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Volume 14, No.3

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

FEATURES

Message from the President: Time to Renew your DMTF Membership!

By: *Winston Bumpus*, President

By now you should have received your notice and invoice for this year's DMTF membership renewal. DMTF relies on its membership to fund the organization and its programs. Our goal is to make the most effective use of membership fees. The fees allow us to provide members with state-of-the-art tools, Web sites and support services. They are also used to promote and sponsor events and to outreach to media and analysts to ensure broad audience awareness of the important work and standards developed by DMTF.

This is a tough year for many companies and we understand that dollars and resources are tight. Especially now, DMTF provides tremendous value to members. DMTF is globally recognized as a

Upcoming Events

March 16 – 20, 2009
[DMTF Alliance Partner Technical Symposium](#)
San Jose, California

April 27 – May 1, 2009
[Microsoft Management Summit](#)
Las Vegas, Nevada

May 4 – 7, 2009
[Citrix Synergy 2009](#)
Las Vegas, Nevada

September 14 – 17, 2009
[Storage Developer Conference](#)
Santa Clara, California

November 16 – 19, 2009
[2009 Management Developer Conference](#) Santa Clara, California

world-class organization where members feel proud to display their membership. Our standards and interoperability programs help companies reduce costs by using jointly developed specifications to enable increased interoperability of their management solutions. We also believe our dues are lower than those of many other standards bodies and continue to offer significant return on investment for our members.

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Sponsored Events

March 30 – 31, 2009

[First USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Parallelism](#) Berkeley, California

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

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Welcome New Members

[Digibras Industria do Brasil S/A](#)



Message from the President – cont'd

DMTF recognizes the difficult economic times we're all facing. As always, we are committed to spending your money wisely. Moreover, we will not reduce our activities and level of support unless it is absolutely necessary. We are aware that many companies are experiencing travel restrictions to reduce expenses. As a result, many DMTF committees have increased the use of "virtual face-to-face" meetings. While these may not be preferable to actual face-to-face meetings, they allow members to participate who would otherwise be unable to travel. DMTF recently purchased more online collaboration tools that most committees are using. We may be expanding the resources for this in 2009 to help enable further remote collaboration. Despite the difficult economy, we believe our mission is more important than ever to help alleviate redundant efforts within our companies and our industry.

Thank you for your ongoing support and participation as we look forward to another exciting year for DMTF.

VP of Alliances: Join us for the 2009 Alliance Partner Technical Symposium

By: VP of Alliances: *Mark Carlson*

Later this month, DMTF will host its fourth annual Alliance Partner Technical Symposium ([APTS](#)) on March 16 – 20, 2009 at the [Dolce Hayes Mansion](#) in San Jose, Calif. APTS is a perfect opportunity for DMTF members to learn about industry developments as well as a chance to meet and interact with members of the DMTF Alliance Partner organizations.

Each year, APTS offers a full [schedule](#) of meetings focused on DMTF technologies and keynote presentations from selected [Alliance Partners](#). This year will offer more than 100 different sessions, covering a variety of technologies and ensuring all attendees will be able to find several of interest. New technologies featured this year include solid-state storage and cloud computing and storage.

2009 also marks the second annual Green Summit, held in conjunction with APTS. The Green Summit offers sessions keyed around reducing power consumption, increasing efficiencies and managing data cooling sources. Green technology is currently a hot topic in the industry. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how DMTF and its Alliance Partners are working together to manage energy efficiency in the data center.

In addition to providing opportunities for participants to learn about the work of the DMTF Alliance Partners, APTS offers a chance for groups to highlight their own progress with attendees. Session slots are still available. Be sure to [sign-up](#) and schedule your meetings before the event begins.

This year, DMTF will once again jointly sponsor APTS with the Storage Networking Industry Alliance ([SNIA](#)). SNIA's participation in this event allows them to coordinate with DMTF and other partner's workgroups on projects being addressed through the alliance partnerships. APTS is a great venue for showcasing work of interest to DMTF and its Alliance Partners and providing opportunity for further collaboration and information sharing between organizations.

[Registration](#) for APTS is free for all DMTF and Alliance Partner members. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks!

DMTF 'Fast Tracks' standards to ANSI and ISO adoption

By: *Tony DiCenzo*, DMTF Board member and Chair, Standards Sub-Committee

[This is the second in a three-part series that will provide an overview of the DMTF strategy for securing ANSI and ISO adoption of DMTF standards, and the roles played by the International Committee for IT Standards ([INCITS](#)) and DMTF technical working groups and standards sub-committee.]

In DMTF's technical development process, DMTF specifications are released as 'DMTF Standards.' The 'Standard' designation denotes that the specification has successfully completed a rigorous process where it was developed, reviewed and then approved by the DMTF Technical Committee and Board of Directors.

