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# Open Virtualization Format Specification

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87		

88

## Foreword

89 The *Open Virtualization Format Specification* (DSP0243) was prepared by the DMTF System  
90 Virtualization, Partitioning, and Clustering Working Group.

91 This specification has been developed as a result of joint work with many individuals and teams,  
92 including:

93 Simon Crosby, XenSource

94 Ron Doyle, IBM

95 Michael Gionfriddo, Sun Microsystems

96 Steffen Grarup, VMware (Co-Editor)

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## Introduction

112 The *Open Virtualization Format (OVF) Specification* describes an open, secure, portable, efficient and  
113 extensible format for the packaging and distribution of software to be run in virtual machines. The key  
114 properties of the format are as follows:

115 • **Optimized for distribution**

116 OVF supports content verification and integrity checking based on industry-standard public key  
117 infrastructure, and it provides a basic scheme for management of software licensing.

118 • **Optimized for a simple, automated user experience**

119 OVF supports validation of the entire package and each virtual machine or metadata  
120 component of the OVF during the installation phases of the virtual machine (VM) lifecycle  
121 management process. It also packages with the package relevant user-readable descriptive  
122 information that a virtualization platform can use to streamline the installation experience.

123 • **Supports both single VM and multiple-VM configurations**

124 OVF supports both standard single VM packages and packages containing complex, multi-tier  
125 services consisting of multiple interdependent VMs.

126 • **Portable VM packaging**

127 OVF is virtualization platform neutral, while also enabling platform-specific enhancements to be  
128 captured. It supports the full range of virtual hard disk formats used for hypervisors today, and it  
129 is extensible, which will allow it to accommodate formats that may arise in the future. Virtual  
130 machine properties are captured concisely and accurately.

131 • **Vendor and platform independent**

132 OVF does not rely on the use of a specific host platform, virtualization platform, or guest  
133 operating system.

134 • **Extensible**

135 OVF is immediately useful — and extensible. It is designed to be extended as the industry  
136 moves forward with virtual appliance technology. It also supports and permits the encoding of  
137 vendor-specific metadata to support specific vertical markets.

138 • **Localizable**

139 OVF supports user-visible descriptions in multiple locales, and it supports localization of the  
140 interactive processes during installation of an appliance. This capability allows a single  
141 packaged appliance to serve multiple market opportunities.

142 • **Open standard**

143 OVF has arisen from the collaboration of key vendors in the industry, and it is developed in an  
144 accepted industry forum as a future standard for portable virtual machines.

145 It is not an explicit goal for OVF to be an efficient execution format. A hypervisor is allowed but not  
146 required to run software in virtual machines directly out of the Open Virtualization Format.

147

148

# Open Virtualization Format Specification

## 1 Scope

The *Open Virtualization Format (OVF) Specification* describes an open, secure, portable, efficient and extensible format for the packaging and distribution of software to be run in virtual machines.

## 2 Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

### 2.1 Approved References

ANSI/IEEE Standard 1003.1-2001, *IEEE Standard for Information Technology- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX)*, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, August 2001, <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/tocresult.jsp?isNumber=1316>

DMTF DSP0004, *Common Information Model (CIM) Infrastructure Specification*, [http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published\\_documents/DSP0004.pdf](http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0004.pdf)

DMTF DSP1043, *Allocation Capabilities Profile (ACP)*, [http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published\\_documents/DSP1043.pdf](http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP1043.pdf)

DMTF CIM Schema Version 2.19 (MOF files), [http://www.dmtf.org/standards/cim/cim\\_schema\\_v219](http://www.dmtf.org/standards/cim/cim_schema_v219)

DMTF DSP1041, *Resource Allocation Profile (RAP)*, [http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published\\_documents/DSP1041.pdf](http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP1041.pdf)

DMTF DSP1042, *System Virtualization Profile (SVP)*, [http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published\\_documents/DSP1042.pdf](http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP1042.pdf)

DMTF DSP1057, *Virtual System Profile (VSP)*, [http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published\\_documents/DSP1057.pdf](http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP1057.pdf)

DMTF DSP0230, *WS-CIM Mapping Specification*, [http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published\\_documents/DSP0230.pdf](http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0230.pdf)

IETF RFC1952, P. Deutsch, *GZIP file format specification version 4.3*, May 1996, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1952.txt>

IETF RFC 2234, *Augmented BNF (ABNF)*, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2234.txt>

