Distributed Management Environment (DME): Dead or Alive ?

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Panelists: *J. Scott MARCUS*, Bolt Beranek and Newman, Inc., U.S.A.
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The Open Software Foundation's Distributed Management Environment (DME) effort was undertaken several years ago amidst great expectations and much fanfare. DME promised a standardized management framework, a consistent set of management applications, and a common user interface technology. Software Management, License Management, and Print Services were identified as key applications. A Data Engine was designed to allow for a shared object model, with objects distributed by Object Servers. Management Request Brokers were designed to provide connectivity between applications and objects. Event Management Services were designed to allow applications and administrators to be notified of problems and changes.

For all its promise, DME is not yet pervasive in customer environments. The challenges it faced highlight the difficulty of designing standards for fields dominated by niche players. Lance Travis will review the original design of OSF/DME, its current status, and future outlook. J. S. Marcus in "Icaros, Alice and the OSF DME" will comment on the disparity between the "management technology we would like to have, and the technology we are capable of successfully delivering". Nguyen Hien will discuss the OSF Data Engine and the technical challenges its designers and developers faced. To assess the successes and failures of DME, the panelists will discuss the difficulties of developing a shared management information model, the value and pitfalls of object-oriented technology, and the difficulties of integrating software developed by disparate organizations into a coherent offering.