

Exceeding Customer Expectations

The growth and success of enterprise businesses hinges heavily on the ability to control costs while expanding IT resources. However, lack of basic management interoperability for desktops, laptops, and servers increases complexity and ultimately impedes cost-effective growth of IT systems and the businesses they support. The DMTF Desktop and mobile Architecture for System Hardware (DASH) and Systems Management Architecture for Server Hardware (SMASH) standards dramatically simplify management of these systems, thereby reducing complexity, management and integration costs.

However, to achieve interoperability, more is required beyond the initial definition of the standard itself. IT customers expect a certain level of quality and support from hardware and software implementations before considering the adoption of products that support these standards. When standards-based products do not work well together, IT customers cannot realize the benefits of lower complexity and cost. To help facilitate product interoperability, DMTF has created an organization called the System Management Forum (SMF). The SMF is responsible for fostering interoperability and developing strong conformance programs and test suites for DASH and SMASH. The SMF also host activities such as testing events to provide vendors with opportunities to test their products early in their development cycles.

System Management Forum Members

Leadership

AMD Dell Intel VMware

Participatory

AMI Broadcom Fujitsu
HP Hitachi Novell Realtek

What is DASH and SMASH Conformance?

The profiles of the DASH and SMASH standards provide a normative specification of the DMTF Web-Based Management specifications and the CIM schema, describing which parts of the model are required for a product to be conformant. SMF conformance test tools test products according to the profile specifications and certify them as conformant if they are implemented correctly.

Strong Conformance Program, Quality Interoperability

Vendor and application developer members combine their expertise so that the resulting conformance requirements promote implementation quality and a good customer experience with the products. SMF members transform these requirements into conformance tests and SMF members collaborate to develop conformance test details. A Forum-provided conformance test tool runs the conformance tests against implementations. The conformance tests thoroughly test DASH- and SMASH-enabled solutions for conformance to their respective specifications. The SMF conformance test tools provide wide test coverage and yield strong indicators of target product interoperability. SMF member companies self-test implementations and submit test results to the DMTF to be validated for conformance and certified. Certified conformance test results can then be added to the DMTF Certification Registry, a DMTF public web site where customers can view all conformance certifications registered by programs, vendors, and products.

Vendors and developers typically start DASH or SMASH interoperability testing by performing internally-developed conformance tests. SMF conformance test tools can be used by vendors to increase specification test coverage, decrease development time and cost, and improve product time-to-market.

In addition to conformance programs, the SMF also organizes plugfests to demonstrate the interoperability of participating companies' products. Plugfests ensure the

quality of the conformance program and provide a checkpoint with the industry on the state of interoperability among leading DASH and SMASH implementers.

Key SMF Activities

SMF members contribute to interoperable DASH and SMASH management through the following elements:

- Conformance Test Tool Design and Development: Test tools developed through the SMF to drive conformance testing as a critical part of the certification process.
- Conformance Specification Development: Members evaluate DASH and SMASH specifications and develop conformance tests.
- Product Certification: Vendors self-certify their DASH and SMASH implementations
- Plugfest Activities: Members participate in plugfests activities to evaluate the conformance program and ensure that vendor implementations are functional, reliable, and interoperable.

Interoperable, Standard Management

The programs for verifying the conformance of software and hardware for DASH and SMASH will benefit customers through higher-quality products and enhanced interoperability, and will also benefit product vendors through reduced development costs and faster time-to-market. For more information on the SMF, e-mail smf-chair@dmtof.org or visit <http://www.dmtf.org/join/smf>.

About DMTF

DMTF enables more effective management of millions of IT systems worldwide by bringing the IT industry together to collaborate on the development, validation and promotion of systems management standards. The group spans the industry with 160 member companies and organizations, and more than 4,000 active participants crossing 43 countries. The DMTF board of directors is led by 15 innovative, industry-leading technology companies. They include Advanced Micro Devices (AMD); Broadcom Corporation; CA , Inc.; Cisco; Citrix Systems, Inc.; Dell; EMC; Fujitsu; HP; Hitachi, Ltd.; IBM; Intel Corporation; Microsoft Corporation; Oracle; and VMware, Inc. With this deep and broad reach, DMTF creates standards that enable interoperable IT management. DMTF management standards are critical to enabling management interoperability among multi-vendor systems, tools and solutions within the enterprise. Information about DMTF technologies and activities can be found at <http://www.dmtf.org>.