IETF RFC 2616, R. Fielding et al, *Hypertext Transfer Protocol – HTTP/1.1*, June 1999, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt>

IETF RFC 2818, E. Rescorla, *HTTP over TLS*, May 2000, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2818.txt>

IETF RFC 3986, *Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax*, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3986.txt>

184 ISO 9660, 1988 Information processing-Volume and file structure of CD-ROM for information interchange,  
185 [http://www.iso.org/iso/iso\\_catalogue/catalogue\\_tc/catalogue\\_detail.htm?csnumber=17505](http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=17505)

## 186 **2.2 Other References**

187 ISO, ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, *Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*,  
188 <http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=4230456&objAction=browse&sort=subtype>

189 W3C, Y. Savourel et al, *Best Practices for XML Internationalization*, Working Draft, October 2007,  
190 <http://www.w3.org/TR/2007/WD-xml-i18n-bp-20071031>

191 W3C, S. Gao et al, *XML Schema Definition Language (XSDL) 1.1, Part 1: Structures*, Working Draft,  
192 August 2007, <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-1>

193 W3C, D. Peterson et al, *XML Schema Definition Language (XSDL) 1.1, Part 2: Datatypes*, Working Draft,  
194 February 2006, <http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-2>

## 195 **3 Terms and Definitions**

196 For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 197 **3.1**

#### 198 **can**

199 used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical, or causal

### 200 **3.2**

#### 201 **cannot**

202 used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical, or causal

### 203 **3.3**

#### 204 **conditional**

205 indicates requirements to be followed strictly to conform to the document when the specified conditions  
206 are met

### 207 **3.4**

#### 208 **mandatory**

209 indicates requirements to be followed strictly to conform to the document and from which no deviation is  
210 permitted

### 211 **3.5**

#### 212 **may**

213 indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the document

### 214 **3.6**

#### 215 **need not**

216 indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the document

### 217 **3.7**

#### 218 **optional**

219 indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the document

### 220 **3.8**

#### 221 **shall**

222 indicates requirements to be followed strictly to conform to the document and from which no deviation is  
223 permitted



- 224 **3.9**  
 225 **shall not**  
 226 indicates requirements to be followed strictly to conform to the document and from which no deviation is  
 227 permitted
- 228 **3.10**  
 229 **should**  
 230 indicates that among several possibilities, one is recommended as particularly suitable, without  
 231 mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required
- 232 **3.11**  
 233 **should not**  
 234 indicates that a certain possibility or course of action is deprecated but not prohibited
- 235 **3.12**  
 236 **appliance**  
 237 see [virtual appliance](#)
- 238 **3.13**  
 239 **deployment platform**  
 240 the product that installs an OVF package
- 241 **3.14**  
 242 **guest software**  
 243 the software, stored on the virtual disks, that runs when a virtual machine is powered on  
 244 The guest is typically an operating system and some user-level applications and services.
- 245 **3.15**  
 246 **OVF package**  
 247 OVF XML descriptor file accompanied by zero or more files
- 248 **3.16**  
 249 **platform**  
 250 see [deployment platform](#)
- 251 **3.17**  
 252 **virtual appliance**  
 253 a service delivered as a complete software stack installed on one or more virtual machines  
 254 A virtual appliance is typically expected to be delivered in an OVF package.
- 255 **3.18**  
 256 **virtual hardware**  
 257 the hardware (including the CPU, controllers, Ethernet devices, and disks) that is seen by the guest  
 258 software
- 259 **3.19**  
 260 **virtual machine**  
 261 the complete environment that supports the execution of guest software  
 262 A virtual machine is a full encapsulation of the virtual hardware, virtual disks, and the metadata  
 263 associated with it. Virtual machines allow multiplexing of the underlying physical machine through a  
 264 software layer called a hypervisor.

### 3.20

#### virtual machine collection

a service comprised of a set of virtual machines

The service can be a simple set of one or more virtual machines, or it can be a complex service built out of a combination of virtual machines and other virtual machine collections. Because virtual machine collections can be composed, it enables complex nested components.

## 4 Symbols and Abbreviated Terms

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this document.

