PWG BOF

Printer MIB Extension for MFP Devices

January 19, 2006

Las Vegas, Nevada

Ron Bergman - Chairman Printer MIBs Working Group

Attendees:

Ron Bergman	Ricoh Printing Systems, America
Lee Farrell	Canon
Harry Lewis	IBM
Ira McDonald	High North
Stuart Rowley	Kyocera
Ole Skov	MPI Tech
Jerry Thrasher	Lexmark
Bill Wagner	TIC
Craig Whittle	Sharp Labs
Pete Zehler	Xerox

Introduction:

A need has been expressed for a extension to the Printer MIB, or some other method, to allow a multifunction device to report alerts generated by the non-printer portions of the device. A brief presentation provided a review of the Printer MIB Alert Table structure an explanation of why the Alert Table does not support multi-function devices. The presentation also included sources of background information to assist in the development of new MIB multi-function features. The presentation did not intend to propose a specific method to solve the stated problem, but rather contained the basis for a work group starting point.

The presentation slides can be found at:

ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/BOFs/AlertsExtension/AlertTableExtForMFPs.pdf

The purpose of the BOF was to determine if there is sufficient interest in the subject to form a working group.

Discussion:

A suggestion was made that easiest change possible to solve the problem is to extend the information bits in hrPrinterDetectedErrorState. This proposal, however, does not provide the detailed information that would be provided in an alert and there may be further issues if traps are required. Also, the number of new bits added could be unreasonable. However, it should be investigated further by the work group.

It is possible to provide the necessary MIB support by simply defining the necessary group enumerations that define the multi-function subsystems. This would also be a change that can be quickly implemented, since the required new enumerations only need to be defined and then registered with IANA.

For full alert table functionality a small MIB may be necessary. A MIB will provide the capability to define multiple instances of a subunit type and also provide additional information, such as a descriptions, regarding the subunit. Creating a MIB, even a small MIB, will be a longer development. However, the project could be developed in stages where the first part would just define the group enumerations and then the MIB would be a follow up effort.

Ira pointed out that although the IETF does not allow extensions to an IETF MIB-2 arc to be published by an outside organization. It would be possible to publish the document as an internet draft and then later as a PWG/ISTO document if the IETF refuses to publish as an RFC.

Ira also noted that a modem is modeled as an interface in existing work. The modem was included as an item in the presentation to emphasis that it is a subject that is presently not addressed in the Printer MIB.

The subject of Internet Fax was also briefly discussed. This will become a topic of the work group only if there is sufficient interest.

Conclusion:

There appears to be sufficient interest in this topic to start work on a charter and a study of the background material. Anyone who is interested in joining the core team, please contact:

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