Teleconference Minutes

Printer MIB Extension for MFP Devices

March 14, 2006

Ron Bergman - Chairman Printer MIBs Working Group

Attendees:

Ron Bergman	Ricoh Printing Systems, America
John Boyd	Toshiba
Rich Gray	Plus Technologies
Sheng Lee	Toshiba
Harry Lewis	IBM
Ira McDonald	High North
Jerry Thrasher	Lexmark
Paul Tykodi	Tykodi Consulting
Bill Wagner	TIC

Agenda:

1. **Printer MIB Implementers Guide BOF.**

2. **Proposed Extensions to hrPrinterDetectedErrorState**

    - Thomas Silver (Xerox)

3. **Proposed Extensions to printer MIB groups.**

    - Thomas Silver and Ron Bergman.

4. **New MIB Objects.**

    - Volunteers to investigate.

5. **Working Group Charter.**

6. **Meeting Attendees.**

Discussion:

1. Printer MIB Implementer's Guide - BOF

Although the discussion of a Printer MIB Implementer's Guide is not within the bounds of the MFP Alerts discussion, the audience for both topics is very similar. So this conference call was used as an introduction to this new topic. The BOF is an agenda item for the next face-to-face meeting on April 5th.

This effort was initiated by Paul Tykodi due to his experience with poorly designed SNMP printer management applications (client tools). The email discussion, following Paul's original proposal, presented the following items of contention relative to the guide:

- Significant SNMP traffic can reduce printer throughput.
- Many management applications are very inefficient.
  - o Continuous reading of the same status information.
  - o Large loops reading information that is not variable.
- Assume all implementations will provide the same response for a given condition within a device.
- Continuous queries to the same set of MIB objects when not obtaining the expected response.
- The primary focus should be on management applications (client tools).

A Printer MIB interop test (bakeoff) has also been suggested. It has been observed that some Printer MIB implementations are inconsistent or incorrect. These implementation inconsistencies are sometimes due to intentional decisions by manufacturers to not invest in "doing it right" or to encourage use of the manufacturer's proprietary solutions.

Bill Wagner suggested that it will be difficult to obtain support for an interop test or an Implementer's Guide from many printer manufacturers. The primary reluctance is due to 1) the length of time since most vendors completed their MIB implementations, 2) the absence of complaints by customers, and 3) their reliance on private MIBs. Interest could be generated if these efforts were in conjunction of a new related project that can provide additional value to the manufacturer.

It was also indicated by Harry Lewis that may companies perceive SNMP and MIBs as old technology and the PWG should therefore be directing our efforts towards the current trends such as WIMS. The counter argument stated that many applications use Web based protocols for communication to the users and SNMP protocols for communication to devices.

2. Extensions to hrPrinterDetectedErrorState

The intention of this topic was to determine the status of the commitment by Thomas Silver to create a list of new error state bits to be used as a starting point for further discussion. Since Tom was not on the call, I will attempt to contact him offline to obtain this information. Anyone else, who would like to generate a proposal on this subject for the face-to-face meeting, is welcome to participate.

All proposals for the face-to-face meeting should be available for review by all participants at least one week prior to the meeting.

3. Extensions to printer MIB groups

Thomas Silver also volunteered to look at this item along with the error state bits. So as with item #2, I will contact Tom for a status update.

I will also have a proposal for the April face-to-face meeting on this topic.

4. New MIB Objects

In the last teleconference, Thomas Silver indicated that Xerox has an interest in this topic and would like to make a proposal. They are especially concerned regarding the lack of the ability of the Console Display Buffer group to present a GUI.

5. WG Charter

It appears that a WG Charter will not be required and both the MFP Alerts and the Printer MIB Implementer's Guide, if accepted as a work item, will be projects within the current PWG MIBs Working Group charter. A formal approval by the PWG Steering Committee will close this issue.

As a PWG MIBs WG project, it will be necessary to complete a statement of work. I will attempt to have a first draft prior to the next face-to-face meeting.

6. Meeting Attendees

This item was to determine who, of those making proposals, will be attending the next face-to-face meeting. Unfortunately, other than myself, there was no one else on the call expected to have a proposal for the MFP Alerts project.

Paul Tykodi is expected to attend for the Printer MIB Implementer's Guide BOF.

7. Other Issues

There are three other issues that should be discussed and resolved as they could have significant impact on the project.

   a) Fax Modem: The Printer MIB current defines a Channel Type of "chFax(18)". Ira mentioned in the MFP Alerts BOF that this has been modeled as an interface by other groups. An Interface group also has been included within the Counters MIB. What information is required to adequately model a Fax Modem?

   b) MFP Alert Objects: Xerox (Thomas Silver) has indicated they would like to make a proposal on this subject. It has been noted that the generation of even a small number of objects will certainly be a much more significant undertaking than the other task. However, we should carefully examine the benefit of additional objects and, if the value is significant, they will be added.

   c) Service: From the minutes of the last teleconference; "It was also noted that to properly define alerts, services as well as physical entities are needed". There appears to also be a counter argument. We need to obtain a "rough" consensus on this issue and then take the appropriate action.

Since we did not have a chance to adequately discuss in this teleconference, I propose the above three items be the subject of another teleconference on March 28.