Open Virtualization Format (OVF) Work Group Charter
Dated February 20, 2013

The information provided below is subject to change and reflects the current state of the Working Group charter within the DMTF.

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, 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 VM and multiple-VM configurations
4. Extensible
5. Localizable

Charter

The work group 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 work 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 work group continues the current OVF projects from the SVPC Work Group to include additional features as deemed necessary by industry feedback. The work group may also work with DMTF, INCITS, and JTC 1 to get the OVF specifications adopted as de jure standards.

Business Justification

Providing the industry with a standard packaging format for virtual machines solves a critical business need for software vendors and cloud service providers. OVF 1 has been widely adopted to meet this need; however the need for additional features and application profiles is apparent.

Interim Chair

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Alliance Partnerships

- SNIA: Storage Networking Industry Association
- INCITS DAPS38

- JTC 1 SC 38

Reliance/Coordination with other WG Models

- Systems Virtualization, Partitioning, and Clustering Work Group
- Network Services Management Work Group
- Server Desktop Mobile Platforms Work Group
- Cloud Management Work Group
- Schema Subcommittee

Prior Work

De Jure Standards

Collection	Title	Document Name	Document Date
12	Open Virtualization Format	ANSI/INCITS 469-2010	2010-07-20
12	Open Virtualization Format	ISO/IEC17203-2011	2011-11-21

DMTF Standards

DSP#	Title	DMTF Version	Document Name	Publication Date
DSP0243	Open Virtualization Format Specification	2.0.0	DSP0243_2.0.0.pdf	2012-10-31
DSP0243	Open Virtualization Format Specification	1.1.0	DSP0243_1.1.0.pdf	2010-01-20
DSP0243	Open Virtualization Format Specification	1.0.0	DSP0243_1.0.0.pdf	2009-02-23
DSP2017	Open Virtualization Format Whitepaper	1.0.0	DSP2017_1.0.0.pdf	2009-02-17
DSP2021	Open Virtualization Format Example	1.0.0	DSP2021_1.0.0.tar	2009-01-20
DSP8023	OVF Envelope XSD	2.0.0	dsp8023_2.0.0.xsd	2012-10-20
DSP8023	OVF Envelope XSD	1.1.0	dsp8023_1.1.0.xsd	2010-01-20
DSP8023	OVF Envelope XSD	1.0.0	dsp8023_1.0.0.xsd	2009-01-27
DSP8027	OVF Environment XSD	1.1.0	dsp8027_1.1.0.xsd	2010-01-26
DSP8027	OVF Environment XSD	1.0.0	dsp8027_1.0.0.xsd	2009-01-27
DSP8049	Network Port Profile XML Schema	1.0.1	DSP8049_1.0.1.xsd	2012-10-20
DSP8049	Network Port Profile XML Schema	1.0.0	DSP8049_1.0.1.xsd	2011-10-20

Current Work

DSP#	Title	Document Name	Completion Date
DSP0243	Open Virtualization Format Specification	DSP0243_2.0.0.pdf	2013Q4
DSP0265	Profile to Enable Automated Deployment of OVF Package	DSP0265_1.0.0.pdf	2013Q3
DSP2017	Open Virtualization Format Whitepaper	DSP2017_2.0.0.pdf	2013Q3
DSP2021	Open Virtualization Format Example	DSP2021_2.0.0.tar	2013Q3
DSP8023	OVF Envelope XSD	dsp8023_2.0.0.xsd	2013Q4

The following needs are currently identified to be addressed in the OVF work group:

- Activation Process
- Meta data to describe functional dependencies of network connections
- Network Policy Service
- Network hierarchies

Out of Scope

Work related to the runtime management of virtual machines or collections of virtual machines.
Work related to the management of OVF libraries or repositories.

Participation

To join the DMTF see http://www.dmtf.org/join/.

To join the work group see http://members.dmtf.org/apps/org/workgroup/ovfwg/ .