SMI-Lab 11 Plugfest #2

On March 28 - 31, 2011, the SMI-Lab held its second plugfest of 2011 at the SNIA Technology Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Companies participating were Dot Hill, EMC, Microsoft, NetApp, Hitachi Data Systems, Inova Europe, Pillar Data Systems, SAV Innovations, WBEM Solutions, S.J. Baker Consulting, PMC Sierra, and SNIA.

 Themes: ScaleFest, Security, and CTP 1.5

ScaleFest: Testing Scalability

Microsoft was represented by Madhu Jujare and Alex Naparu. Madhu presented “Management of virtual machine storage using SCVMM and SMI-S.” He noted that his main goal of the event was to test out scalability of Microsoft’s provider—running a script to create many concurrent virtual machines. “It’s really handy to have engineers here so we can resolve an issue in half an hour talking to an engineer next door.” He noted that having more vendors at this plugfest was valuable. Alex, who was attending his first plugfest, noted that “people seem to be really interested in our product. They’ve been asking me a lot of questions.”

Security and CTP 1.5

Mike Smith of Dot Hill, returned to this plugfest with several goals—one was to understand why clients want security. He also took the opportunity to talk to James Rigger, Conformance Testing Programs (CTP) Manager, because Dot Hill wants their product to pass CTP 1.5. He tried “to do as much testing as I can” and to “understand who’s implemented what.”

Scott Baker and Jerry Duggan, with long histories in the SMI-S world, were invited to this plugfest to support CTP. They have been focusing on the test spec and implementation of code. Scott and Jerry were anxious to meet with those driving and/or using CTP and to obtain feedback from plugfest attendees.

First-timers (including the 2nd generation)

Johnny Hwang of NetApp, attended the plugfest for the first time, and he follows in the footsteps of his father, Eric Hwang, who attended SNIA’s earlier plugfests. Johnny stated that his goal was to fix issues but discovered he primarily experienced the plugfest as a learning experience—he "learned about the SMI-S standard from a non-provider point of view; it’s difficult to get products to work together."

Loren Chea of Pillar Data Systems, another first-time attendee, explained that he came to the plugfest to learn about SMI-S and was impressed with the "really nice facility." He’s been working on the interface to a storage system and found it interesting to learn how Microsoft will use SMI-S. Purushottam (Nitin) Sane was happy that he could "put a face to a name" as he helped Rich Roscoe diagnose interoperability issues for EMC.

Team-building at Phantom Canyon

At every Plugfest, attendees mention "meeting face-to-face" as one of the valuable take-homes. They connect names and faces and have built relationships that will ease communication and problem-solving. On Tuesday, attendees dined together at Phantom Canyon Brewery.

SMI-Lab 11 Plugfest #3: May 23-26, 2011, SNIA Technology Center
Visit www.snia.org/smilab to register and view details.

“The value of the Tech Center is to be able to access equipment we do not have in our lab.”
-Madhu Jujare, Microsoft

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