

PWG WIMS/CIM Alignment Conference Call Minutes September 29, 2008

Attendees

Rick Landau	Dell
Ira MacDonald	High North Inc.
Glen Petrie	Epson
Bill Wagner	TIC
Pete Zehler	Xerox

General

- Meeting was convened at 11:00 EDT on 29 September.
- The September 8 minutes (ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/wims/minutes/cim_080908.pdf) were approved.

Counter CRs

- All of the CIM Counter CR were corrected, submitted and approved. They will be in release 2.20 which should be out in a Month or so.

CIM provider Progress

- Rick indicated continued progress, with the code now “reflecting” CIM requests.
- Sufficient MIB walk responses have been received so that no more are required just now.
- Rick agreed that Ira’s analysis of the enum request was correct, that notations starting with an “f” (e.g., 'fDirect=prtXxx') refer to functions. The point was made that, while some of the longer MIB enum lists map directly to the CIM values, occasional MIB inconsistencies and out-of band (minus values) as well as the default values in the prtGeneral group require that the mapping include a case-by-case analysis. Ira will provide mapping information in a week or two.

Incidental Observations on Printer MIB Implementations

- In reviewing the MIB Walks, two observations were made that affect the CIM provider implementation and probably affect other management applications:
 - The lack of support for the extended input group (and to a lesser extent, the extended output group)
 - Enclosing string values in single or double quotation marks.

- Although not in violation of RFC 3805, these practices do interfere with the usability of some management applications. It was suggested that a Printing MIBs FAQ might be a good way to publicize these and other MIB pitfalls.

Print Service, Print Job, Print Queue MOFs

In approaching the update of these MOFs, Ira intended to use IPP Basic and IPP extension elements, largely mirroring the IPPv2 effort in identifying the important elements. However, to follow the practice of incorporating in the initial MOF updates only those elements that already are manifest in a reasonable number of products, Ira concluded that only those elements in the basic the basic IPP standard (RFC2911) plus information in the PWG Media Names document could reasonably be used.

The rationale for restricting elements to those which can be reasonably demonstrated is this allows firming up of the MOF rather than keeping it classified as “Experimental” and subject to change. Adding more elements to a MOF in the future as these elements are implemented is a relatively easy process.

MFD CIM Effort

With the Scan Service document nearing completion in the WFD group, the question of if, when and by whom a CIM effort should be started for scanning. Both Pete and Ira agreed that such an effort would be several years off, after the PWG model is implemented in multiple units and manufacturers. That rationale is similar to that described above – the CIM effort should reflect existing equipment to prevent it from staying in “experimental” state for an indefinite time. Further, it was suggested that it might be best to complete the definition of all MFD services as well as have multiple implementations.

Next Steps Issues/ Action Items

- No new action items. We still need some volunteers to take on the Printer Profile so that the non-print specific aspects of a network printer can be addressed. The Profile would also be a starting point if we plan to address the Power Control aspects in which Microsoft seems interested.
- Next WIMS/CIM conference call at 11 EDT, 13 October.

Bill Wagner