Minutes of the PWG

Web Based Monitoring and Management Provo Face to Face – December 2, 2003

Harry Lewis
Bill Wagner
12/02/03

Attendees

- Jeff Christensen – Novell
- Lee Farrell, Canon
- Kentaro Ide, Seiko Epson
- Harry Lewis, IBM (Secretary)
- Ira McDonald, High North (by phone)
- Jerry Thrasher, Lexmark
- Ted Tronson – Novell
- Bill Wagner, NetSilicon (Committee Chairman)
- Peter Zehler, Xerox (by phone)

General

Face to face meeting held at the Novell Executive Briefing Center in Provo, UT.

Review of WBMM Working Draft

PWG Working Draft document wd-wbmm01-20031121 was used as the basis for a through review of the WBMM specification.

Ira began with an overview, explaining that WBMM is not a highly interactive management protocol in terms of the conventional request/response model. With WBMM, a Management Station has no access to a Managed Entity until that entity (or its proxy) sends a RegisterForManagment to the Management Station. The Managed Entity may send a GetSchedule immediately after it registers. It is anticipated that, after that, the bulk of communications is guided by the Schedule and will be initiated by the Managed Entity. This design was chosen to facilitate firewall traversal with typical firewall setup.

Once a Managed Entity successfully registers with a Management Station, the Management Station may send a SetSchedule to preempt (or perhaps add to) the schedule that a managed entity may have previously obtained with a GetSchedule. We still need to address whether a SetSchedule overwrites the existing schedule, whether it supplements the existing schedule, or whether this should be controlled by an argument or inherently (e.g., any "immediate" action does not erase or otherwise affect any previously scheduled

action). In any case, if a SetSchedule operation includes an UpdateSchedule action, the schedule obtained as a result of the operation requested by that action will completely overwrite any previous schedule. That is, the SetSchedule operation with an UpdateSchedule action acts as a "tickle", causing the Managed Entity to retrieve a schedule of management or monitoring related actions via a GetSchedule operation.

There are currently five WBMM operations associated with the Managed Entity Interface, one WBMM operation for the Management Interface and 20 Actions which are communicated via the Schedule. A WBMM operation is a method which has a WSDL definition and is directly invoked. A WBMM Action describes an administrative activity but is conveyed from the Management Station to the Managed Entity via the Schedule rather than via a direct operation.

We reiterated that it is important not to assume a HTTP binding. Some implementations may choose SMTP, for example, for firewall traversal under all circumstances.

Design Review Changes

Bill Wagner made several changes and clarifications to the document "on the fly" as they were discussed. Some of these were graphical and difficult to capture in a set of text minutes. Please see the latest posting of the WBMM Working Draft for a complete set of changes.

a. We renamed the Execute operation to SetSchedule as this is its entire true effect.
b. We discussed the fact that SetSchedule may require a parameter to describe whether or not to overwrite the existing schedule. For example, "one-shot" actions may be invoked via SetSchedule which are not intended to displace the existing, recurring behavior pattern. We did not resolve this.
c. We clarified that Register / UnRegister does not pertain to event notification. To clarify we renamed these to RegisterForMgnt and UnRegisterForMgnt. To further clarify, we renamed (Un)Subscribe to (Un)SubscribeForAlerts
d. Exceptions to WBMM operations are currently t.b.d. We need a work effort to define WBMM exceptions. Examples are badURI, notAuthorized, notRegistered etc.
e. We will very likely be adding new elements for metering which are not currently supported in the standard Printer MIB. Xerox has a pending proposal. This will result in a ISTO Printer MIB extension draft as well as extensions to the PWG common semantic model.
f. We discussed the fact that a proxy is VERY likely in the managed imaging system (fleet). Initially, the proxy will be a pragmatic component due to the large number of legacy devices being managed. In the future, even if a majority of devices and services implement WBMM natively, the proxy will be essential for federating authenticated communications across the fleet.

g.   We removed the combined actions such as PausAndDisable recognizing that the desired effect can be achieved through combined Actions in a Schedule. We will document which combination of Actions corresponds to existing IPP Administrative combined operations.
h.   We removed DeleteElements from the specification
i.   Added an argument to SetElements to indicate reset to defaults
j.   We discussed tying WBMM progress to the completion of referenced IPP drafts and decided not to burden WBMM with the potential controversies or complexities that we might encounter with such an approach. We will align with the unfinished IPP drafts as closely as possible.,

Additional Work Items

We outlined the following additional work items in priority order.
1.   Report schema - Open
2.   Alert schema - Ira
3.   WBMM Alerts and Subscriptions appendix. - Open
4.   Resource schema - Ira
5.   WBMM Resource appendix - Open
6.   Continue alignment efforts with Oasis, DMTF etc.
     a.   DMTF mapping – Harry.

Next meeting – Conference Call

Time: Noon Eastern (9am Pacific) Wednesday 10, December 2003

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