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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 VMAN Initiative takes Vegas by storm

By Winston Bumpus

Last month's launch of the Virtualization Management ([VMAN](#)) Initiative was a resounding success! The exhibit hall at VMworld was buzzing with the [release](#) of our VMAN OVF 1.0 standard and reporters sharing the [news](#) with the rest of the world. If you didn't hear it, you probably [saw it](#), with one of the VMAN giveaways in the hands of press, analysts or member companies. VMAN also appeared in a number of member [company's booths](#). DMTF's VMAN certainly left its mark in Las Vegas.

If you missed the excitement on launch day, I'd like to introduce

Upcoming Events

October 21-22, 2008
[DMTF's Systems & Virtualization Management Event](#)
Munich, Germany

November 9 - 14, 2008
[Large Installation Systems Administration Conference](#) (LISA)
Town & Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego

November 17-20, 2008
[Management Developers Conference](#)
Santa Clara Marriott, California

December 2 - 5, 2008
[Gartner Data Center](#)
MGM Grand, Las Vegas

you to [VMAN](#). The VMAN Initiative is the latest suite of specifications to join our four existing [management initiatives](#) (CDM, DASH, SMASH and SMI-S).

VMAN delivers [broadly supported](#) interoperability and portability standards to virtual computing environments. This new initiative provides IT managers the freedom to deploy pre-installed, pre-configured solutions across virtual computer systems while managing the entire lifecycle of those applications. This helps the industry develop superior, interoperable solutions for managing virtualized environments.

Within the VMAN Initiative, there are a number of important profiles and specifications, including the Open Virtualization Format ([OVF](#)) standard. In addition to the work already completed by the System Virtualization, Partitioning and Clustering (SVPC) working group, the team continues to move ahead. The SVPC working group looks to provide improved management interoperability within virtual computing environments. We look forward to more specifications under development, along with new interoperability programs to support them.

The widespread industry acceptance for the VMAN Initiative and the OVF standard shows our collective success in the effort to enable a global IT management ecosystem. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our mission; the work done by our member companies in support of DMTF standards is critical to enabling management interoperability among multi-vendor systems, tools and solutions within the enterprise. Thank you for making this another DMTF success!

As always, please [contact me](#) with any comments or questions.

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

For More Information

DMTF Membership

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[DMTF Web site](#).

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DMTF Preliminary and Final Specifications

Preliminary Now Available

BIOS Management Profile

A preliminary release 1.0.0 of the BIOS Management Profile ([DSP1061](#)) has been issued. The BIOS Management Profile was prepared by the Desktop & Mobile Working Group. The DSP1061 extends the management capabilities of referencing profiles by adding the capability to represent and configure BIOS attributes, such as a Network Controller or IDE Controller. The individual BIOS attribute's relationship with a respective device is also described. Additionally, the profile's registration for the schema implementation version information is described.

Open Virtualization Format (OVF) Specification

The preliminary release of the Open Virtualization Format Specification ([DSP0243](#)) is now available. OVF simplifies interoperability, security and virtual machine lifecycle management by describing an open, secure, portable, efficient and extensible format for the packaging and distribution of one or more virtual appliances. This enables software developers to ship pre-configured, ready-to-deploy standard solutions, allowing end-users to literally distribute applications into their environments with minimal effort.

OVF Envelope XML Specification

Another preliminary standard 1.0.0 release was announced last month, the OVF Envelope XML Specification ([DSP8023](#)). The Open Envelope XML Specification 1.0.0 specifies how the OVF schema should be used.

OVF Environment XML Specification

The OVF Environment XML Specification ([DSP8027](#)) was announced this month. The DSP8027 is another XML schema specification for OVF. The OVF Environment defines how the guest software and the deployment platform interact.

