Dell Server Provisioning

Diamond Bluff discussion on Provisioning and Lifecycle Management

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Dell Server System Management – Discovery and Provisioning

- Server Configuration Profiles: Reference Guide. https://dl.dell.com/manuals/all-products/esuprt_solutions_int/esuprt_solutions_int_solutions_resources/servers-solution-resources_setup-guide3_en-us.pdf
- Key points
  - DHCP server discloses location of the Server Configuration Profile (SCP) through an option. DHCP is trusted, and if not, auto-configuration is disabled (default).
  - The Server Configuration Profile (SCP) is an XML or JSON file.
  - The iDRAC (server BMC) retrieves the SCP.
  - iDRAC and cooperate with BIOS and Lifecycle Controller (UEFI application) to configure all components and deploy operating systems, typically with some interaction with the Dell OME console.

Comparison with sZTP

- Conveyed information” defined in RFC8572 is analogous to the SCP
- sZTP standard calls for bootstrapping to be enabled by default; not the case for Dell auto-configuration
- Conveyed information in sZTP must be signed if bootstrap server is untrusted
- sZTP has implications on initial data contained in the DPU (pre-configured bootstrap servers, voucher signing authorities)
- sZTP bootstrapping server uses RESTCONF API.

Dell point of view: sZTP is a good solution; no objections but prefer to avoid variations entailing CFI (custom factory installations) in which additional customer specific information is necessary to be deployed in the Dell factory as a required part of a new standard

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