Management Matters

February 2009

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.

FEATURES

Message from the Chairman: New Specification Naming Process Helps Clarify DMTF Progress

By: *Mike Baskey*, DMTF Chairman

DMTF has an exciting year ahead with a full event schedule and plans for continued industry development. We're looking forward to continuing to work creatively and collaboratively with our members, both within the organization and with our many alliance partners.

We're starting the year off with one important change to our specification naming process. The change involves the elimination of the "preliminary" stage in the evolution of DMTF specifications, which go from draft form into final standards. From now on, DMTF will refer to specifications as one of the following:

1. Draft Standards– specifications released for review by DMTF members

2. Standards– specifications that have been released to the general public by a Parent Committee

In addition to providing consistency with the rest of the industry, there were two key motivations for this change. The first, the term "preliminary" was creating confusion in our external communications. Outside vendors looking to implement our specifications were often uncertain about the maturity level of specs and whether they should wait to implement.

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Message from the Chairman – cont'd

In addition to providing consistency with the rest of the industry, there were two key motivations for this change. The first, the term "preliminary" was creating confusion in our external communications. Outside vendors looking to implement our specifications were often uncertain about the maturity level of specs and whether they should wait to implement.

The second motivation was to encourage early adoption and implementation experience by the industry. With the old process, vendors tended to wait for specifications to change from "preliminary" to "final" instead of actively implementing the standard as it is ratified by members. Iterative development of these standards is the norm for the industry so this is a normal evolution that is captured through the versioning system. Now, as other standards organizations are expected to leverage DMTF's work (and with the delegation model hopefully increasing the sphere of influence of DMTF's core activities) it's even more important for us to get our work out into the industry, while using a consistent processes that makes it easier to work with DMTF.

The elimination of the preliminary phase for our standards development does not diminish the importance of the implementation experience. Workgroups and forums are expected to continue to focus on interoperability, plug fests, etc. and factor those into the development of the specs. In some ways, they become even more important in ensuring the quality of the specification.

There's lots of work ahead for the organization this year – advancing the interoperability programs from the Systems Management Forum (SMF) and Common Diagnostic Model (CDM) Forum, and building the momentum around virtualization are key focuses. Our new naming process will help us clarify our progress in key areas and provide consistent information for the industry moving forward.

We appreciate all the work our members have contributed over the last several years and look forward to working with all of you again this year.

DMTF and INCITS Partner in ANSI and ISO Adoption of DMTF Standards

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

This is the first in a three-part series that will provide an overview of DMTF's strategy for securing ANSI and ISO adoption of our standards, and the roles of the International Committee for IT Standards (INCITS) and DMTF committee, sub-committees, and working groups play in this process.

In April 2008, DMTF announced that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), had adopted the DMTF Systems Management Command Line Protocol (SMCLP) specification as an American National Standard, which would henceforth be designated in the ANSI catalog as ANS INCITS 438-2008.

This was a noted achievement by the DMTF Board. After many years of hard work, ANSI recognized DMTF standards. The Board planned that recognition from the International Standards Organization (ISO) would not be far behind.

ANSI and ISO adoption are important designations for our standards because many product designs conform to what are called 'de jure' (by law) standards. Public sector customers limit their purchase to products that conform to ANSI and ISO standards. They have to do this 'by law'. For this reason, the DMTF Board decided to partner with the International Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) to help gain ANSI and ISO adoption.

INCITS is accredited by ANSI to adopt IT specifications as American National Standards (ANS). Under their accreditation, specifications follow a detailed, ANS-approved review process that includes conceiving of the specification, engineering work and development, technical and business reviews and a final open public review where companies with patents necessary to implement the standard are indentified and license terms are established.

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DMTF and INCITS Partner – cont'd

Specifications that successfully complete the ANS process are officially adopted by ANSI. INCITS recognizes that organizations like DMTF develop their specifications using a process which meets many of the ANSI requirements and allows these organizations to participate in what is called a 'Fast Track' version of the process. This subjects specifications to only the last four steps in the seven-step ANSI process.