Final Specifications Now Available

- **System Management BIOS Reference Specification** ([DSP0134](#)): A component profile that provides the ability to manage local accounts on a system and to represent the local system's view of a principal that is authenticated through a third-party authentication service. This profile does not specify CIM-based mechanisms for performing the authentication of credentials.
- **Software Inventory Profile** ([DSP1023](#)): Describes the CIM schema elements required to provide an inventory of installed BIOS, firmware, drivers, and related software in a managed system. This profile also describes the CIM schema elements required to represent the software that can be installed on a managed system.
- **Host LAN Network Port Profile** ([DSP1035](#)): Extends the management capability of referencing profiles by adding the capability to represent a network port that provides a LAN interface to a host system, its associated controller, and network interfaces. Associations with the port's physical aspects and profile implementation version information are modeled in this profile.

- **IP Interface Profile**
([DSP1036](#)): Extends the management capability of referencing profiles by adding the capability to represent an IP interface of a managed system. This profile includes a specification of the IP interface, its associated IP configuration, optional support for managing pending configurations, optional support for the relationship with a DNS client and optional support for the relationship with a DHCP client.
- **DHCP Client Profile**
([DSP1037](#)): Extends the management capability of referencing profiles by adding the capability to represent a DHCP client that is associated with an IP interface.
- **DNS Client Profile**
([DSP1038](#)): Extends the management capability of referencing profiles by adding the capability to represent the DNS client configuration of a computer system and its IP interfaces. The target audience for this specification is implementers who are writing CIM-based providers or consumers of management interfaces that represent the component described in this document.

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Blade System Alliance and DMTF Collaborate

This month, we spotlight DMTF Alliance Partner Blade Systems Alliance ([BladeS](#)), a forum for end-users, analysts, consultants and vendors who are interested in the deployment and application of blade systems. In cooperation with the worldwide community of data center professionals and other advanced systems users, BladeS works to advance adoption of modular and blade-based computing systems inclusive of the promotion of multi-vendor standards for modular systems management and racking.

The [BladeS/DMTF](#) collaboration was initiated in 2004 and the two organizations continue to work toward an interoperable data center. BladeS provides and promotes DMTF standards to BladeS members, end-users and analysts. BladeS also helps provide feedback on DMTF standards, published documents and educational information. In turn, DMTF works to educate and inform the end user community about blade and modular computing.

On October 22, 2008, BladeS will take part in the Datacenter Dynamics conference in Miami, Fla. Datacenter Dynamics is the number one global datacenter and mission critical IT infrastructure networking and knowledge exchange conference. Learn more about this event [here](#).

DMTF Makes its Mark at VMworld 2008

Virtualization fans descended upon Las Vegas from September 16-18, during [VMworld 2008](#). VMworld proved to be an exciting opportunity for DMTF to share the latest virtualization news with a wide range of IT personnel, management tool vendors, ISVs and platform vendors. The event saw a record-breaking 14,000 total attendees, more than 285 breakout sessions, 200 plus companies showcasing virtualization products and services and more than 160 Instructor-led labs.

VMworld 2008 also hosted the launch of DMTF's VMAN Initiative ([VMAN](#)), including the release of the [OVF](#) 1.0 standard. Read more about the VMAN launch in the [News](#) or in the Message from the President.

On the show floor, DMTF executives educated the audience on the latest DMTF technology. We received positive feedback from the constant flow of attendees coming to the booth to learn more about the buzz around OVF. Chris Wolf, Burton Group analyst, presented the latest OVF information to 1800 attendees in his session "Software Licensing Exposed - The State of OS and Application Licensing for Virtual Environments." And finally, to wrap-up this successful presence on the last day of the conference, VMware's Winston Bumpus presented "Standards-Based Virtualization Management." This session highlighted OVF and other key standards for virtual machine lifecycle management to about 200 attendees.

VMworld 2008 was the perfect event to demonstrate the latest DMTF developments to the virtualization industry. This event provided a venue for DMTF's virtual coming-out party and proved our leadership in virtualization management.

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Call for Contributors

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Events

ManageFusion 08 Orlando – More of what you're looking for

Symantec's ManageFusion 08 Orlando – the ultimate systems management user conference – will be held this year October 14–16 at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes in Orlando, Fla. ManageFusion Orlando will give IT managers and administrators the opportunity to collaborate with their peers and get more in-depth training on the latest developments and best practices in managing, securing and supporting highly diverse and widely distributed IT infrastructures.

