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Subject: Draft Principles of Cooperation (Rev. 3) between INCITS/T11.5 and the Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) for Consideration

From: Roger Cummings, INCITS/T11.5 Chairman

INCITS/T11.5 has submitted the attached Draft Principles of Cooperation (Rev. 3) between INCITS/T11.5 and the Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) for consideration at the February 2003 meetings of the INCITS Standards Policy Board and Executive Board.

DRAFT PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION Rev 3

This document defines a set of draft Principles of Cooperation (PoC) between the Technical Steering Group of the Storage Management Initiative within the Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) and Task Group T11.5 of INCITS Technical Committee T11. The PoC concerns developments in both organizations with regards to the management of Storage Networks. It recognizes that there is significant commonality of membership between the two organizations.

Principles

The following principles are proposed to represent the joint understanding of the two groups:

1. The SNIA SMI Group is producing a specification which defines an common & extensible transport for management information, and is based on an object-oriented modelling approach. Part of that definition are profiles of use of existing CIM definitions which are appropriate for various different types of equipment found within storage networks. These profiles detail how a client manages a specific type of device/service, and are specifically structured to allow multi-vendor clients and servers to interoperate. A number of revisions of the specification of a planned over a multi-year period.
2. T11.5 is considering the consistency of information reported by all of the sources of management information currently found in a storage network and planned for storage networks of the future, and multiple methods by which that information is communicated. These methods include the T11 Generic Service definitions, CIM, SNMP and other standardized methods, plus a number of unstandardized methods. Initial projects focus on inventorying existing attributes and methods, and subsequent ones will identify missing information and define, using an abstract grammar, strategic extensions to support future management techniques. A specific goal of all of the T11.5 activity is to accelerate the transition of management applications away from the use of insecure, non-extensible legacy communication methods. Multiple projects are planned for T11.5, and the Task Group is expected to be active for multiple years.
3. SNIA is creating Change Requests (CRs) to the DMTF for the inclusion of amendments and extensions in CIM that are needed to support functionality defined in SMI, beginning with CRs against CIM 2.7 to support Rev 1.0 of the SMI Specification (SMIS). SNIA is not by itself producing extensions to CIM. Further CRs for incorporation in later CIM revisions are anticipated.
4. T11.5 will not produce definitions for amendments and extensions to standards which it has not produced, but instead will liaise with the owning organization to address any issues raised. Specifically, T11.5 will liaise with the SNIA SMI Group on issues related to CIM.
5. SNIA will provide T11.5 with early access to development versions of its SMI specification and related definitions, and will copy T11.5 (by email c.c. to the T11.5 reflector or document posted on the T11 web site) on any CRs submitted to the Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF). This information is for the purpose of having T11.5 consider these definitions in regard of its various projects, and specifically with regard to its efforts to ensure the consistency of management information. This early access will take place is when such information is distributed outside of the developing groups and made available to the entire membership of SNIA. Such information will be posted to the T11 web site, in an area reserved for, and clearly

identified as being, SNIA information. T11.5 will be pleased to limit the review of this information to bona-fide members of T11.5 (by methods such as password-protected zip files) if this is so requested by SNIA. Where T11.5 member organizations are also members of SNIA, the process will be that the comments submitted by those organizations will be forward to their designated SNIA SMI representative for action. When comments are generated on this information by T11 members who are not SNIA members, those comments will be collected by the T11.5 Chair who will consolidate & communicate them to SNIA (including entering them into any bug-tracking process as appropriate).

6. T11.5 will closely coordinate with SNIA on its ongoing projects and documents, and will solicit SNIA input on both project proposals and its ongoing developments. Note that by T11 procedures, all T11.5 information (draft Standards and Technical Reports and even all proposals) are publicly-available from the T11 Web site at <http://www.t11.org>. It is NOT necessary for SNIA members to become members of T11.5, or to pay any other fees, to have access to this information via the T11 web site.
7. The SNIA SMI group & T11.5 will each appoint an individual whose organization is a member of both entities to provide regular liaison reports, which will be posted to both web sites.
8. T11.5 will be pleased to assist the SNIA SMI as appropriate in its choice of method to publish and promulgate the SMI specification. Such methods may include, but not be limited to, the pursuance of accreditation for SNIA as a standards developer, the submission of the SMI specification for FastTrack processing, the creation of a joint project between SNIA & T11.5, or the provision of the SMI specification to T11.5 as a starting point for a new T11.5 project.

ANNEX A - Organizational Backgrounds

SNIA

SNIA is a trade association founded in 1997 which currently has in excess of 150 member organizations worldwide dedicated to “ensuring that storage networks become complete and trusted solutions across the IT community”. SNIA is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado where it maintains an Advanced Technology Center which is available to member organizations for the purposes of testing and interoperability demonstrations. SNIA co-organizes with ComputerWorld set of in-depth tutorials and a number of interoperability demonstrations at the twice-yearly StorageNetworkingWorld conferences, and organizes a number of other educational events for the benefit of the industry. The Storage Management Initiative began in mid-2002 as a result of SNIA as adoption of the “Bluefin” SAN management interface specification that had been proposed by a number of SNIA member companies. The SMI is driving The SNIA SMI program is driving the storage industry to implement the first common, extensible, highly functional and interoperable management transport (SMIS) based on the on Common Information Model (CIM) and Web Based Enterprise Management (WBEM) technology pioneered by the Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF).

Task Group T11.5

T11 is the Technical Committee within the International Committee for Information Technology Standardization (INCITS), which is itself an Accredited Standards Committee of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). T11 and its predecessors have been producing industry standards related to storage equipment since the early 1980's, and in particular has authored the IPI, HIPPI, and most recently the Fibre Channel, families of standards. T11 operates in close coordi-

nation with Technical Committee T10, which is responsible for the SCSI family of standards. T11 currently has 69 member organizations, and 50 of the standards that it has authored are currently in force with another 20 projects in various stages of development. Task Group T11.5 was created in August 2002 and specifically chartered to “take an all-inclusive approach to the definition of device level interfaces between management applications and all devices in a storage network”. T11.5 held its first meeting in October 2002 and presently has 34 member organizations. At its inception three projects which were already under way within T11 were transferred to T11.5, including the FC-HBA Project which used as its starting point a document created by SNIA, and another project which is documented in a MIB that is widely used throughout the storage networking industry. Two other projects recently approved for T11.5 focus on raising the consistency of information reported via various different management schemes. The scope of T11.5 specifically requires it to use existing management schemes and protocols to the maximum extent possible, and to consider management of storage networks incorporating technologies that were not developed within T11.