

Status of the Printer Working Group Projects

April 1998

The April PWG meeting was held in Portland, OR during the second week of April. A summary of the status and activities of various PWG subgroups was presented, Wednesday morning, and is reported below.

Next meeting...

Crystal City Marriott
1999 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA

Price: \$169 (room) + Meeting expenses
Deadline: April 27, 1998

Make your reservations now by calling 703-413-5500.

Ask for the "PWG" rate or "Lexmark"

Printer MIB Project

The updated Printer MIB is finally making progress through the IETF. A new Host Resources MIB, which includes the requested extensions to printer error state definitions, has been issued and the Printer MIB underwent a 2 week "last call" which expired 4/2. During this final scrutiny several editorial necessities were revealed which should be completed by 4/24.

Job MIB Project

The Job MIB has been submitted to the IESG for consideration as an Informational RFC. The IETF met, last week, but evidently gave no consideration to the Job MIB. We need to get the attention of the area directors.

Once the Job MIB receives an RFC number, it will remain information in the IETF but will become the first official PWG standard, registered under the PWG enterprise OID. We need a better definitio of the PWG procedure for establishing such standards, whether or not they relate to other standards bodies. Roger, Tom, Harry and Don will draft a process, for review. See (*PWG Approval process*) below.

The only activity for JMP, now, is the on notifications - the method, types, format and content. These meetings have been moved into Thursday so they overlap with IPP (Server-to-Device protocol) since both projects are working on notification.

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Finisher MIB Project

The Finisher MIB project is making very good progress. The draft is undergoing clarification and terminology additions. There is a new proposal for handling constraints in attempt to recognize that a finisher may be capable of performing several functions individually but, together, some functions may preclude others. The FIN MIB is still lacking a conformance statement, a compile test and complete IETF like terminology to turn it into an Internet Draft (Should, Shall etc.). Appx 2-3 more FIN meetings are projected before completion. If there are any "lurkers" with issues, please bring them forward NOW!

P1394

SBP2 has already been chosen as the method for delivery of print data over IEEE1394. Now, the topic is defining methods to employ SBP2 on the target (printer) side. Unordered delivery methods are favored for performance reasons. The P1394 group is also investigating function discovery, especially how much configuration ROM space will be needed for low-cost peripherals to support discovery of features (like Fax, Print, Scan, channels and protocols).

The P1394 group is currently defining the print command set including Print, Cancel, and Notification. They are beginning to scope some real implementations and anticipate an interoperability demo late in the year.

SENSE Notification Protocol

SENSE is an event notification architecture, first conceived to reduce the need for polling with the printer MIB. SENSE is a potential option for IPP notifications but is currently in a holding pattern as IPP attempts to look at notification requirements and alternatives.

Universal Printer Driver

Last month's meeting was widely attended but followed by little or no activity. No requirements have been proposed. No one volunteered to chair. If no one wants to work on it, moth ball it. It seems like a topic that no one wanted to be left out of but no one wants drive. Microsoft has offered the GPD format as a standard but the spec, which is in NT5.0 Beta DDK, has not been published to the PWG as such, for consideration by members who might not have the DDK (software developers, NIC vendors etc.)

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IPP - Internet Printing Protocol

IETF has reviewed IPP requirements for notifications. Area director (Keith Moore) indicated IPP should define the request mechanism inside IPP (only) and not define the delivery mechanism. The suggestion is that other working groups may have notification needs, as well, and delivery should be addressed by a separate working group.

The next IETF meeting is August 24-7 (Chicago) and we hope to close IPP there and then.

Scott is working on an LDAP directory scheme. There seems to be little other future IPP work.

Keith Moore is reading the IPP documentation and has had a few questions about the model document details. He has commented that the documentation is a bit complex. A summary draft would be in order. Peter has a test guide of mandatory operations which we may suggest Keith look at. Keith also feels that fidelity should apply to individual attributes, not the whole print job. He felt this would make the implementation simpler.

The Internet Draft defining URI is in trouble. We used URI instead of URL. This could hold us up. TLS also not out yet. Expect to hear April from IETF. Potential for them to upset Post vs. Print. Would a new method ("PRINT") be passed by standard WEB servers? We think they would just pass it down to the CGI script.

No news regarding interoperability testing or the possibility of taking IPP to ECMA.

NC Printing

NCMG PWG group is focusing on a pragmatic profile based on LPR, Postscript and PCL to get stuff out quickly. They plan to add IPP following its ratification by the IESG. This approach is not without opposition and will be reviewed at the broader NCMG meeting in a couple weeks.

IBIP

Public meetings report.

The US Postal Service "Information Based Indicia Program is not a PWG workgroup, but a report was given on the USPS Industry Guidance Group meeting in Las Vegas, March 11/12. Basically, IBIP is moving ahead, focusing mainly on the SOHO market, using PDF417 as the bar code format. Several companies have PC software products ready to offer.

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PWG Approval process

There was a brief discussion about how we should let people know that we've completed work. Who do we need to let know? If we need a Press release, how do we pay for it? Need internal procedures first. Need to know, ourselves, when something is done, what it is called etc. A PWG web page column is one vehicle. Need a group to write a proposal and review.

Tom, Roger, Harry, Don to submit a proposal.

1. **What is the scope? Maintenance of existing PWG standards. Coordination of PWG standards.**
2. **What is the process? E-mail, snail mail, show of hands...?**
3. **What do we call it. How do we label it as a standard?**
4. **How do we spread the word?**