Management Matters

January 2008

The Distributed Management Task Force Newsletter

Management Matters this month:

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

Message from the President: 2007 – What a Year!

January is always a good time to look back over the year and review the highlights. We had quite a few achievements, changes and firsts. First, we debuted a new initiative last year: DASH (Desktop and mobile Architecture for System Hardware). We also received several new submissions to the organization, including the OVF (Open Virtual Machine Format), CMDBf (federation of configuration management databases) and key pieces of IPMI (Intelligent Platform Management Interface). In addition, DMTF released the CIM (Common Information Model) Schema versions 2.15, 2.16 and 2.17. Also released in 2007 was SMASH 2.0, which not only added new functionality but included new

protocol support to bring SMASH and DASH into alignment by having a common protocol for access. Another big chunk of work that DMTF worked on this year was PMCI (Platform Management Component Intercommunications). The transport and binding specs went out, creating the basis for a silicon level management protocol. The aforementioned work, as well as several key specifications and dozens of profiles released by DMTF, will continue to expand our work in new areas of data center management.

We also reorganized our support infrastructure, moving to Wold Consulting to run our operations, VTM, Inc. and Nereus as our new marketing support and PR firm, and adding Patni to provide program management services for our forums and interoperability activities. These changes improve our ability to support our members and the work they do to develop and promote interoperable management standards.

In 2007, we participated in a number of key events, including the Microsoft Management Summit, BladeSystems Insight, Storage Networking World, Server Blade Summit, Next Generation Data Center Conference, Storage Developer Conference, Fall Intel Developer Forum, Gartner Data Center Conference, and Management Developers Conference.

In addition, we not only held an Alliance Partner Summit, but we also hosted the first-ever International Academic Alliance Workshop in Toulouse, France.

On another alliance front, the UEFI (Unified Extensible Firmware Interface) Forum joined DMTF as an Alliance Partner. DMTF also celebrated two key milestones: the fifteenth anniversary of the organization and the tenth anniversary of CIM.

Looking back on 2007, it has been a very good year with lots of great people doing exceptional work for this organization and the industry. We continue to work to improve our processes and tools to make our organization more effective. Look for our annual membership survey later this month to get provide input on what is working well, and what we can do to improve as we plan our budgets for our next fiscal year, which starts in April.

We still have a lot of work to do, but it is an exciting time. I look forward to working with you in 2008 for an even bigger and better year.

Please contact me with any questions or comments at president@dmtf.org.

Winston Bumpus
DMTF President

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Features

Showcasing the 2007 Star Award Winners

DMTF presents its Star Awards on an annual basis to those members whose volunteer support has significantly contributed to the success of the organization over the previous year. At the Management Developers Conference this past December, DMTF toasted to the following 2007 Star Award winners:

- **Ron Goering, IBM**: As the System Virtualization, Partitioning and Clustering (SVPC) Work Group Co-Chair, Ron worked tirelessly to shepherd the development of virtualization management within the work group and all the other parts of DMTF.

- **Daniel Hiltgen, VMware**: As a contributor to the SVPC work group, Dan's DMTF work portfolio includes involvement in the development of the basic virtualization architecture, how to deal with storage and network virtualization, and contributions to the schema.

- **David Hines, Intel**: As a major contributor to DMTF, David's proposals and dogged pursuit of Opaque Data and wireless NIC support are just a few of his contributions. Not only has he developed the data models for these new areas, but he has also authored the specifications.

- **Michael Johanssen, IBM**: As the architect and editor of the Virtual System Profile (DSP1057) and System Virtualization Profile (DSP1042), Michael has been willing to put in the long hours needed to develop truly excellent profiles.

- **Joe Kozlowski, Dell**: As a crucial member of the Desktop and Mobile Working Group (DMWG), Joe's perseverance to see specifications through to completion has led to his seeing the transfer publication of the Message Registry Specification from WIP and into the Process committee.

- **Larry Lamers, VMware**: As the SVPC Co-Chair, Larry has done an immense amount of work assembling the v2.4 draft of DSP0004, the CIM Infrastructure Specification.

