

Dell OpenManage™ can play a significant role in helping manage costs throughout the lifecycle of a networked client computer. OMCI gives you the power to obtain detailed system information through an industry standard interface. OMCI also enables you to proactively monitor system health, deploy BIOS updates, and modify system settings remotely. OMCI's industry standard interface allows for interoperability with leading enterprise console providers and tight integration with Microsoft's Windows® Management Instrumentation which allows you to take advantage of rich scripting capabilities for collecting system information and customizing system settings. Dell OpenManage includes two console products for interfacing with OMCI: OpenManage Client Connector (OMCC), which is a lightweight console product for 1:1 management of instrumented systems, and Dell IT Assistant for 1 to many management of instrumented systems.

OpenManage Client Instrumentation (OMCI) v 7.0

Dell's OpenManage Client Instrumentation makes managing your OptiPlex™, Dell Precision™, and Latitude™ systems "Easy as Dell". OMCI is a software agent based on industry standards that gives you the power to collect detailed asset information, modify system settings, and monitor system health from a centralized management console.

Asset Management

OMCI collects system information from a number of different sources including BIOS, CMOS, SMBIOS, SMI, OS APIs, DLLs and registry settings on the system that it is installed on. It then exposes that information through the Microsoft CIMOM interface. This allows any standards-based management console that supports CIM to collect detailed system information from Dell clients.

System Health Monitoring

OMCI monitors system health and can alert a centralized management console to potential problems such as SMART HDD alerts, ECC Memory faults and out-of-threshold conditions. This allows the IT Manager to take action proactively and minimize downtime.

Remote BIOS Update

When used in conjunction with Dell's IT Assistant, OMCI enables administrators to remotely modify system settings and to remotely perform BIOS updates.

Additionally, because OMCI is tightly integrated with Microsoft® operating systems, rich scripting capabilities are available to remotely modify system settings without the use of IT Assistant.



Configuration Management

With OMCI, IT Managers can remotely modify system BIOS settings from a centralized management console such as the Dell IT Assistant or the Dell OpenManage Client Connector. These remote capabilities allow IT Managers to perform system BIOS settings such as:

- Locking down legacy ports, preventing unauthorized use of new peripherals
- Enabling Wake On LAN (WOL), allowing the system to be revived from sleep state during non-peak hours to perform systems management tasks
- Modifying the system boot order

Alternatively, these system BIOS settings can be modified via a WMI script which can be a very attractive solution for enterprise customers.

Industry Standards Support

OMCI v7 has significant value for IT professionals with the newly incorporated CIM-only architecture. CIM is a data model of an implementation-neutral schema for describing the overall management in an enterprise environment as defined by DMTF. Information Technology organizations, traditionally burdened with numerous management protocols and tools to effectively manage the enterprise, can now leverage a common data model across the entire enterprise:

- Common Data Model for describing the entire Enterprise (Clients, Infrastructure, Servers)
- Improved Security by leveraging OS credentials for authentication
- Improved OS Integration via WMI
- Enterprise Console support through Industry Standard Interfaces such as CIM, WMI, and ASF
- DMI support is available through OMCI v6.x

OMCI Benefits

Organizations can do more with less by remotely performing asset management tasks:

- Remotely inventory systems without deploying IT resources
- Scan inventory without interrupting the end user
- Quickly identify obsolete hardware or out-of-date BIOS
- Use inventory reporting to perform impact analysis

Customers can reduce technician skill-set requirements by allowing OMCI to identify and report on potential system problems:

- IT can set thresholds to monitor key system resources
- OMCI can isolate potential problem areas
- Verify BIOS and OS information before dispatch

Downtime is one of the key cost factors in the TCO model and OMCI can help minimize downtime with the proactive Health Monitoring Configuration.

- OMCI has Proactive Alert Notification to assist IT when a potential problem occurs

Common Information Model (CIM)
Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)
Alert Standard Format (ASF)
Basic Input Output System (BIOS)
System Management BIOS (SMBIOS)
System Management Interface (SMI)
Operating System (OS)
Application Program Interface (API)
Dynamic Link Library (DLL)

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