Open Virtualization Format Working Group
Dated 2014-02-24

The information provided below is subject to change and reflects the current knowledge of the Working Group.

Management Problem(s) and Environment

Industry needs a standard way to package and distribute virtual machines and collections of virtual machines and related support artifacts, such as network and security. The Open Virtualization Format (OVF) provides a platform-independent, efficient, extensible, and open packaging and distribution format that meets these needs.

OVF enables a flexible and secure package for the distribution of software across domains, such as data centers, and private and public clouds. It facilitates the mobility of virtual machines and gives customers platform independence.

OVF provides an extensible packaging solution that may contain platform-specific enhancements to meet specific industry needs.

The portability and interoperability inherent in OVF enables the growth of the virtual appliance market as well as virtualization as a whole. OVF provides an open, secure, portable, efficient and extensible format for the packaging and distribution of software to be run in virtual machines. The significant attributes are:

1. Optimized for distribution
2. Optimized for an automated user experience
3. Supports both single virtual machines (VM) and multiple-VM configurations
4. Extensible
5. Localizable

Working Group Charter

The Open Virtualization Format Working Group (WG) deals primarily with the authoring and deployment of an OVF package. The boundary of the scope of work is at the point where the virtual machine is ready to be used.

The Working Group addresses the scope of the work by developing the OVF specifications, OVF Schema, and OVF profiles for specific use cases, such as automated deployment.

This Working Group continues the current OVF projects from the System Virtualization, Partitioning and Clustering Working Group to include additional features as deemed necessary by industry feedback. The Working Group may also work with DMTF (Distributed Management Task Force), INCITS (International Committee for Information Technology Standards), and JTC 1 (Joint Technical Committee 1) to get the OVF specifications adopted as de jure standards.

Reliance/Coordination with other DMTF Groups

This Working Group relies on and coordinates with the following DMTF groups:
- Virtualization Management Working Group
- Network Services Management Working Group
- Cloud Management Working Group
- Schema Subcommittee

DMTF Contacts

Chair email: ovfwg@dmtf.org

To join the DMTF and/or the WG, see http://www.dmtf.org/join/ and http://dmtf.org/standards/ovfwg.