



Open Specifications for Service Availability

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SA Forum Addresses Hardware-Software Integration with Latest Specifications

Release 6 includes new Platform Management Service that enables network equipment providers to achieve true service availability

BEAVERTON, Ore. – October 21, 2008 — The [Service Availability Forum](#)™ (SA Forum) today announced the availability of Release 6, an enhanced set of specifications that for the first time addresses the interaction between hardware events and software entities. Release 6 introduces a new service called Platform Management that bridges the SA Forum's Hardware Platform Interface (HPI) and Application Interface Specification (AIS), enabling greater service availability, application portability and platform usability.

The Platform Management Service (PLM) integrates the hardware world of HPI and the software world of AIS to provide a standardized system view and enable service availability. This representation allows developers to match configured systems with hardware that is actually present in a device, allowing software to easily access relevant hardware states using a standardized model.

"Platform Management is a critical component of the carrier-grade base platform as defined by the SCOPE Alliance," said Paul Steinberg, SCOPE Alliance chairman. "SCOPE has worked closely with the SA Forum to address specification priorities and gaps, and we're pleased to see the continuing progress that the SA Forum has made to enable true service availability."

"Hardware-software interaction is a critical function for high availability applications," said Ulrich Kleber, SA Forum Technical Work Group chair. "The addition of Platform Management to the SA Forum family of services provides the final piece for implementers to build a complete carrier-grade base platform using SA Forum specifications."

Release 6 also includes enhancements to the Cluster Management Service (CLM) and the Availability Management Framework (AMF), making use of PLM's inherent fault correlation support. This enables application developers to create applications that must be highly

available. The increased functionality enables processes doing global validation, or multiple processes to react to the changes.

Additionally, Release 6 provides significant improvements to the interfaces for HPI firmware upgrades and clarifies the process for hot swap management, further enabling application portability across a variety of hardware platforms. Other enhancements allow libraries to create threads controlled by the user and allow dynamic updating of resources in a running system.

“We are excited to offer such significant advancements to our specifications, all while maintaining backward compatibility with previous versions,” said Asif Naseem, SA Forum president. “Our technical groups have worked hard to ensure the Release 6 specifications continue to improve and enhance functionality for products utilizing the SA Forum interfaces, which in turn help to foster a vibrant commercial off-the-shelf ecosystem.”

The Release 6 specifications can be downloaded free of charge at www.saforum.org/specification.

About the Service Availability Forum

The Service Availability Forum™ (SA Forum) is a consortium of industry-leading communications and computing companies working together to foster an ecosystem that enables the use of commercial off-the-shelf building blocks in the creation of high availability network infrastructure products, systems and services. To achieve this goal, the SA Forum develops and publishes high availability and management software interface specifications while promoting and facilitating their adoption by industry. SA Forum membership offers the opportunity to help frame and implement the Service Availability solution. For more information, visit www.saforum.org.

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