

Software Entitlement Working Group Charter

Dated September 4, 2012

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

Management Problem(s) and Environment

The emergence of cloud computing along with virtualization adds additional complexity to software license management for platform vendors, application providers and their customers. The following cases are not considered to be comprehensively addressed by existing standards:

- 1) The ability to discover and enumerate software product usage. This could encompass what instances, users, CPUs or other measurable units that may be running, where (e.g. whether in an operating system on hardware server, or a virtualized or cloud computing environment), with what device, and by whom (i.e. on which processor of a given hardware server).
- 2) The ability to uniquely identify the software licensed product(s) associated with a particular usage.
- 3) The ability to technically express product usage information of licensed product(s) for pre-deployment or reporting purposes. For example, product usage information in a package such as in Open Virtualization Format (OVF).

These difficulties and others combine to increase the amount of effort required to produce an accurate software inventory. When virtualization is used, customers have an opportunity to improve the efficiency, availability and flexibility of their IT systems over time. Customers benefit when approaches to describing and reporting software products and product usage enable product interoperability. Providing these data artifacts, identified in items above, could serve as an input to creation of a framework to support associating licensed software products, product usage and licensing policies.

Charter

This working group will build on the work of the Software License Management Incubator and standards(s) which focus on the challenges listed above to enable the industry to manage licensed software product(s) and product usage, and to move closer to interoperable solutions. For each of these challenges the Incubator identified real world use cases and scenarios, and created a taxonomy of existing or proposed solutions to identify licensed software products and product usage. Where existing standards can address these challenges the incubator enumerated them. Where they do not exist, the Incubator established requirements and made recommendations to fill in the gaps required to address these challenges. The incubator also recommended a solution to these challenges by leveraging or defining extensions to existing work. The purpose of this working group is to create standards to address the requirements, use cases, scenarios and solutions identified. For example:

- The representation of the identity of a licensable product (virtual machine instance, on premise product, etc)
- How it is associated with an instance or operating system
- Who and what (device) are assessing that instance, and
- The ability to discover if and where the licensable product is running.

Licensed software products and product usage may be captured through the use of modeling technologies.

Business Justification

Improving the interoperability with which software inventory and product usage are expressed provides an organization with a host of benefits, including:

1. Improved IT governance through known software standards and processes for product usage that provides data artifacts relevant to software licensing management.
2. A known correlation of relevant software products within an organization's infrastructure and their product usage.
3. Customers can understand their product usage as an input to purchasing decisions.

Interim Chair

- Winston Bumpus, wbumpus@vmware.com

Alliance Partnerships

- TagVault.org
- ISO/IEC
- SNIA: Storage Networking Industry Association

Reliance/Coordination with other WG Models

The Systems Virtualization, Partitioning, and Clustering Working Group including all profiles and the OVF specification.

Application Working Group

SDMP working group

Architecture Working Group

And others TBD

Prior Work

DSP-IS0301 Software Identification and Entitlement Usage Metrics white paper created by the Software License Management Incubator

Current Work – Overview, Deliverables and Timeline

To extend the Common Information Model to capture software entitlement and usage metrics and to deliver the associated profile. :

1. Update CIM to support Software Entitlement and Usage Metrics – Q2 2013
2. Create CIM Software Entitlement and Usage Metrics Profile - Q3 2013

Out of Scope

The WG SHALL NOT take a position, make any recommendations, constrain or define licensing policies. And any such activity is explicitly out of scope for this WG

To join the DMTF and/or the WG, see <http://www.dmtf.org/join/> and <WG link>.