For many customers, having a specification achieve DMTF's 'standard' designation is sufficient quality assurance. However, for some – such as the government and military – standards must be recognized by organizations with legal authority. There are three major organizations that adopt 'de jure' standards:

- The American National Standards Institute ([ANSI](#)), which adopts specifications as American National Standards.
- The International Standards Organization ([ISO](#)).
- International Electrotechnical Commission ([IEC](#)).

DMTF is able to achieve adoption by these bodies through a partnership with the International Committee for IT Standards ([INCITS](#)).

INCITS is formally accredited by ANSI to adopt specifications as standards by following ANSI's complex system of checks and balances of reviews. It is the primary organization for adopting Information and Communications Technology standards. While INCITS develops some specifications through its own system of Technical Committees, it also offers a partnership program called 'Fast Track,' which engages capable standards development organizations like DMTF to have their specifications achieve ANSI adoption.

The 'Fast Track' program streamlines the ANSI adoption process. Recognizing that many organizations have standards development processes similar to the first stages of the ANSI process, INCITS allows specifications submitted by partner organizations to start the process in the "review" stage. If a specification survives intense public review and a series of INCITS and ANSI approval ballots, it is formally adopted as an ANSI standard.

After completing ANSI adoption, INCITS works toward getting ISO and IEC to adopt standards as International Standards. This process is quite different because ISO and IEC only consider specifications submitted to them by agents of national governments. This is made somewhat simpler, however, in that ISO and IEC jointly sponsor the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Partnership for International Standards (referred to as ISO/IEC JTC1) making it necessary to work with only the one organization.

ANSI is the 'national body' agent in the USA, and INCITS is designated to

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.

act on their behalf.

INCITS routinely submits ANSI standards to ISO/IEC JTC1. ISO/IEC JTC1 then subjects them to a full international review. Those that survive the technical and political review are adopted as ISO/IEC International Standards.

DMTF's Systems Management Command Line Protocol (SM CLP) Specification has been adopted as American National Standards INCITS 428-2008 and has been submitted to ISO/IEC JTC1 for consideration as an International Standard. This is an excellent indicator of the benefits of partnering with INCITS. Completion of the review and adoption by ISO/IEC is expected in Fall 2009.

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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@dmtof.org.

Welcome 2009 DMTF Board Members

On Thursday, February 26, DMTF held its annual Members Meeting. During the meeting, voting members elected Citrix as a new member of the DMTF Board and re-elected six members: AMD, CA, EMC, Fujitsu, IBM and Microsoft. These seven members will join the remaining nine DMTF Board members –Broadcom, Dell, HP, Hitachi, Intel, Novell, Oracle, Sun Microsystems and VMware–whose terms expire 3/31/2011.

Please join us in welcoming Citrix to the Board and congratulating our re-elected members. We look forward to a great year!

Putting the New DMTF Standards Approval Process in Place

Last month DMTF Chairman, Mike Baskey, wrote an article discussing the new approval process for DMTF Standards. As we begin implementing this process, we wanted to share the DMTF plan for transitioning to the new system.

The DMTF standard release process requires a 30-day member review period for all Draft Standards. The DMTF Technical Committee (TC) is working with the Sub-Committees (SC) and Working Groups (WG) to transition all currently published documents marked “Preliminary” to “Standard.” The WGs & SCs are in the process of notifying the TC of any “Preliminary” documents that should be automatically transferred to “DMTF Standard” as well as when to expect an updated version for any specification not automatically going standard.

Any document not automatically transitioned to DMTF Standard will stay Preliminary while waiting for the WG/SC to provide an update. Any documents still marked “Preliminary” after 90 days will be changed to “Work In Progress” with a six-month expiration timeline.

Beginning March 3, 2009, the TC will coalesce the responses into a transition plan for each individual specification. Since some of these specifications reference each other, a certain amount of coordination and prioritization is necessary. In the case of profiles, this means that a CIM Schema update may be necessary in order to ensure that referenced CIM Schema Elements are part of the Final version of the CIM Schema. We expect this process to take about 60 days. The TC will monitor the dependency lists and resolve any conflicts throughout.

Documents not yet published have already started following the new process. When specifications are ready for Membership Review, an email is sent by the VP of Technology to the general membership, indicating that the comment period, including a call for Essential Patent Rights, is open. You can find the [specifications under review](#) any time in the Members’ area of the DMTF Web site.

Ultimately, the new process will eliminate “preliminary” and “final” as stages in our specification development process, optimizing our specification development process and aligning DMTF with the rest of the industry.

