
Information technology — Redfish scalable platforms management API specification

Technologies de l'information — Spécification API (interface de programmation d'applications) relative à la gestion des plates-formes évolutives Redfish

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CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
www.iso.org

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by the Distributed Management Task Force, Inc. (DMTF) (as DSP0266) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was adopted, under the JTC 1 PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

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Foreword

The Redfish Scalable Platforms Management API ("Redfish") was prepared by the Scalable Platforms Management Forum of the DMTF.

DMTF is a not-for-profit association of industry members dedicated to promoting enterprise and systems management and interoperability. For information about the DMTF, see <http://www.dmtf.org>.

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1. Abstract

The Redfish Scalable Platforms Management API ("Redfish") is a new specification that uses RESTful interface semantics to access data defined in model format to perform out-of-band systems management. It is suitable for a wide range of servers, from stand-alone servers to rack mount and bladed environments but scales equally well for large scale cloud environments.

There are several out-of-band systems management standards (defacto and de jour) available in the industry. They all either vary widely in implementation, were developed for single server embedded environments or have their roots in antiquated software modeling constructs. There is no single industry standard that is simple to use, based on emerging programming standards, embedded friendly and capable of meeting large scale data center & cloud needs.

2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated or versioned references, only the edition cited (including any corrigenda or DMTF update versions) applies. For references without a date or version, the latest published edition of the referenced document (including any corrigenda or DMTF update versions) applies.

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3. Terms and definitions

In this document, some terms have a specific meaning beyond the normal English meaning. Those terms are defined in this clause.

The terms "shall" ("required"), "shall not", "should" ("recommended"), "should not" ("not recommended"), "may", "need not" ("not required"), "can" and "cannot" in this document are to be interpreted as described in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Annex H. The terms in parenthesis are alternatives for the preceding term, for use in exceptional cases when the preceding term cannot be used for linguistic reasons. Note that ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Annex H specifies additional alternatives. Occurrences of such additional alternatives shall be interpreted in their normal English meaning.

The terms "clause", "subclause", "paragraph", and "annex" in this document are to be interpreted as described in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Clause 5.

The terms "normative" and "informative" in this document are to be interpreted as described in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Clause 3. In this document, clauses, subclauses, or annexes labeled "(informative)" do not contain normative content. Notes and examples are always informative elements.

The following additional terms are used in this document.

Term	Definition
Baseboard Management Controller	An embedded device or service, typically an independent microprocessor or System-on-Chip with associated firmware, within a Computer System used to perform systems monitoring and management-related tasks, which are commonly performed out-of-band.
Collection	See Resource Collection.
CRUD	Basic intrinsic operations used by any interface: Create, Read, Update and Delete.
Event	A record that corresponds to an individual alert.
Managed System	In the context of this specification, a managed system is a system that provides information or status, or is controllable, via a Redfish-defined interface.
Member	A Member is a single resource instance contained in a Resource Collection
Message	A complete request or response, formatted in HTTP/HTTPS. The protocol, based on REST, is a request/response protocol where every Request should result in a Response.
Operation	The HTTP request methods that map generic CRUD operations. These are POST, GET, PUT/PATCH, HEAD and DELETE.
OData	The Open Data Protocol, as defined in OData-Protocol .
OData Service Document	The name for a resource that provides information about the Service Root. The Service Document provides a standard format for enumerating the resources exposed by the service that enables generic hypermedia-driven OData clients to navigate to the resources of the Redfish Service.
Redfish Alert Receiver	The name for the functionality that receives alerts from a Redfish Service. This functionality is typically software running on a remote system that is separate from the managed system.
Redfish Client	Name for the functionality that communicates with a Redfish Service and accesses one or more resources or functions of the Service.
Redfish Protocol	The set of protocols that are used to discover, connect to, and inter-communicate with a Redfish Service.

Term	Definition
Redfish Schema	The Schema definitions for Redfish resources. It is defined according to OData Schema representation that can be directly translated to a JSON Schema representation.
Redfish Service	Also referred to as the "Service". The set of functionality that implements the protocols, resources, and functions that deliver the interface defined by this specification and its associated behaviors for one or more managed systems.
Redfish Service Entry Point	Also referred to as "Service Entry Point". The interface through which a particular instance of a Redfish Service is accessed. A Redfish Service may have more than one Service Entry Point.
Request	A message from a Client to a Server. It consists of a request line (which includes the Operation), request headers, an empty line and an optional message body.
Resource	A Resource is addressable by a URI and is able to receive and process messages. A Resource can be either an individual entity, or a Collection that acts as a container for several other entities.
Resource Collection	A Resource Collection is a Resource that acts as a container of other Resources. The Members of a Resource Collection usually have similar characteristics. The container processes messages sent to the container. The Members of the container process messages sent only to that Member without affecting other Members of the container.
Resource Tree	A Resource Tree is a tree structure of JSON encoded resources accessible via a well-known starting URI. A client may discover the resources available on a Redfish Service by following the resource links from the base of the tree. NOTE for Redfish client implementation: Although the resources are a tree, the references between resources may result in graph instead of a tree. Clients traversing the resource tree must contain logic to avoid infinite loops.
Response	A message from a Server to a Client in response to a request message. It consists of a status line, response headers, an empty line and an optional message body.
Service Root	The term Service Root is used to refer to a particular resource that is directly accessed via the service entry point. This resource serves as the starting point for locating and accessing the other resources and associated metadata that together make up an instance of a Redfish Service.
Subscription	The act of registering a destination for the reception of events.

