The Open Cloud Computing Interface

The OGF Open Cloud Computing Interface Working Group (OCCI-WG is developing a clean, open API for 'Infrastructure as a Service' (IaaS) based Clouds. IaaS is one of three primary services: Infrastructure, Software, and Platform of the emerging Cloud industry.

Craig Lee, OGF's President, stated: "*OCCI is an extremely important development that will define a much needed, open standard API in the cloud space. This is, however, just the first step of many. As always, OGF strives to facilitate productive technical environments for work across the spectrum of distributed computing technologies.*"
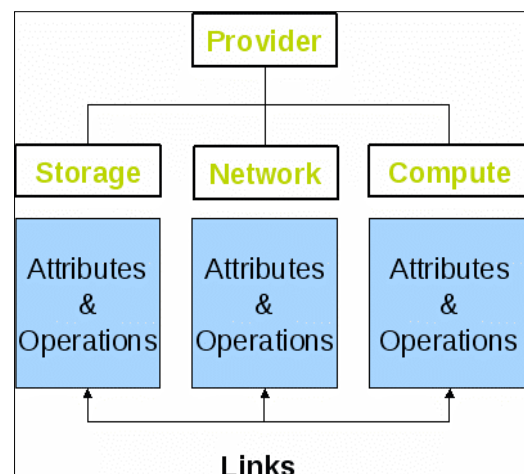
Who we are

OCCI–WG is a working group of OGF established in March 2009. The group has active membership of over 160 individuals and is led by four chairs from industry, academia, service providers and end-users. Several members are from commercial service providers that are committed to implementing the OGF-OCCI specification.

What will OCCI provide?

OCCI will be a very slim RESTful based API which can be easily extended. Without the overhead of many similar protocols the REST approach allows users to easily access their services. Every resource is uniquely addressed using a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI).

Based on a set of operations – create, retrieve, update and delete – resources can be managed. Currently three types of resources are considered: storage, network and compute resources. Those resources can be linked together to form a virtual machine with assigned attributes. For example, it is possible to provision a machine which has 2GB of RAM, one hard disk and one network interface.

Current status and future development

Currently the OCCI group is finalizing and documenting the initial draft specification. Due to the specification's high extensibility the group will start to work on extensions after the first draft has been delivered. The group is actively collaborating with other groups from SNIA for storage and DMTF for management standards. The work is also featured on the http://www.cloud-standards.org wiki where Cloud related standards are coordinated by the major Standards Development Organizations.

Join

For more information visit http://www.occi-wg.org/ - Feel free to contribute and provide feedback. In addition to regular conference calls and email discussions, the group will be present at OGF's October event, OGF 27, in Banff, Alberta, Canada (October 12-16, 2009). A first implementable draft will be launched in Banff.