Minutes of the PWG *Web Based Monitoring and Management* Conference Call

March 31, 2004

Harry Lewis
03/31/04

Attendees

- Lee Farrell, Canon
- Harry Lewis, IBM
- Ira McDonald, High North
- Jerry Thrasher, Lexmark
- Bill Wagner, NetSilicon
- Peter Zehler, Xerox

General Discussion

We reviewed and accepted minutes from the March 24 conference call.

Most of today's discussion focused on counters (as opposed to operations or actions which have been stable for some time in WBMM).

There was general discussion about whether WBMM should assume accessibility to job information as a design point. Ira thinks it may be rare (due to privacy aspects of security) for engagements to allow service provider access to enterprise job data. This restriction would make it difficult to extract metering (and billing) information from job data (ex. Job XYZ invoked some finishing feature). Others pointed out that it may be desirable to extend "use based billing" in a fleet environment down to the individual job level. Some of the IPP FAX and PSI requirements appear to call for this. No conclusion. This may be something we need to address in a future version of WBMM.

IPP FAX / PSI Requirements

The IPP FAX working group submitted a list of requirements to WBMM which include managing

- Certificate creation
- IPPFax on/off
- Logging level
- Cover sheets

- Separator sheets
- Archiving (on/off)
- Job History
- Accounting counters
- Billing
- Mgmt operations such as purge jobs and pause printer
- Installation of new firmware
- PDF flavors

Some of these requirements are already covered by WBMM and others are broad enough in scope that they may require extensions resulting in a follow-on version of WBMM. PSI has generated a similar list, which Bill will merge for future discussion.

Network Traffic

We discussed defining elements to characterize network traffic (percent utilization). We decided this is too costly to meter which would have to be done at the communications controller kernel level. Thus, we will remove network utilization elements from our ToDo list. We left open the possibility of adding message or KOctet counters on a per service (per channel) basis.

Counter MIB

Ira re-wrote the counter MIB which had initially combined 6 object groups in one table, encouraging sparse MIB operation and vulnerable to poor implementations. The new approach breaks the counter MIB into 6 conditionally mandatory tables. This approach will translate better into schema and also accommodates addition of new finishing counters into the counter MIB rather than extending the Finishing MIB (this reverses a decision made, last week, to respond to the UP3i by adding new finishing metrics to the Finisher MIB).

TO DO:

- Refine semantics of the high-water mark elements
    - Elements for setting thresholds
    - What to call these elements and where do they live in the MIB and the abstract model.
    - Issues with "polluting" an otherwise read-only counter MIB with settable elements. Is this a security issue?
    - Should we address this with a policy table in the counter MIB?
    - Role of HR MIB (replicate or reference)
- Once defined, add High-water mark elements to the PWG Semantic Model

- Decide whether or not to add message or KOctet counters per service (per channel). See "Network Traffic" - above
- Crisp up definition of storage counters and then plug them in to counter MIB and semantic model.
- Combine and filter the IFX and PSI requirements for WBMM.
- Carried forward - Improving "best practices" in MIBs, SNMP, DMTF and WSDM is still a topic. Proposed new "Coherent Cross Management Infrastructure" (CXMI?) working group in the PWG.
    1. SNMPv3 is beginning to surface as a requirement with some government and enterprise customers
    2. There have been recent changes to MIB-II (separating out the Interfaces table and adding a few new attributes
    3. Debate over whether we should be emphasizing renewed focus and effort on SNMP vs embedded support for WBMM
    4. There is hope that advertising a new working group, which spans several technology efforts, may attract more attention and greater adoption of the result.

Next Conference Call

The next WBMM conference call will be in 2 weeks.

Time: Noon Eastern (9am Pacific) April 14, 2004

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