INCITS and DMTF executed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006 which established a formal relationship between the two organizations, and the rest is history. DMTF submitted its first specification (the SM CLP standard) to INCITS for adoption under the Fast Track program in 2007 and ANSI adopted the specification in February 2008.

INCITS also had a hand in helping DMTF with ISO. The ANSI accreditation allowed us to submit the adopted specifications as ANSI standards to ISO for adoption as International Standards. The standards are submitted to an organization called 'JTC1' which is a joint undertaking of ISO and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), another international standards organization. Since our specifications have already been approved as American National Standards, they are allowed to enter JTC1's 'Fast Track' process, which similarly reduces the ISO approval process to the final few steps.

Most American National Standards submitted to JTC1 by INCITS are adopted by ISO and IEC, so DMTF's chances of having success with ISO are very good.

Renew Your DMTF Membership Now – Join us in 2009!

The 2009 Membership renewal season is just around the corner and we're all gearing up for another exciting year. If your company has not done so already, now is the time to renew your membership with DMTF.

DMTF will issue renewal notices later this month. Payment for the next membership year is due by April 1, 2009, marking the beginning of DMTF's fiscal year. Your timely renewal is greatly encouraged and appreciated. If you would like to be invoiced or would like to provide a purchase order (PO) for your FY2009 dues, please contact us today.

If you have questions about your invoice or this year's membership dues, please feel free to contact DMTF secretary, Kes Wold. Thank you to all our members for your continued support. We look forward to working with you again in 2009!

Mark Your Calendars: DMTF Annual Meeting of Members and Board Member Elections

The 2009 DMTF Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. PST. Additionally, members will vote to fill seven board seats that will open when the current term expires on March 31, 2009. This meeting is an opportunity for members to learn about the achievements of the past year and help set the direction for the year ahead. Please join us and help determine the ongoing leadership of our organization. The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Members will be held as a conference call.

The call-in information for this meeting is available here.

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.

Because each Board member company will be elected by vote of a majority of the members entitled to vote in such an election, we strongly encourage voting members (those belonging to Board or Leadership level companies) to participate and vote. Each company will receive one vote, regardless of the number of company representatives in attendance. In case of a conflict, your company's vote will be determined by the company contact on file with DMTF. Click here to find the contacts for each company.

If your company contact listed is incorrect, please forward the updated contact information to the DMTF admin.

Click here for additional information about the Annual Member Meeting. Thank you for your participation in this event!

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Alliance Partner Feature: The Open Group

This month we spotlight DMTF Alliance Partner The Open Group, a vendor and technology–neutral consortium dedicated to enabling access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. The consortium's global membership represents both commercial and government enterprises.

DMTF and The Open Group have collaborated for a number of years to advance multi–vendor interoperability in the systems management environment. In May 2007, DMTF and The Open Group, along with fellow alliance partner the Network Applications Consortium (NAC), announced the publication of the Core Identifier Framework Matrix, a document that provides both a reference point for identifier classifications, and a basis for selecting an identifier form for a global standard common core identifier.

This month, from February 2 – 6, 2009, The Open Group will host three co–located events: The 21st Enterprise Architecture Practitioners Conference, The 1st Security Practitioners Conference and The Enterprise Cloud Computing Summit. All three events will take place at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley, each with its own presentations and track sessions presented by industry experts on a variety of topics.

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.

To register for this event, click here. For more information about this event or to find out how to participate, please contact DMTF Administration.

Member Feedback Welcomed

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

Regulars

2008 Survey Results: Is the DMTF focused on the management disciplines most important to my company?

In this series, DMTF continues to report findings from its annual member survey conducted in January 2008. 106 members weighed in on this question.

We asked members to determine if the DMTF is focused on the management disciplines most important to their Company.

Answer Options	Response Frequency	Response Count
Strongly Agree	18.5%	25
Agree	57.0%	77
Neither disagree or agree	18.5%	25
Strongly Disagree	1.0%	1
Disagree	5.0%	7

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