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Management Matters is a monthly publication covering the Distributed Management Task Force and its member organizations.

Message from the Chairman: Innovation in IT Management

By Mike Baskey, DMTF Chairman

This month, I'd like to highlight the recent submission of the [CMDB Federation specification](#) to DMTF and discuss the implications of this submission for our organization. The draft spec, which was initially developed by industry leaders BMC Software, CA, Fujitsu, HP, IBM and Microsoft, represents groundbreaking work for DMTF for several reasons. First, it blazes new trails for DMTF by carving out a focus around management repositories that are scoped at the IT process level and also deals with federation of various models, one of which is the [Common Information Model \(CIM\)](#). Second, it gives DMTF a broader context for some of our model-related work with other standards groups--such as the CIM-SID harmonization work with the [TeleManagement Forum](#). As a result, our models will evolve to address even more resources, thereby leveraging the

Upcoming Events

December 3, 2007

[CDM System Health Management Industry Showcase Event](#)

Santa Clara, California (in conjunction with Management Developers Conference)

December 3-6, 2007

[Management Developers Conference](#)

Santa Clara, California

December 3, 2007

[CIM 10th Anniversary Party and Star Awards](#)

Santa Clara, California (in conjunction with Management Developers Conference)

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

For More Information

work being done within DMTF and demonstrating yet again our valuable contributions to the industry. As this technology evolves, use cases that employ this technology will help make DMTF an even more integral part of improved IT service management.

DMTF's cross-industry representation of more than 15 technology alliance partners, 4,000 individual members and 200 companies, makes it the ideal forum for creating and maintaining an industry standard for CMDBf. Moreover, our organization will help increase the technology's reach within the IT industry.

Whatever your focus--whether in enterprises or a particular management domain (network, storage, applications, etc.) or even service providers seeking to define the set of management artifacts at the level of a CMDB --consider how the new work underway may affect and enable your company's products in this space. From a technology perspective, many exciting developments are on the horizon. Among them:

- the ability to federate data without the need to replicate it
- the ability to better reconcile identities of discovered resources across multiple sources
- the availability of a graph query mechanism to better optimize data access across a wide variety of management disciplines and numerous management domains

I encourage all of you to check out the CMDB Federation specification for yourselves, get involved, and help shape CMDB Federation to make it fit the evolving needs of the industry. Please contact me with any questions or comments at chair@dmf.org.



Mike Baskey
DMTF Chairman

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Features**Now Available: Text Console Redirection Profile**

DMTF released version 1.0 of the Text Console Redirection Profile ([DSP1024](#)), which was prepared by the [Server Management Working Group](#). The new profile extends management capabilities of referencing profiles and provides the capability to manage text console redirections provided by the system.

DSP1024 describes the elements needed to provide the capability to manage the redirection of a text console flow. The following outlines the text redirection capabilities of typical computer systems that the profile could manage:

- Systems can have multiple sources of bidirectional text console flows which can be redirected.
- Prior to being redirected, the text console flow has an Original Destination. This is typically a local serial port to which a terminal is connected in order to access the text console flow.
- A text console flow can be redirected to one or more destinations. A destination can be another serial port or a network port. The network port facilitates remote access to the text console and is known as serial-over-LAN.
- The redirection of a text console flow can be accomplished while still delivering the text console flow to its Original Destination.
- A redirected text console flow can be terminated by embedding a special character sequence into the text console flow.

Five Preliminary Specs for Member Review**DASH Implementation Requirements**

A preliminary release 1.0.0b of the DASH Implementation Requirements ([DSP0232](#)) has been announced. DSP0232, prepared by the DMTF [Desktop and Mobile Working Group](#) (DMWG), describes the conformance requirements for implementing the Desktop and Mobile Architecture for System Hardware version 1.0 ([DASH 1.0](#)).

CIM Infrastructure v2.4

DMTF has issued a version 2.4 release of the [Common Information Model](#) (CIM) Infrastructure ([DSP0004](#)), which is owned by the DMTF [Architecture Working Group](#). DSP0004 defines: the CIM meta model; the CIM Managed Object Format (MOF), a language based on IDL (the Object Management Group's Interface Definition Language) language; and the CIM qualifiers.

OS Status Profile

This month, DMTF issued a preliminary release 1.0.0a of the OS Status Profile ([DSP1029](#)). Prepared by the [Server Management Working Group](#) (SMWG), DSP1029 extends the management capabilities of referencing profiles by adding the capability to represent operating system name and version information and the state of the operating system, whether it is running, booting, suspended, etc.