This year's conference theme is all about "more." ManageFusion offers much more than the typical IT conference—more technical expertise, more training and even more fun. The conference is designed to introduce IT managers and administrators to some of the IT industry's smartest people who can help them find solutions to complex IT management needs. ManageFusion will help attendees create confidence in a connected world by building stronger solutions to protect their infrastructure, information and interactions.

At ManageFusion 08, attendees will learn how to get more out of their Altiris and Symantec investments and gain more insight into the value of combining service delivery best practices and automation technologies to transform the way they support their businesses. ManageFusion 08 offers tracks that provide the information and expertise IT managers and administrators are looking for, including:

- Altiris Architecture
- Altiris | Symantec Alliances & Partners
- Client & Mobile Management
- IT Service Management
- Security & Compliance
- Server Management

In addition, ManageFusion attendees will receive in-depth training and hands-on labs in managing and securing technology through automation, helping to reduce the cost and complexity of IT ownership and aligning an organization's business and IT objectives. Keynote presentations by industry experts, break-out sessions and opportunities to meet directly with product experts will be offered.

Whether an IT manager is hoping to find new ways to align business requirements with IT objectives, trying to maximize and secure the existing management infrastructure, or make application virtualization a reality, ManageFusion is the place to get more.

[Click here](#), for additional information on ManageFusion 08 Orlando and to access the [registration site](#).

SVM 2008 in Munich, Germany: Bringing the World's Technology Together

DMTF continues its efforts to bring members of the world's technology industry together by hosting the upcoming second annual Systems and

This workshop event will be held in Munich, Germany, Oct. 21–22, 2008. The workshop is dedicated to academic research on standards for new technologies in systems and virtualization management. It will feature refereed papers by presenters from across the globe, including Spain, Japan, China, Canada, Germany and France. Attendees will also be given a guided tour of BMW World and a gala dinner at the Ratskeller restaurant.

[Registration](#) for this event is closing soon. If you need a visa to enter Germany, you'll need to request a letter of [invitation](#) soon. Send an [email](#) as soon as possible to make this request.

The continued growing interest in virtualization technology makes SVM 2008 a great event to attend. Register today to participate and learn about the latest developments in virtualization management.

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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@dmf.org.

Events – continued

LISA '08: The 22nd Large Installation System Administration Conference

For the past 20 years [LISA](#) has been the focal point for the global community of system and network administrators. This year LISA continues that tradition, featuring innovative tools and techniques essential for your professional and technical development.

Take advantage of the popular 6 days of training and return with the skills you need to take your career to new heights. Select from over 50 tutorials taught by highly expert instructors, including:

- Mark Burgess on Integrating Cfengine into Organizational Service Management
- Tom Christiansen on Advanced Perl
- David N. Blank-Edelman on Over the Edge System Administration

Plus, new in 2008, LISA is offering tracks on virtualization and on Solaris. These two 6-day series include classes such as:

- Peter Baer Galvin on Solaris 10 Administration
- Jim Mauro on Solaris Dynamic Tracing (DTrace)
- Richard McDougall on VMware ESX Performance and Tuning

In addition to the training, 3 days of technical sessions include top-notch refereed papers, informative invited talks, expert Guru Is In sessions, and a poster session.

Our 20+ invited talks feature our most impressive slate of speakers to date. They include:

- Keynote Address: “implementing Intellipedia Within a ‘Need to Know’ Culture,” by Sean Dennehy, Chief of Intellipedia Development, Directorate of Intelligence, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency
- Plenary Session: “Reconceptualizing Security,” by Bruce Schneier, Chief Security Technology Officer, BT
- Plenary Session: “The State of Electronic Voting, 2008,” by David Wagner, University of California, Berkeley

LISA is the premier forum for presenting new research in system administration, with selected papers showcasing state-of-the-art work on topics including configuration management, parallel systems deployment, virtualization and security.

