

SCOPE Alliance Update

Last December the SCOPE Alliance first introduced itself to the AdvancedTCA newsletter readership. Much has happened during 2007, it's been a busy year for SCOPE and profile development.

The SCOPE Alliance was established in 2006 by leading Network Equipment Providers Alcatel (now Alcatel-Lucent), Ericsson, Motorola, NEC, Nokia and Siemens (now Nokia Siemens Networks). Its mission is to help, enable and promote the availability of open carrier grade base platforms based on Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) hardware / software and Free Open Source Software (FOSS) building blocks, and to promote interoperability to better serve Service Providers and consumers.

SCOPE is not a standards organization, nor does it develop specifications, it creates profiles. These profiles identify gaps, prioritize features of existing open specifications and provide guidance to ecosystem suppliers, standards developers and product implementers. The suite of profiles covers all major elements required to create an open standards based carrier grade platform – Linux, Middleware, ATCA, and AMC.

The alliance grew significantly during 2007 adding thirteen new members including Nortel who further reinforced its commitment to SCOPE by becoming a sponsor member and joining the Board of Directors. Now totaling 28 leading industry players from the telecom supplier and developer ecosystem, SCOPE has released 5 profiles/documents during 2007.

- **Carrier Grade Middleware Profile v1.0**
- **Carrier Grade Linux OS Profile v1.2**
- **AMC Port Map Gap-Analysis v1.0**
- **ATCA profile v2.0**
- **Carrier-Grade Middleware Profile v2.0**

Version 1.0 of the **Carrier Grade Middleware Profile** was released in February. The specifications developed by the Service Availability Forum act as the foundation for this profile. It considers two primary areas focused on the Application Interface Specification. The first defines and prioritizes the SA Forum services that should exist in any carrier grade middleware services implementation. The second records requirements for third-party applications and components that execute within a system using SAF compliant middleware. In September a companion profile **Carrier-Grade Middleware Profile v2.0 was released**. The v2.0 profile adds the identification and definition of perceived gaps in current SAForum specifications. The aim of these profiles is to provide direction to the ecosystem leading to an increase in interoperable carrier grade elements. High priority gaps were noted in the areas of Comprehensive MW statistics and measurements, hardware management and the Trace service.

The **Carrier Grade Linux OS Profile** was extended in April with the release of **Version 1.2**. Collectively the three CGL profiles complete a comprehensive set of definitions, requirements and priorities for the Linux Foundation's Carrier Grade Linux™ Specification 4.0. Together, CGL profiles 1, 1.1 & 1.2 describe the mandatory features as well as "gaps" in the specification. The updated CGL profile represents the critical elements required in a Linux Operating System distribution when creating Control and Service Plane Network Elements.

The PICMG ATCA and AMC specifications were the focus of profiles released in July - **AMC Port Map Gap-Analysis v1.0 & ATCA 2.0**. The AMC profile aims to narrow the number of options contained within this specification. It makes specific recommendations and highlights gaps for both AMC and MicroTCA. The first ATCA profile was released in 2006 and following extensive feedback, significant extra detail was added to the v2.0 profile. With so many options defined within the ATCA specifications a lot of work went into defining gaps and priorities for this profile to

enable the creation of compatible and interoperable building blocks resulting in easy to integrate Carrier Grade Base Platforms.

The suite of profiles developed by the SCOPE Alliance are helping to focus the efforts of the whole open standards ecosystem. Through this cooperative work the end goal of advancing the market for COTS based open carrier grade platforms is drawing ever closer.

Full SCOPE documents and profiles may be viewed and downloaded at www.scope-alliance.org/docs.html