

Setting the standard for utility computing

Discover the industry's first standard for the data center

fact sheet: data center markup language

- EDS, Opware and key industry leaders are introducing the industry's first unifying language for the data center, Data Center Markup Language (DCML). DCML is the first vendor-neutral, open language to describe data center environments, dependencies between data center components and the policies governing management, and construction of those environments. Because automation and utility computing systems require a common understanding of the environment under management, DCML is a necessary precursor for realizing the benefits of utility computing.

Advantages

Empowers corporations with the most detailed, accurate and up-to-date information about their data center environment

Enables you to implement and upgrade management systems more quickly and easily

Maximizes the value of any utility computing investment through common language

Reduces the time needed to achieve value from utility computing initiatives

Enables rapid implementation and upgrades of automation, utility computing and management systems

What is DCML?

DCML provides the first standard model to describe both a recipe and a blueprint of one or more data center environments. Much as a culinary recipe provides both the list of ingredients and the instructions for successfully combining them, DCML provides both an inventory of data center elements and the desired functional relationship between them. Just as an architectural blueprint establishes an easily understood, multidimensional plan for constructing or replicating a building, DCML can be used to provision or reproduce a complete data center infrastructure - with all of its component relationships, dependencies, configurations, operational policies and management processes.

DCML encompasses a wide array of data center elements, including UNIX, Linux, Windows and other servers, software infrastructure and applications, network components, and storage components. The adoption of DCML will help organizations realize the benefits of utility computing: greater operational efficiencies, increased visibility into data center environments and operations, and reduced time and cost to implement strategic IT initiatives such as data center security, consolidation, disaster recovery, metered service delivery, and operations outsourcing.

Features

Provides both an inventory of data center elements and the desired functional relationship between them

Captures component relationships, dependencies, configurations, operational policies and management processes

Standardizes environment and policy information between and among IT systems

Utilizes an open, XML schema that describes the data model and semantics

Compatible with and complementary to other existing IT management standards

Benefits

Greater operational efficiencies through a common representation of the data center environment, blueprint and policies that all systems can leverage

Seamless interoperability among DCML-compliant data center utility computing, automation and management systems

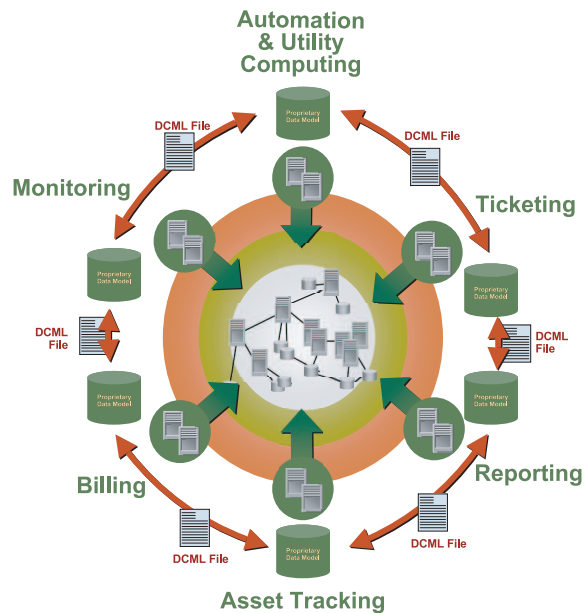
Rapid deployment, upgrading and patching of servers, applications and management/automation systems

Open, vendor-neutral schema gives customers the ability to choose best-of-breed solutions for data center management

Increased visibility into data center environments and operations

The power of DCML

By most industry accounts, the promises of utility computing are 10 years or more in the future. DCML innovations significantly reduce that wait. The explosion of complexity and scale inside the data center, combined with pressures for cost reductions and quality improvements, requires a proactive response. DCML provides the competitive advantage needed to unlock the promises of utility, enabling your corporation to realize the benefits more quickly and with less frustration.



DCML provides a vendor-neutral dialect for automation and other management systems to exchange information

Realizing the promises of utility computing

IT automation and utility computing initiatives promise lower cost, higher quality and more efficient IT systems management. For utility computing to become a reality, a common standard for exchanging critical environmental and policy information across servers, applications, and tools is required inside the data center. DCML is that standard, and here is why:

- **DCML goes beyond components.** DCML not only describes the components running in the data center, but also captures best practices, operational policies and dependencies.
- **DCML applies to new and legacy management solutions.** DCML captures information relevant to new automation and utility computing solutions, and also helps customers extract additional value from existing management solutions.
- **DCML offers a standardized way to describe and share environment and policy information between IT systems.** This includes system management tools, monitoring tools, automation and utility computing systems, performance management tools, and asset management systems.
- **DCML provides a blueprint for the data center.** DCML describes how to construct, replicate and recover systems under management, enabling automation of *ad hoc*, manual processes such as provisioning, scaling and securing data centers.

What's next for DCML?

Many industry leaders support DCML through membership in the DCML Organization (www.dcml.org) and are teaming with EDS and Opsware to meet the industry's need for a unifying standard in the data center. Membership in the DCML organization is open to all qualified applicants. Members will meet regularly as a working group to refine the specification and address changing market requirements. We welcome new companies into the DCML organization.

dcml Data Center Markup Language