

DMTF and The Open Group Go Beyond “Press Release Partnership”

Driven by buyer and supplier members frustrated over disjointed markets and incompatible technologies, this alliance produced practical results

*A Case Study on The Open Group’s Alliance with the
Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF)*

November, 2002 (updated February 2005)

DMTF and The Open Group

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Document No.: Y021

Published by The Open Group, November, 2002 (updated February 2005)

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Executive Summary

In 1998, the Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF) determined that The Open Group offered complementary expertise and programs. They forged a formal alliance with The Open Group, with the two organizations holding different roles in the lifecycle of open standards. It is a move that continues to differentiate The Open Group-DMTF partnership in the world of IT standards. Deliverables of the alliance directly meet certain user requirements for enterprise manageability and increase the value of membership associated with both organizations.

DMTF develops management standards. The Open Group puts the standards to work by focusing on the “how to” of interoperability. The combined expertise and output are integral to achieving **Boundaryless Information Flow**.

“A classic case of one plus one equals three.”

A Sum Greater than the Parts

“A classic case of one plus one equals three.” That’s how Winston Bumpus, President of the Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF) and Director of Open Technologies and Standards at Novell, Inc., describes the long-term partnership between DMTF and The Open Group. “We had members in both organizations working on different parts of standards-based solutions and figured out how to work together.”

DMTF develops management standards. The Open Group puts the standards to work by focusing on the “how to” of interoperability around management technology and on certification.

While members of many standards groups shun certification schemes – vendors who create the standards don’t always want their products to conform to them – this was not true for DMTF’s members. Their move toward The Open Group proved their expressed commitment to accelerated adoption of management standards and interoperability among management solution providers.

Initially, the joint work began with visions that overlapped. The Open Group’s Enterprise Management Forum (EMF) aimed for: (1) open systems standards that deliver both visibility and control of the components and services that are deployed to implement business processes, and (2) test suites and certification programs that deliver the assurance of conformance and interoperability. DMTF wanted to lead the development of management standards.

2002: A Year of Solid Results

From those exploratory first meetings, the collaboration advanced to specific results with several of The Open Group’s Forums – including EMF, the Directory Interoperability Forum, and the Mobile Management Forum (MMF). In 2002 alone, multiple projects began serving technology consumers. For example:

- OpenPegasus, a royalty-free, open source implementation of the DMTF Common Information Model (CIM) and Web-based Enterprise Management (WBEM) standards was announced in April 2002. A project of The Open Group’s EMF, OpenPegasus is distributed under the MIT open source license and – in just months – was something that systems management solution vendors servicing roughly eighty percent of the market had begun to implement. It is designed to be portable and highly modular. OpenPegasus runs today on most versions of the popular operating systems.
- DMTF and The Open Group also moved forward with mobile computing in 2002. In July, The Open Group’s MMF and DMTF established a plan to accelerate adoption of mobile standards and

DMTF and The Open Group

promote interoperability for mobile solution providers. The initiative covers architecture, security, and management.

“One of the things I find as a key value proposition of The Open Group is its ability to be a standards integrator and a provider of certification services for various standards,” says Bumpus. “In the future, I am certain the DMTF and The Open Group will continue to find ways to cross-leverage the strengths of the two organizations.”

About the DMTF

The Distributed Management Task Force, Inc. (DMTF) is the industry organization that is leading the development, adoption, and interoperability of management standards and initiatives for desktop, enterprise, and Internet environments. DMTF is chartered to adopt, create, and maintain the specifications and technologies that provide management tools with the ability to discover, deploy, and control management data in a standard way. Working with key technology vendors and affiliated standards groups, DMTF is enabling a more integrated, cost-effective, and less crisis-driven approach to management. Companies interested in joining the DMTF or obtaining more information about the DMTF standards and activities of the DMTF Working Committees should visit the DMTF website at www.dmtf.org.

About The Open Group

The Open Group is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standards bodies. Its role is to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and Open Source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service, including UNIX® system certification. Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.