- **Andy Maier, IBM**: As the primary lead of the UML Profile for CIM, Andy continues to be critical to the success of this effort. He is also one of the most prodigious change request authors in the Architecture Work Group.

- **Will Pagán, IBM**: As one of the strongest technical contributors to the System Management Forum (SMF) in its two years of operation, Will has shown constant awareness of the importance of SMF to DMTF and to the industry as a whole, and has led SMF's activities accordingly with great energy to make it achieve its ends.

- **Hemal Shah, Broadcom**: As a key contributor to the DASH and PMCI efforts, Hemal's detailed expertise in network protocols and embedded implementations has been valuable in getting these standards properly specified and referenced in the Implementation Requirements specifications.

- **Nihar Shah, Microsoft**: Nihar has worked on the virtualization architecture in many aspects but is best known for work on the network aspects. Virtual networks is a complex issue, but Nihar has written a white paper and diagrams to help get a solution worked out.

- **Michelle Sibilla – IRIT labs, Paul Sabatier University**: Michelle worked hard to coordinate our October 2007 Academic Alliance Workshop in Toulouse, France. Her tireless work and attention to detail made the event a great success and well-represented DMTF in all of our global Alliances.

Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers, and thank you for your contributions in the development, industry adoption and success of DMTF standards and initiatives!

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Now Available: CIM Schema Version 2.17

DMTF recently made available the next release of the Common Information Model (CIM) Schema, version 2.17. CIM 2.17 is now available for download on the DMTF Web site. The new CIM Schema is the first completely automated build for DMTF. All of the change requests for the CIM 2.17 were applied programmatically, instead of by hand, in an attempt to automate generation of the Schema (automation is seen as a way of increasing consistency and stability, and thereby, quality).

A number of enhancements and additions are introduced throughout the Schema, including ongoing improvements to support products and Alliance Partners and to support DMTF Profiles and Management Initiatives. Members will also see several new significant changes throughout CIM 2.17. For example, a number of classes had become final, particularly around the areas of logs and redirection support. On the experimental side, a great deal of classes went in to support BIOS, printers, standard messages, operating system state, modern power management paradigms, virtualization and security.

Contributions to the CIM schema have been made possible through the DMTF Alliance Partnerships with the Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) and the Open Grid Forum (OGF).

Preliminary Release: DASH 1.1 Standard

A preliminary release 1.1 of the DASH (Desktop and mobile Architecture for System Hardware) Implementation Requirements (DSP0232) has been announced. Driven by the efforts of the Desktop and Mobile Working Group (DMWG), DASH 1.1 includes benefits such as tightened security and protocol requirements for IT deployments.

With the version 1.1 release, DMTF continues to enhance the DASH standard to increase the scope of its functionality and to address growing IT requirements for remote manageability. The DASH 1.1 standard includes new support for provisioning, remote remediation, and additional inventory and component management. For example, this release includes the first industry standard for BIOS management, allowing administrators to remotely change BIOS settings in a platform independent fashion. Other new features are outlined online. To view the DASH 1.1 press release, click here.

TeleManagement Forum and DMTF

The TeleManagement Forum (TMF) and DMTF have been collaborating since 2003 to address harmonization issues primarily between the Common Information Model (CIM) and Shared/Information Data (SID) model. The overall goal of the alliance partnership is to harmonize management architectures in order to simplify management of next generation networks and services.

TMF benefits from its partnership with DMTF by:

- Assisting the development of shared information and data models

- Providing the ability to reuse information in the DMTF's CIM in New Generation Operations Systems and Software (NGOSS) environments.

- Joint positioning with the DMTF on TMF's Enhanced Telecoms

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@dmtf.org.

Operation Map (eTOM) business models and the DMTF's technology oriented models

DMTF benefits from its partnership with TMF by:

- Suggesting updates to CIM Core and Common Models

- Providing the ability to reuse information in the TMF SID model in CIM environments

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Featured Q&A

Question:
Why are DMTF standards and technologies important to the industry?