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New DMTF Documents Available to Members

Standards

[DSP0243 1.0.0e](#) (Open Virtualization Format Specification for DMTF Standard): The Open Virtualization Format (OVF) Specification describes an open, secure, portable, efficient and extensible format for the packaging and distribution of software to be run in virtual machines.

[DSP8023 1.0.0](#) (OVF Envelope XSD): The OVF Envelope XSD is the XML schema specification for the Open Virtualization Format. The OVF Specification 1.0.0e specifies how this schema shall be used.

[DSP8027 1.0.0](#) (OVF Environment XSD): The OVF Environment XSD profile is the XML schema specification for the Open Virtualization Format. The OVF Specification 1.0.0e specifies how this schema shall be used.

[DSP1002 1.0.0b](#) (Diagnostics Profile): The information in the Diagnostics profile should be sufficient for a provider or consumer of this data to identify unambiguously the classes, properties, methods and values that shall be instantiated and manipulated to represent and manage the diagnostic service components of systems and subsystems modeled using the DMTF CIM core and extended model definitions.

Work In Progress

[DSP0252 1.0.0c](#) (Configuration Management Database (CMDB) Federation Specification): Many organizations are striving to base IT management on a Configuration Management Database (CMDB). A CMDB contains data describing the following entities: managed resources, such as computer systems and application software, process artifacts, such as incident, problem and change records and relationships among managed resources and process artifacts. The contents of the CMDB should be managed by a configuration management process and serve as the foundation for other IT management processes.

White Papers

[DSP2017](#) (Open Virtualization Format White Paper): OVF is a hypervisor-neutral, efficient, extensible, and open specification for the packaging and distribution of virtual appliances composed of one or more virtual computer systems. The target audience of this white paper is anyone who wants to understand OVF and its reason for development.

Alliance Partner Feature: Storage Networking Industry Alliance

The Storage Networking Industry Association ([SNIA](#)) and DMTF have collaborated since 1999 to advance the adoption of storage networks as complete and trusted solutions. DMTF's alliance partnership with SNIA has provided a channel for DMTF to exchange information on requirements, design input and standards review feedback.

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Alliance Partner Feature: Storage Networking Industry Alliance – Cont'd

SNIA is a non-profit organization committed to delivering standards, education and services that will propel open storage networking solutions into the broader market. Comprised of some 400 member companies and nearly 7,000 individuals spanning the global storage market, SNIA connects the IT industry with end-to-end storage and information management solutions. To learn more about the DMTF and SNIA alliance partner work register, [click here](#).

SNIA has been working on DMTF's Common Information Model ([CIM](#)) and the Web-Based Enterprise Management ([WBEM](#)) standards and has been contributing work to DMTF via the Storage Management Initiative Specification (SMI-S), an ANSI INCITS ratified SNIA storage technology based upon the aforementioned DMTF standards. DMTF is also relying on SNIA to supply storage management models for the continued development of CIM. This includes, but is not limited to, the management of Storage Arrays and File Systems, including Network Attached Storage (NAS), iSCSI, Fibre Channel Fabrics, Host based storage and Information Lifecycle Management (ILM).

This month, SNIA joins DMTF to host the 2009 Alliance Partner Technical Symposium ([APTS](#)). This event will take place in San Jose, Calif. from March 16 – 20, 2009.

Events

2009 DMTF Alliance Partner Technical Symposium

Hosted by DMTF and jointly sponsored by the Storage Networking Industry Association ([SNIA](#)), the fourth annual Alliance Partner Technical Symposium ([APTS](#)) will take place in San Jose, Calif., March 16 – 20, 2009. DMTF's VP of Alliances, Mark Carlson, will lead the event.

This year's event will once again offer meetings focusing on technical topics and addressing the technical work of interest to each of the [DMTF's Alliance Partners](#).

Alliance Partner organizations expected to attend include:

- Blade Systems Alliance
- Object Management Group
- Open Grid Forum
- Printer Working Group
- Storage Networking Industry Association
- TeleManagement Forum
- The Open Group
- The Green Grid
- Trusted Computing Group
- Unified Extensible Firmware Interface

Each day kicks off with breakfast, general announcements and an Alliance Partner Keynote address. There are more than 100 individual presentation and meeting sessions available during APTS. Take a look at the schedule [here](#).

For More Information*DMTF Membership*

503.220.1655 (main line),
503.296.2432 (fax) or visit
the [DMTF Web site](#).

Editorial Staff

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Kavi Corporation®, Web Design
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Regulars

2009 Survey Results: What CIM Schema format is the most important for your company's development needs?

In this series, DMTF continues to report findings from its annual member survey conducted in January 2009. One hundred twenty-five members responded at length to our survey.

We asked what CIM Schema format is the most important for your company's development needs.

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
MOF	42.4%	53
XML	44.8%	56
HTML	6.4%	8
Other	6.4%	8

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