

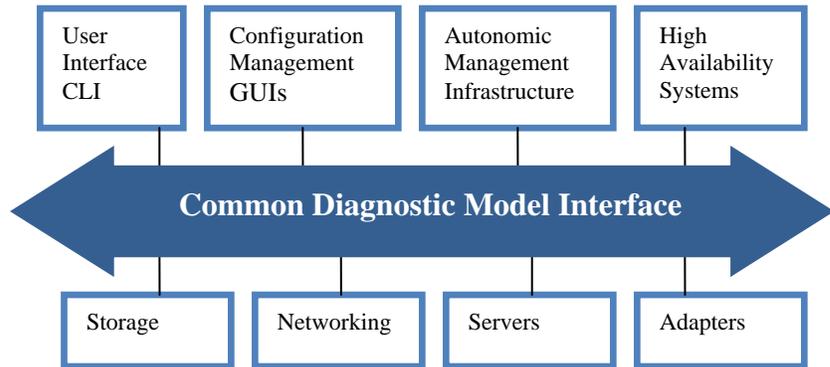
Introduction to the CDM Health Management Initiative

November 2008

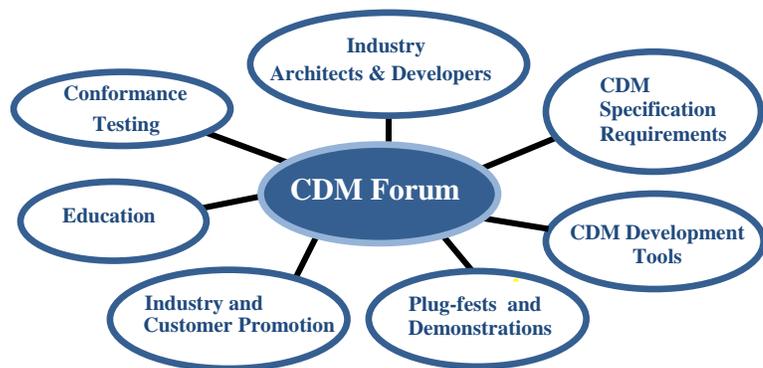


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Efficiently maintaining computing solutions from the datacenter to the desktop is a vital concern for end-users, OEMs, ISVs, and integrators alike. Today, the maintenance of hardware in system solutions requires the use of an endless array of uncoordinated diagnostic tools and applications which decreases agility, increases time-to-repair, and management overhead. Even a single computer has sub-systems that are supplied by an array of vendors each having disparate diagnostic technology. Ultimately, this inefficiency deters IT consumers from aggressively expanding computing resources to meet demand and decreases business efficiency. Indeed, a central value proposition for modern autonomic computing systems are their ability to automatically detect failing hardware components and adaptively redirect applications to stable resources be it servers, networking components, or storage. Today, computing systems deliver little towards this vision principally due to the incompatible management APIs that traverse multi-vendor diagnostic programs today. This vision is further deterred due to the lack required functionality and security in interfaces to diagnostic routines.



In September 2006 the DMTF launched the Common Diagnostic Model (CDM) Health Management Initiative to, for the first time, unify the computer industry on a single interoperable, secure, and functionally rich interface to diagnostics programs on multi-vendor computer systems. CDM is based on the Common Information Model (CIM) and Web Based Enterprise Management (WBEM) standards as pioneered by the Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF). The CDM Health Management Initiative brings together the vast resources of the DMTF including: Education, Development Tools, Interoperability, Technical Work Groups, and Marketing, to fundamentally improve the efficiency of the computer industry in delivering more advanced software solutions as well as to directly decrease the cost of datacenter management. Via CDM technology, hardware suppliers will no longer need to develop unique diagnostic solutions for their various customers, IHVs will trim diagnostic development investment, Independent Software Vendors will benefit by having a single vehicle to deliver adaptive software systems, and Original Equipment Manufacturers will benefit by having an improved level of support from their vendors.



The CDM Forum is the center of the CDM Health Initiative and functions similar to a DMTF Working Group or a DMTF Committee. The CDM Forum has additional responsibilities that go beyond a Working Group. The fiscal responsibilities of the CDM forum allow it to achieve results above and beyond that of a Working Group. The CDM Forum is responsible for securing the financial resources necessary to ensure that the broader industry ultimately achieves the architectural vision of the technology. While self governed, the CDM Forum assures adherence to all DMTF bylaws, policies and procedures by reporting through the DMTF Interoperability Committee. This hierarchy allows visibility of the CDM Forum's activities all the way to the DMTF Board of Directors, while not burdening the Interoperability Committee with the day-to-day workload of governing the CDM Forum's activities

The CDM Forum will drive the industry wide adoption of CDM by providing the ability for the industry to develop conforming health management solutions based on CDM. More advanced and interoperable diagnostic solutions will have a mutually beneficial affect for all companies that participate in the CDM Forum. The key elements that will make this goal possible are: Compliance testing tools; Use cases and profiles; as well as a certification program. These crucial elements are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

Use cases and Profiles

Use cases will be maintained by the CDM Forum in the CDM Profiles and will be incorporated into the CDM Conformance Program to ensure thorough testing of the specified functionality. Completeness of the CDM Profiles and thoroughness of the use cases are critical factors in assuring an interoperable diagnostic solution.

Conformance Program

Developers of CDM based implementations will be able to certify their content by means of the CDM Conformance Program. Registered users of the CDM Conformance Program will have the results of their certification posted on the DMTF web site. The CDM Conformance Program is the sole vehicle that will be used by the DMTF to promote interoperable diagnostics that conform to the CDM specification.

Participating in the CDM Forum

Prior to joining the CDM Forum, prospective member companies must be DMTF members. There are no additional prerequisites to joining the CDM Forum. However, it is recommended that members of the CDM Forum also join the following DMTF Working Groups: DIAG-SIG; CIM-CORE; and the Interoperability Committee.



Membership Information:
www.dmtf.org/interoperability/CDM_Forum