTF standards should consider joining one of these forums. The forums bring added value to companies' products, by helping them achieve new levels of interoperability. By participating in the forums, you can help influence the requirements for product interoperability.

You may also contribute to DMTF's work to promote interoperability by participating in the Conformance Subcommittee. This group designs common processes and functionality that all DMTF conformance programs use in various forums. This helps DMTF achieve consistency while reducing redundant efforts.

I would like to thank all of those who have gone the extra mile and dedicated time and resources to the DMTF interoperability programs. I strongly encourage everyone to [join and contribute](#) to this important work.

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Welcome New Members

[Red Hat](#)

[Savvis](#)



VP of Interoperability: Announcing the Virtualization Management Forum (VMF)

Sharon Smith, VP of Interoperability

This month DMTF announced the formation of its Virtualization Management Forum (VMF). This is an exciting development for DMTF and an indication of our continued leadership in the virtualization management industry. The 21 member companies currently participating in the VMF are dedicated to ensuring interoperability between products that support the [VMAN standards](#). The forum aims to develop and conduct programs to determine specification conformance in the areas of system virtualization management, virtual system management and the open virtualization format ([OVF](#)).

The VMF plans to develop a set of test tools for measuring conformance to the specifications included in DMTF's Virtualization Management Initiative ([VMAN](#)). This will enable DMTF members to confirm the conformance level of their products that implement DMTF virtualization management standards.

The VMF was chartered to perform its work for the VMAN Initiative. The charter outlines the activities the group plans to participate in, including developing test tools and conformance verification procedures, and hosting plugfests.

Although the VMF is in its early stages of work, we are extremely excited to be taking this step to enable interoperability within virtualized environments. The creation of the VMF demonstrates DMTF's continued commitment to facilitating the development of robust, interoperable management solutions.

[Click here](#) for more information on the VMF, or to learn how you can participate.

DMTF's Open Cloud Standards Incubator Announced

On April 27, 2009 [DMTF announced](#) the formation of a group dedicated to addressing the need for open management standards for cloud computing. The "Open Cloud Standards Incubator" will work to develop a set of informational specifications for cloud resource management.

DMTF's Open Cloud Standards Incubator will focus on enabling management interoperability between private clouds within enterprises and private, public and hybrid cloud providers. Since no specific standards currently exist, the Open Cloud Standards Incubator will work toward developing cloud resource management protocols, packaging formats and security mechanisms to facilitate interoperability.

[Click here](#) for more information and to learn how your company can join this effort.

New DMTF Documents Available to Members

Standards:

- Server Management Managed Element Addressing Specification ([DSP0215](#)): This document describes the Server Management (SM) Managed Element (ME) addressing standard. SM ME addressing provides an easy, user friendly way to address Common Information Model (CIM) objects (classes and instances). This specification may be used to define valid targets for SM CLP commands.
- Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) State Set Specification ([DSP0249](#)): The

Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) State Set Specification describes the various state sets that can be used with PLDM discrete sensors. Only the state sets that pertain to PLDM are included in this specification. To be considered a PLDM standard definition, a PLDM state set definition must be included in this specification.

- Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) for Platform Monitoring and Control Specification ([DSP0248](#)): This specification defines the functions and data structures used for discovering, describing, initializing and accessing sensors and effecters within the management controllers and management devices of a platform management subsystem using PLDM messaging. Additional functions related to platform monitoring and control, such as the generation and logging of platform level events, are also defined. This document does not specify the operation of PLDM messaging.

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New DMTF Documents Available to Members – cont'd

- Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) for BIOS Control and Configuration Specification ([DSP0247](#)): The scope of this specification is to define the data structures and commands for the internal platform communications between a management controller and the BIOS to exchange the data related to BIOS configuration and control. This specification defines the data structures and messages for communicating BIOS settings, BIOS attributes, boot configurations and boot order settings. This specification is complementary to the BIOS management and boot control profiles.
- Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) for SMBIOS Data Transfer Specification ([DSP0246](#)): This document meets the following objectives, specifies PLDM representations of SMBIOS structure table and SMBIOS structures and specifies a set of commands for transferring SMBIOS structure table and SMBIOS structure data.
- Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) IDs and Codes Specification ([DSP0245](#)): The Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) IDs and Codes Specification describes IDs and codes that are used across Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) specifications. Only IDs and codes that are required by a particular PLDM type-specific specification should be included in that specification. ID and code definitions that are provided in this specification should not be duplicated in other specifications.
- Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) over MCTP Binding Specification ([DSP0241](#)): This document defines the format of Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) over MCTP messages. It also specifies the following information, PLDM over MCTP binding and the common format for PLDM over MCTP messages.
- Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) Base Specification ([DSP0240](#)): This specification describes base protocol elements of the Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) for the purpose of supporting platform-level data models and platform functions in a platform management subsystem. PLDM defines data representations and commands that abstract the platform management hardware. The DSP0240 defines the following elements, the base Platform Level Data Model (PLDM) for various platform functions and a common PLDM message format to support platform functions using PLDM.
- SM CLP-to-CIM Common Mapping Specification ([DSP0216](#)): The SM CLP-to-CIM Common Mapping Specification describes the common requirements for mapping commands, command options, command option argument values, and command target properties to elements of the Common Information Model (CIM). This specification defines the basis for implementations' conformance to the Command Line Protocol specifications.
- Platform Watchdog Profile ([DSP1040](#)): The Platform Watchdog Profile extends the management capabilities of referencing profiles by providing the capability to manage watchdog timers provided by the system.
- Common Information Model (CIM) Infrastructure ([DSP0004](#)): The DMTF Common Information Model (CIM) Infrastructure is an approach to the management of systems and networks that apply the basic structuring and conceptualization techniques of the

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@dmf.org.

objects oriented paradigm. The approach uses a uniform modeling formalism that together with the basic repertoire of object-oriented constructs supports the cooperative development of an object-oriented schema across multiple organizations.