Answer:
DMTF's focus is to develop and unify management standards and initiatives for enterprise and Internet environments. Working with key technology vendors and affiliated standards groups, DMTF is enabling a more integrated and cost effective approach to management through interoperable management solutions. The use of DMTF standards ultimately lowers operational costs.

Quote of the Month

Pete Loshin said, in an excerpt from "A Virtualization Primer: Paradigm Shifting in the Data Center with Open Standard Virtualization" in B Eye Network on March 27, 2006:

"Open standards, as with the Internet, make it possible to encapsulate applications and services into manageable packages that interoperate with hardware and other applications safely and efficiently through the abstraction layer of virtualized hosting. The importance of having a standard virtualized configuration as well as a standard for running the virtualized software cannot be overstated."

TeleManagement Forum and DMTF – Continued

Customers and vendors of both organizations benefit from this effort by having a consistent model from technology through business perspectives. For more information on the TMF/DMTF alliance partnership, click here.

TMF provides leadership, strategic guidance and practical solutions to improve the management and operation of information and communications services. Its open membership of more than 600 companies comprises incumbent and new–entrant service providers, computing and network equipment suppliers, software solution suppliers and customers of communications services. TMF has been contributing to the Information and Communications Services (ICS) Industry for more than 15 years.

Conformance, Interoperability and Certification

By Sharon Smith, VP of Interoperability

As DMTF expands its scope of influence and publishes an increasing number of specifications, the organization remains committed to fostering compatible multi–vendor implementations based on DMTF technologies. In heterogeneous data centers and other environments in which multiple vendor solutions are the norm, interoperable industry standards enable the integration and flexibility that are key to controlling costs.

The DMTF Interoperability Committee addresses this critical need, helping ensure that member company implementations conform to specifications. Our plugfests and workshops provide an opportunity for companies to perform conformance and interoperability tests, relaying valuable feedback to the associated Technical Committee working groups. Recently, these events have been organized around a particular specification to facilitate interaction among companies that have implementations based on the latest version.

The DMTF Interoperability Committee is chartered to deliver conformance, certification, and educational programs via the Forums that will enable the DMTF member companies to become conformant to and interoperable with CDM, DASH, and SMASH specifications. In the future, we expect that virtualization will become an integral part of the program as well.

The committee is devoted to facilitating vendor conformance to DMTF specifications, interoperability between vendor implementations, and highlighting vendor product certifications. It is presently working to develop a Conformance and Certification program to enhance these efforts. By highlighting products that have been through the Conformance and Certification program now under development, for example, we can increase the value of the DMTF showcase.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact DMTF or myself, Sharon Smith, VP of Interoperability, at vp–interop@dmtf.org.

Presentation at Management World Americas

In November, DMTF was featured at the TeleManagement (TMF) Management World Americas 2007 event. Alex Zhdankin, co–chair of

the DMTF Telco Work Group and official DMTF representative in the ITU-T Next Generation Network Management Focus Group, presented "SLA Management in Next Generation Networks: DMTF and TMF Join Forces to Address the Challenge."

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Presentation at Management World Americas 2007 – Continued

The session focused on the Next Generation Networks (NGN) environment, in which the process of end-user Service Level Agreement (SLA) management involves both Service and Content Provider's network resources and IT infrastructure. TMF works with DMTF to enable Service Assurance and SLA monitoring to be performed transparently across transport and enterprise resources in the context of NGN.

Alex's presentation was a success in bringing DMTF to TMF. To view the presentation online, click here.

DMTF a Success at Gartner Data Center Conference

Valerie Kane, VP of Marketing, and Stephanie Larsen from VTM, Inc. chat with Wayne Adams, VP of Membership Services, at the DMTF booth at Gartner Data Center Conference.

On November 27–30, DMTF attended the 26th annual Gartner Data Center Conference at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada. In just three-and-a-half days, the event brought together roughly 2,000 data center professionals and their business counterparts.

Gartner attendees who stopped by the DMTF booth received an overview of the CDM, DASH and SMASH initiatives, and learned more about the organization and its presence in the industry. DMTF also unveiled two critical announcements while at the Gartner event: the launch of a new open standard for system virtualization management, and the acceptance of the CMDB Federation draft specification. On the analyst front, several Gartner analysts highlighted DMTF technologies at their speaking sessions: Thomas Bittman on Open Virtual Machine Format, Cameron Haight on SVPC work, and Ronnie Colville and Patricia Adams on CMDB Federation work.