Bring your perplexing technical questions to experts at LISA’s Guru Is In sessions. Explore the latest commercial innovations at the Vendor Exhibition. Benefit from opportunities for peer interaction (a.k.a. the “Hallway Track”). Take advantage of the live streaming opportunities.

Early registration discounts for LISA 08, taking place November 9 – 14, 2008, in San Diego, Calif. are now available. Register by Friday, October 17, and save up to \$300!

DMTF CDM Forum and SM Forum to Showcase CDM, DASH and SMASH Implementations – Come Meet the Experts at MDC 2008

2008 MDC Showcase

The Fourth Annual Management Developers Conference ([MDC](#)) will be held at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara, Calif. from November 17 – 20, 2008. The Management Developers Conference is the industry's only developer conference dedicated to standards-based system and network management technologies.

MDC is the premier educational event for DMTF members. This conference is a perfect opportunity for DMTF members to be trained on developing standards by industry and technical experts. Training sessions are available for any level of expertise, from introductory to advanced at the MDC University days. A number of DMTF technologies will be showcased at MDC, including, [CDM](#), [DASH](#), [SMASH](#) and the recently released VMAN Initiative ([VMAN](#)) and [OVF](#) 1.0 standard.

Check out the [conference agenda](#) to review MDC's four days of technical content. Don't miss your opportunity to accelerate your learning curve and get the inside track on developing and deploying standards-based enterprise management solutions. [Register](#) now to take part in this industry event.

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Events – continued

2008 CDM Forum Showcase

In conjunction with the [2008 Management Developers Conference](#) (MDC), the Common Diagnostic Model ([CDM Forum](#)) is hosting its 2008 MDC Showcase at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara, Calif. from Nov. 17 – 20, 2008.

The showcase will allow companies to work with key original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and third party application vendors to integrate modules into their CDM based solutions. Companies will be recognized by the industry for CDM progress and support of CDM adoption. Companies that are already among the leaders of CDM will have an opportunity to help pave the way for broad industry adoption.

The event will include demonstrations and exhibits that fall into the following 5 categories:

- Client applications that take advantage of CDM modules
- Industry developed CDM modules
- Tools that accelerate or facilitate CDM module development
- Tools that verifies implementation conformance to the CDM standard
- Industry organization's initiatives and activities that promote CDM adoption

Questions? Please contact the [CDM Forum chair](#).

2008 DASH and SMASH Showcase

In conjunction with the 2008 Management Developers Conference ([MDC](#)), the System Management Forum ([SMF](#)) hosting its 2008 SMF Showcase at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara, Calif. from Nov. 17 – 20, 2008. The System Management Forum (SMF) Showcase will show products and tools based on the DASH Initiative and the SMASH Initiative at MDC. The SMF invites the MDC participants to visit the showcase and get up-to-date on the progress of these important technologies.

The [DASH Initiative](#) is a suite of specifications that takes full advantage of the DMTF's Web Services for Management (WS-Management) specification – delivering standards-based Web services management for desktop and mobile client systems. Through the DASH Initiative, the DMTF will provide the next generation of standards for secure out-of-band and remote management of desktop and mobile systems.

The [SMASH Initiative](#) – which includes the widely-implemented Server Management Command Line Protocol specification – is a suite of specifications that deliver architectural semantics, industry standard protocols and profiles to unify the management of the data center. Through the development of conformance testing programs, the SMF will extend these capabilities by helping deliver additional compatibility in cross-platform servers.

The SMF has begun recruiting companies to participate at the [Showcase](#). Please send inquiries to the [SMF forum Chair](#).

REGULARS

2008 Survey Results: Do customers request support of any of the following DMTF standards in their company's

products?

In this series, DMTF continues to report findings from its annual member survey conducted in January 2008. One hundred and one members responded at length to our survey.

We asked members to determine if their customers requested support of any of the following DMTF standards in their products.

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| DASH | 52.3% | 34 |
| SMASH | 61.5% | 40 |
| CDM | 32.3% | 21 |
| Other (please specify) | 9.2% | 6 |

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