SNIA™
Storage Management Initiative

SMI-Lab 11 Plugfest #1

On **January 24 - 28, 2011**, the SMI-Lab held its first plugfest of 2011 at the SNIA US Technology Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Those in attendance represented Dot Hill, EMC, Microsoft, HP, Inova, WBEM Solutions, and SNIA. Additional participants called in—from Dell (Jeff Rose was unable to fly out of snowy Texas), Hitachi Data Systems, EMC, and PMC-Sierra.

Themes were WS-Management , performance, and CTP 1.5. Kevin Kuelbs, HP, of the DMTF CDM Forum, led discussions re Diagnostics Profile integration. Madhu Jujare, Microsoft (see below) and Mike Walker, retired, also presented. Mike solicited input re SMI-S V2.0 proposals.

Jim Davis and Karl Schopmeyer supported plugfest attendees.

Microsoft: "Management of virtual machine storage using SCVMM and SMI-S"

Madhu Jujare of **Microsoft**, supported by **Michael Richmond** presented to the group. According to Madhu, "SCVMM must work with heterogeneous storage from different vendors, and SMI-S provides uniform code." Madhu expressed surprise at the number of providers in the lab. He and Michael started testing Microsoft's SCVMM (System Center Virtual Machine Manager) against array providers, and they were able to show interoperability with quite a few arrays. Madhu added, "The face-to-face really helps because we get feedback immediately. I am able to resolve issues side by side and can reach resolution before leaving."

Rich Roscoe, EMC, commented on Microsoft's presence at the plugfest: "One of the things that has been lacking is client feedback on improving the spec. Microsoft is not only using the spec but providing well-thought out examples of things to consider changing in upcoming versions of SMI-S. They have a vested interest in the spec."

Dot Hill: Synching up with other array and client vendors

Mike Smith, Dot Hill: This is the first time that Dot Hill was at a plugfest for their own product, although Mike was an early participant in SMI-Lab plugfests. Mike hoped to synch up with other array and client vendors and ensure that Dot Hill's product, the DHS 3000 series of arrays, interacts properly with SMI-S clients. His company is preparing for CTP 1.5 testing, and he received help from James Rigger, CTP Manager.

Impressions from first-time EMC attendees

EMC sent four people to the plugfest**. Silva Andre** and **Marco Isobe** travelled to Colorado from Brazil, and **Donald Song** flew in from Seattle to join **Rich Roscoe,** a frequent plugfest attendee**.**

Don: "It's good to have direct access to some of the industry experts, like Jim and Karl. All presenters have been useful, and I got to talk to people who created SMI-S. I put face to names; that increases the quality of connections." Don also expressed interested in Microsoft's move to WS-Management. For Marco, the greatest benefit was getting in touch with higher levels of infrastructure—how it works, what SMI-S means, what they support.

Attendees respond: "What do you like about the plugfest?"

The benefit of face-to-face contact is often mentioned when attendees are asked, "What do you like about the plugfest?"

Rich Roscoe, EMC: "We've just formed new relationships with a bunch of new clients."

Madhu Jujare, Microsoft: "I liked that we could give feedback re SMI-S V2." "We get resolutions."

Marco Isobe, EMC: "When you work offshore and get to meet the people, collaboration increases."

Working things out face to face

Mike Smith, Dot Hill: "We get testing feedback and make changes. Throw it over the wall here and let people test it and find out about issues early in the cycle."

Michael Richmond, Microsoft: "It's nice to see all the other providers."

Announcing SMI-Lab 11 Plugfest #2

Next plugfest: March 28 - 31, 2011, SNIA US Technology Center

Proposed themes: Security, ScaleFest, CTP 1.5.

Clients and developers from SMI-Lab member companies are invited. Visit www.snia.org/smilab to register and view details.

For information about the SNIA Storage Management Initiative, contact Tom Mancuso (tom.mancuso@snia.org) or visit www.snia.org/smi.