OS Status Profile SM CLP Command Mapping Specification

Version 1.0.0a of the OS Status Profile SM CLP Command Mapping Specification ([DSP0842](#)) has also been released by DMTF. Developed in

the SMWG, this specification contains the requirements for an implementation of the SM CLP to provide access to, and implement the behaviors of, the OS Status Profile. DSP0842 provides the command line semantics for finding the name, version and state of the operating systems on a managed node.

Enabled Logical Element Profile

DMTF recently issued version 1.0.0a of the Enabled Logical Element Profile ([DSP1080](#)). Developed by the SMWG, DSP1080 extends the management capabilities of referencing profiles by adding the capability to represent any enabled logical element. The profile describes common requirements for modeling a variety of enabled logical element behaviors within a managed system, including enabled state management, health state, and operational status.

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Trusted Computing Group and DMTF

The [Trusted Computing Group](#) (TCG) and DMTF have been collaborating since 2006 to develop management specifications for trusted drives.

The TCG is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2003 to develop, define and promote open standards for hardware-enabled trusted computing and security technologies, including hardware building blocks and software interfaces, across multiple platforms, peripherals and devices. TCG specifications will enable more secure computing environments without compromising functional integrity, privacy or individual rights. The primary goal is to help users protect their information assets from compromise due to external software attack and physical theft.

As a result of the TCG's alliance partnership with DMTF, TCG-capable Trusted Platforms can be managed in a manner consistent with the existing DMTF methods. TCG Work Groups can leverage the vast experience of DMTF and [Desktop and Mobile Work Group](#) (DMWG) members, ensuring the completeness of the resulting solution. In turn, DMTF and DMWG benefit from the comprehensive security knowledge of TCG members and the trusted computing vision of the TCG. For more information on TCG's alliance partnership with DMTF, [click here](#).

Improving Processes within DMTF

By Josh Cohen, DMTF Vice Chair

Insiders who follow the standards industry already know that it's a significant challenge to align the development of interoperable standard specifications with the development of vendors' products. At DMTF, we strive to address this issue to ensure that customers can have interoperable products from multiple vendors in a reasonable amount of time.

Recently DMTF established a new leadership position, the Vice Chairman of the Board, to tackle this challenge. Aside from standing in when the Chairman is unavailable, the Vice Chairman is responsible for coordinating the organization-wide effort to examine and improve the processes for standardization, industry participation and operation of DMTF.

To facilitate this work and bring together representatives from the DMTF membership in a democratic process, a new committee has been established: the "Process and Incubation Committee," which is headed by the Vice Chairman. With this focused effort and close collaboration with other groups within DMTF, we have achieved a number of significant objectives in this area.

In the past, the wider industry would see specifications from DMTF only after completion of the specification development cycle and their release as Preliminary Standards. With the new "Work In Progress Process," working groups can elect to publish early versions of their work to the public. This allows customers and other interested parties to get a sneak peek at the work going on. They may also review and prototype these early specifications, and then use the DMTF Feedback Process to provide valuable comments to DMTF. By receiving feedback early in the process, DMTF Working Groups can incorporate changes before Preliminary Standard publications, which results in the production of stable standards sooner. The combination of the Work In Progress and Feedback system provides a "beta program" for standards development. We encourage you

Call for Contributors

DMTF invites you to contribute to *Management Matters*. DMTF welcomes letters to the editor, topic suggestions and other contributions. If you would like to participate, email us at press@dmf.org.

to participate! You can find the Work In Progress specifications and instructions for submitting feedback [here](#).

Another area of significant advancement is the "Standards Incubation Process." With increasing frequency, vendors have set up private groups to develop specifications for standards proposals. Often times, these are arranged to allow a group to explore a given technical approach to solving a problem privately, and to validate it before submitting it to the standards process. To provide another option to vendors seeking these kinds of mechanisms, DMTF has created the Standards Incubator Process to enable like-minded vendors to explore a given approach and maintain focus while also providing additional visibility to non-participating members. By having DMTF administer the process, a reasonable balance can be attained between allowing a small group to explore an approach without "too many cooks in the kitchen," while still providing a fair and open process that allow others to review, participate and provide feedback. The Incubator process is defined by [DSP4008](#).

DMTF continues to develop new efforts to deliver interoperable standards in new areas of management. Efforts such as the [CMDB Federation for Configuration Management](#) and [OVF in Virtualization](#) continue to expand the scope and scale of the organization. In addition, the Process and Incubation Committee is hard at work evolving its processes to meet the needs of the organization as it continues to grow.

For more information, please feel free to contact DMTF or myself, Josh Cohen, Vice Chair, at vice-chairman@dmtf.org. I hope to see you at the Management Developer Conference in December!

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Featured Q&A

Question:

Why should I join the DMTF?