4. Symbols and abbreviated terms

The following additional abbreviations are used in this document.

Term	Definition
BMC	Baseboard Management Controller
CRUD	Create, Replace, Update and Delete
CSRF	Cross-Site Request Forgery
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol over TLS
IP	Internet Protocol
IPMI	Intelligent Platform Management Interface
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
KVM-IP	Keyboard, Video, Mouse redirection over IP
NIC	Network Interface Card
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect
PCIe	PCI Express
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
XSS	Cross-Site Scripting

5. Overview

The Redfish Scalable Platforms Management API ("Redfish") is a management standard using a data model representation inside of a hypermedia RESTful interface. Because it is based on REST, Redfish is easier to use and implement than many other solutions. Since it is model oriented, it is capable of expressing the relationships between components in modern systems as well as the semantics of the services and components within them. It is also easily extensible. By using a hypermedia approach to REST, Redfish can express a large variety of systems from multiple vendors. By requiring JSON representation, a wide variety of resources can be created in a denormalized fashion not only to improve scalability, but the payload can be easily interpreted by most programming environments as well as being relatively intuitive for a human examining the data. The model is exposed in terms of an interoperable

Redfish Schema, expressed in an OData Schema representation with translations to a JSON Schema representation, with the payload of the messages being expressed in a JSON following OData JSON conventions. The ability to externally host the Redfish Schema definition of the resources in a machine-readable format allows the meta data to be associated with the data without encumbering Redfish Services with the meta data, thus enabling more advanced client scenarios as found in many data center and cloud environments.

5.1. Scope

The scope of this specification is to define the protocols, data model, and behaviors, as well as other architectural components needed for an inter-operable, cross-vendor, remote and out-of-band capable interface that meets the expectations of Cloud and Web-based IT professionals for scalable platform management. While large scale systems are the primary focus, the specifications are also capable of being used for more traditional system platform management implementations.

The specifications define elements that are mandatory for all Redfish implementations as well as optional elements that can be chosen by system vendor or manufacturer. The specifications also define points at which OEM (system vendor) -specific extensions can be provided by a given implementation.

The specifications set normative requirements for Redfish Services and associated materials, such as Redfish Schema files. In general, the specifications do not set requirements for Redfish clients, but will indicate what a Redfish client should do in order to access and utilize a Redfish Service successfully and effectively.

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The specifications do not set requirements that particular hardware or firmware must be used to implement the Redfish interfaces and functions.

5.2. Goals

There are many objectives and goals of Redfish as an architecture, as a data representation, and of the definition of the protocols that are used to access and interact with a Redfish Service. Redfish seeks to provide specifications that meet the following goals:

- Scalable – To support stand-alone machines to racks of equipment found in cloud service environments.
- Flexible – To support a wide variety of systems found in service today.
- Extensible – To support new and vendor-specific capabilities cleanly within the framework of the data model.
- Backward Compatible - To enable new capabilities to be added while preserving investments in earlier versions of the specifications.
- Interoperable – To provide a useful, required baseline that ensures common level of functionality and implementation consistency across multiple vendors.
- System-Focused – To efficiently support the most commonly required platform hardware

management capabilities that are used in scalable environments, while also being capable of managing current server environments.

- Standards based – To leverage protocols and standards that are widely accepted and used in environments today - in particular, programming environments that are being widely adopted for developing web-based clients today.
- Simple – To be directly usable by software developers without requiring highly specialized programming skills or systems knowledge.
- Lightweight – To reduce the complexity and cost of implementing and validating Redfish Services on managed systems.

5.3. Design tenets

The following design tenets and technologies are used to help deliver the previously stated goals and characteristics:

- Provide a RESTful interface using a JSON payload and an Entity Data Model
- Separate protocol from data model, allowing them to be revised independently
- Specify versioning rules for protocols and schema
- Leverage strength of internet protocol standards where it meets architectural requirements, such as JSON, HTTP, OData, and the RFCs referenced by this document.
- Focus on out-of-band access -- implementable on existing BMC and firmware products
- Organize the schema to present value-add features alongside standardized items
- Make data definitions as obvious in context as possible
- Maintain implementation flexibility. Do not tie the interface to any particular underlying implementation architecture. "Standardize the interface, not the implementation."
- Focus on most widely used 'common denominator' capabilities. Avoid adding complexity to address functions that are only valued by a small percentage of users.
- Avoid placing complexity on the management controller to support operations that can be better done at the client.

5.4. Limitations

Redfish does not guarantee that client software will never need to be updated. Examples that may require updates include accommodation of new types of systems or their components, data model updates, and so on. System optimization for an application will always require architectural oversight. However, Redfish does attempt to minimize instances of forced upgrades to clients using Schemas, strict versioning and forward compatibility rules and through separation of the protocols from the data model.

Inter-operable does not mean identical. A Redfish client may need to adapt to the optional elements that are provided by different vendors. Implementation and configurations of a particular product from a given vendor can also vary.

For example, Redfish does not enable a client to read a Resource Tree and write it to another Redfish