DMTF also secured two new members while at Gartner Data Center Conference: ManageIQ and Fortisphere. We proudly welcome these companies into our growing organization!

We would also like to thank member companies Microsoft, Symantec, Avocent, BMC Software, EMC, Brocade, HP, IBM, Oracle, Unisys, CA, Hitachi and VMware for driving traffic to the DMTF booth during the show.

DMTF Activities at MDC

DMTF hosted a number of activities at the third annual Management Developers Conference (MDC), held December 3–6 at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara, Calif. During the course of the four-day event, DMTF featured a Demo and Interop area where attendees met and interacted with the industry experts developing and implementing

Latest DMTF Press Releases

- DMTF Creates Open Standard for System Virtualization Management, Nov. 27, 2007

- DMTF Accepts New Specification for Enabling Federation of System Management Data, Nov. 27, 2007

- The DMTF Common Information Model Achieves 10 Years as an Open Standard, Dec. 3, 2007

- DMTF Releases DASH 1.1 Standard, Dec. 5, 2007

various standards-based management technologies. In this area, the System Management Forum (SMF) showcased demos of implementations based on DASH, SMASH and related tools. The Common Diagnostic Model (CDM) Forum also participated in the Demo and Interop area, where they were able to provide attendees a closer look at CDM providers and applications. There were also dedicated conference tracks focused both on CDM and the DASH and SMASH standards. Experts from various companies presented sessions on the standards, implementation experiences, enablement and test tools, among other topics.

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Member Feedback Welcomed

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

DMTF Activities at MDC – Continued

The CDM Forum hosted its second Showcase event on Monday, December 3, and an all-day CDM track on Tuesday, December 4. The track was attended by more than 50 conference-goers, comprising new and experienced implementers. The track included sessions and demos covering an overview of CDM, development tools for implementers, and an introduction to the Forum's conformance tools and process.

On Monday evening, DMTF highlighted the tenth anniversary of the Common Information Model (CIM). DMTF Members and MDC attendees celebrated the achievement with food and refreshments. CIM, which was initially developed in 1997 as a conceptual model to describe the components of managed computing and networking environments, has expanded to new markets and evolved to become the most widely implemented information model to-date. To learn how pervasive the standard has become, click here to view the press release honoring the DMTF achievement.

DMTF celebrated 10 years of the CIM standard with drinks and cake.

Early in the week, the System Virtualization, Partitioning and Clustering (SVPC) working group hosted its first-ever plugfest. Concurrently, SMF held a two-day plugfest for testing DASH and SMASH implementations. The SMF plugfest was well-attended and gave companies a perfect opportunity to test the interoperability of their latest implementations. The next SMF plugfest is scheduled for March 3-5.

Lastly, DMTF honored the 2007 Star Award winners at the CIM tenth anniversary reception. To learn about the winners and view photos from the event, click here.

Stay Tuned for 2008 Member Survey

Look for the 2008 DMTF member survey, which will be distributed later this month. In addition to the opportunity to share your thoughts with DMTF leadership, as with last year all those completing the survey will have a chance to win some prizes! Starting January 7, watch your inbox for the survey to provide input, comments, critiques or suggestions on the work, progress and goals of DMTF.

Member Survey Results: Work Groups

In this series, DMTF continues to report on findings from its annual member survey conducted in January 2007. About 136 members responded at length to our survey. We asked the members to specify the work groups in which they participate:

DMTF Work Groups

Database	1.5%
Support	2.9%
Behavior	3.7%
Applications and Metrics	3.7%
Security Protection and Management	5.9%
Utility Computing	8.8%
Policy	8.8%
Networks	9.6%
Architecture	11.8%
Pre-OS	13.2%
System Virtualization, Partitioning and Clustering	17.6%
WBEM Infrastructure and Protocols	31.6%
CIM Core	35.3%
Server Management	**50%**

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