Answer:

The DMTF offers several membership levels designed to encourage participation from all those interested in distributed management. Some of the organizations that should consider joining the DMTF ranks include end users, government organizations, vendors, systems integrators/value added resellers and individuals.

While each member of the DMTF may benefit differently, the overall advantages of DMTF membership include:

- Front-line access to information about DMTF standards
- The opportunity to participate in the process of defining these standards
- The synergy of working with other vendors who are addressing similar implementation issues.

EVENTS

Last Chance to Register: MDC

The third annual [Management Developers Conference \(MDC\)](#) scheduled for December 3–6 at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara, Calif., is fast approaching. If you have not [pre-registered](#) already for the event, you may do so by December 1; after that date, please bring your completed registration form to the MDC on-site registration area, where it will be processed on December 3. Before you get onsite, [click here](#) to view the full schedule for this event.

MDC is the industry's only developer conference dedicated to standards based system and network management technologies including:

- [Common Diagnostic Model](#) (CDM)
- [Desktop and mobile Architecture for System Hardware](#) (DASH)
- [Systems Management Architecture for Server Hardware](#) (SMASH)
- [Storage Management Initiative](#) (SMI)
- [Common Information Model](#) (CIM)
- [Web-Based Enterprise Management](#) (WBEM)
- [Web Services for Management](#) (WS-Management)
- [Web Services Definition for Management](#) (WSDM)
- Other standards based management technologies.

The four-day event will also have a Demo and Interop area where attendees can meet and interact with the industry experts who developing and implementing various standards-based management technologies. In this area, the [System Management Forum](#) (SMF) has sponsored a space to demonstrate implementations based on [DASH](#), [SMASH](#) and related tools.

For more event details, [click here](#). We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming MDC, which also happens to be the last DMTF-sponsored event of the year.

CDM Event at MDC

Don't forget to also check out the [CDM System Health Management Industry Showcase Event](#) that will be held December 3 in conjunction with MDC at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara, Calif. DMTF's [Common Diagnostic Model](#) (CDM) Forum will host the full-day event, which will provide:

- An introduction to the CDM Forum
- Background information on the [CDM Initiative](#), development and test tools overview
- An introduction of OEM and third party CDM applications
- Hands-on demonstrations

In the past year, the CDM Forum has made tremendous progress in the launch of the CDM Initiative. The first year of the Initiative focused on

unifying the computer industry on a single interoperable, secure and functionally rich interface for diagnostics. One of the major accomplishments of the CDM Initiative in 2007 has been the development of the CDM conformance test suite (CTS).

The CDM Forum leadership companies--AMD, Broadcom, Dell, HP, IBM, Intel, PC Doctor and Symantec--would like to share these successes, along with their goals for the future, with you at the upcoming industry showcase at MDC. For more details and registration information, [click here](#).

CIM 10th Anniversary Party and Star Awards

Co-located with MDC, DMTF will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the [Common Information Model](#) (CIM) by hosting a party on Monday, December 3, from 5:30-8 p.m. in the California Ballroom at the Santa Clara Marriott. Initially developed in 1997 as a conceptual model to describe the components of managed computing and networking environments, CIM has since expanded to new markets and has evolved to become the most widely implemented information model to-date.

DMTF will toast to the CIM technology with a few drinks and honor our 2007 Star Award winners. MDC attendees are invited to attend the celebration. If you are not registered for MDC, but would like to attend the party, please [RSVP to DMTF Marketing](#). For more information on the CIM 10th Anniversary Party and the Star Awards, [click here](#).

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REGULARS

Member Survey Results: Emerging Technologies

In this series, DMTF continues to report on findings from its annual member survey conducted in January 2007. About 130 members responded at length to our survey. We asked the members to rank the following emerging technologies in the order of importance for his or her company over the next year (1 is most important, 4 is least important):

Emerging Technologies					
	1	2	3	4	N/A
Web Services	48%	22%	9%	7%	14%
Grids	8%	17%	31%	15%	28%
Utility Computing	15%	16%	24%	21%	24%
SOA (Service-oriented architecture)	16%	25%	13%	22%	24%

Quote of the Month

Richard Murch said, in an excerpt from “Why Open Standards Lead to Innovation” in *Autonomic Computing* on Dec. 17, 2004: *“Open standards address long-term, strategic business/industry issues, not simply the short-term, tactical or technical objectives of a single segment or company within the industry. Successful open standards expand the opportunities for the entire industry while providing users with long-term stability for technology. Such standards also provide a sound foundation on which users can base strategic business decisions.”*

Member Feedback Welcomed

We are continually improving our newsletter and welcome your input. Please send any comments or suggestions to press@dmf.org.

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