This document describes an object-oriented meta model based on the Unified Modeling Language (UML). This model includes expressions for common elements that must be clearly presented to management applications (for example, object classes, properties, methods and associations).

- System Management BIOS (SMBIOS) Reference Specification ([DSP0134](#)): DSP0134 addresses how motherboard and system vendors present management information about their products in a standard format by extending the BIOS interface on Intel architecture systems. The information is intended to allow generic instrumentation to deliver this data to management applications that use CIM (the WBEM data model) or direct access and eliminates the need for error prone operations like probing system hardware for presence detection.
- WS-Management Identity XML Schema ([DSP8012](#)): The WS-Management Identity XML Schema is the XML schema for WS-Management to identify messages.

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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.

Alliance Partner Feature: Trusted Computing Group (TCG)

Trusted Computing Group ([TCG](#)) and DMTF have been collaborating since 2006 to develop management specifications for trusted drives.

TCG is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2003 to develop, define and promote open standards for hardware-enabled trusted computing and security technologies, including hardware building blocks and software interfaces, across multiple platforms, peripherals and devices. TCG specifications will enable more secure computing environments without compromising functional integrity, privacy or individual rights. The primary goal of TCG is to help users protect their information assets from compromise due to external software attack and physical theft.

As a result of TCG's alliance partnership with DMTF, TCG-capable Trusted Platforms can be managed in a manner consistent with the existing DMTF methods. TCG Work Groups can leverage the vast experience of DMTF and Desktop and Mobile Work Group (DMWG) members, ensuring the completeness of the resulting solution. In turn, DMTF and DMWG benefit from the comprehensive security knowledge of TCG members and the trusted computing vision of the TCG. For more information on TCG's alliance partnership with DMTF, [click here](#).

TCG will be exhibiting at this month's [Interop Las Vegas 2009](#), from May 19 - 22, 2009. Interop Las Vegas 2009 is a comprehensive IT Conference and Expo that is the best place to learn how technology can build your competitive edge. There are more than 200 sessions and 400 exhibitors at this event.

EVENTS

Citrix Synergy 2009 — where virtualization, networking and application delivery meet

In this difficult economy, it's hard to justify attending most of the industry conferences scheduled in 2009. Many shows have agendas designed to generate attendance rather than provide specific information that can help you through your real-time, day-to-day challenges. [Citrix Synergy](#) is different.

Synergy is fine-tuned to help you break from the cost and complexity of distributed computing. Industry experts agree that, in this down economy, virtualization, SaaS and cloud computing are increasingly critical to business success. Synergy will show how you can use these technologies to simplify your IT, slash costs and get more out of the assets you already have. Synergy—where virtualization, networking and application delivery meet—is simply the best value for your conference dollar and your time out of the office.

There are five compelling reasons to attend Synergy this year:

1. [4 conferences in 1](#) - Synergy incorporates four independent events—Virtualization Congress, Network World Live!, Citrix iForum and Geek Speak Live!—to give you, under one roof, all the information you need to succeed. View session details in our interactive [Session Catalog](#) to find out more.
2. [Conference speakers](#) - Synergy features an unmatched schedule of visionaries. This list includes Garr Reynolds, internationally acclaimed design expert, best-selling author and associate professor of management at Japan's Kansai Gaidai University; Patrick Gelsinger, senior vice president and general manager, Intel; Adrian Sannier, university technology officer, Arizona State University; John Gallant, EVP, Network World, Inc.; John Gantz, SVP, IDC; Ron Oglesby, practice executive - virtualization, Dell; Christofer Hoff, chief security architect, Unisys; and many more.

3. [Technology sponsors](#) – Companies that will be at Synergy currently include AppSense, Stratus Technologies, Dell and IGEL to name a few. You'll get detailed information on a wide range of innovative solutions from these industry leaders that can help you today.
4. [Vegas means value](#) – You'll get the most out of your budget with the lowest airfare, transportation and hotel costs of any major convention venue.
5. [The take-away](#) – You'll leave Synergy armed with steps you can take immediately to get more out of your existing assets and transform IT from a roadblock to an enabler of business success.

[Click here](#) to register now.

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REGULARS

2009 Survey Results: Which of the current DMTF tools are critical for your company's implementation of DMTF standards?

In this series, DMTF continues to report findings from its annual member survey conducted in January 2009. One hundred twenty-five members responded at length to our survey.

We asked which of the current DMTF tools are critical for your company's implementation of DMTF standards.

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Blade Systems Alliance	1.6%	2
CompTIA	1.6%	2
Consortium For Service Innovation	0.0%	0
IEEE	20.9%	27
IETF	12.4%	16
IT Service Management Forum	10.9%	14
Network Applications Consortium	1.6%	2
Object Management Group	10.1%	13
OASIS	9.3%	12
Open Grid Forum	6.2%	8
Printer Working Group	3.1%	4
Service Availability Forum	3.1%	4
The Green Grid	9.3%	12
Storage Networking Industry Association	19.4%	25
TeleManagement Forum	3.1%	4
The Open Group	15.5%	20
Trusted Computing Group	11.6%	15
Unified Extensible Firmware Interface	7.0%	9
W3C	14.7%	19
None	36.4%	47
Other (please specify)	7.0%	9