### 4.1

#### CIM

Common Information Model

### 4.2

#### IP

Internet Protocol

### 4.3

#### OVF

Open Virtualization Format

### 4.4

#### VM

Virtual Machine

## 5 OVF Packages

### 5.1 OVF Package Structure

An OVF package shall consist of the following files:

- one OVF descriptor file (descriptor file or .ovf file)
- zero or one OVF manifest file (manifest file or .mf file)
- zero or one OVF certification file (certification file or .cert file)
- zero or more disk image files
- zero or more additional resource files, such as ISO images

The file extensions .ovf, .mf and .cert should be used.

EXAMPLE 1: The following list of files is an example of an OVF package.

```
package.ovf
package.mf
de-DE-resources.xml
vmdisk1.vmdk
vmdisk2.vmdk
resource.iso
```

NOTE: The previous example uses VMDK disk files, but multiple disk formats are supported.

Optionally, an OVF package may have a manifest file with extension .mf containing the SHA-1 digests of individual files in the package. The manifest file shall have the same base name as the .ovf file. If the manifest file is present, a consumer of the OVF package shall verify the digests by computing the actual SHA-1 digests and comparing them with the digests listed in the manifest file.

The syntax definitions below use ABNF with the exceptions listed in 11.2 ANNEX A.

The format of the .mf file is as follows:

```
manifest_file = *( file_digest )
file_digest  = algorithm "(" file_name ")" "=" digest nl
algorithm    = "SHA1"
digest       = 40( hex-digit ) // 160-bit digest in 40-digit hexadecimal
hex-digit    = "0" | "1" | "2" | "3" | "4" | "5" | "6" | "7" | "8" | "9" | "a" |
               "b" | "c" | "d" | "e" | "f"
nl           = 0x0a
```

EXAMPLE 2: The following example show the partial contents of a manifest file.

```
SHA1(package.ovf)= 237de026fb285b85528901da058475e56034da95
SHA1(vmdisk1.vmdk)= 393a66df214e192ffbfedb78528b5be75cc9e1c3
```

An OVF package may be signed by signing the manifest file. The signature of the digest is stored in a .cert file along with the base64-encoded X.509 certificate. The .cert file shall have the same base name as the OVF descriptor file. A consumer of the OVF package shall verify the signature and should validate the certificate. The format of the .cert file shall be:

```
certificate_file = signature_part certificate_part
signature_part  = algorithm "(" file_name ")" "=" signature nl
algorithm       = "SHA1"
signature       = 128( hex-digit ) // 512-bit signature in 128 digit hexadecimal
certificate_part = certificate_header certificate_body certificate_footer
certificate_header = "-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----" nl
certificate_footer = "-----END CERTIFICATE-----" nl
certificate_body  = base64-encoded-certificate
hex-digit        = "0" | "1" | "2" | "3" | "4" | "5" | "6" | "7" | "8" | "9" | "a" |
               "b" | "c" | "d" | "e" | "f"
nl               = 0x0a
```

EXAMPLE 3: The following list of files is an example of a signed OVF package.

```
package.ovf
package.mf
package.cert
de-DE-resources.xml
vmdisk1.vmdk
vmdisk2.vmdk
resource.iso
```

EXAMPLE 4: The following example shows the contents of a sample OVF certification file:

```
SHA1(package.mf)= 7f4b8efb8fe20c06df1db68281a63f1b088e19dbf00e5af9db5e8e3e319de
7019db88a3bc699bab6ccd9e09171e21e88ee20b5255cec3fc28350613b2c529089
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIBGjCCASwCAQQwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEEBQAwoDELMakGAlUEBhMCQVUxDDAKBgNV
BAGTA1FMRDEbMBkGAlUEAxMSU1NMZWf5L3JzYSB0ZXN0IENBMB4XDTh1MTAwOTIz
```

```

349 MzIwNVoXDTk4MDcwNTIzMzIwNVowYDELMaKGA1UEBhMCQVUxDDAKBgNVBAGTA1FM
350 RDEZMBcGA1UEChMQTWluY29tIFB0eS4gTHRkLjELMAKGA1UECzMxGzAZBgNV
351 BAMTElNTTGVheSBkZWlvIHNLcnZlcjBcMAOGCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA0sAMEgCQQC3
352 LCXcScWua0PFLkHBLm2VejqPAlF4RQ8q0VjRiPafjx/Z/aWH3ipdMVvuJGa/wFXb
353 /nDFLDlfWp+oCPwhBtVPAGMBAAEwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEEBQADQQAfNFsihWIjBzb0
354 DCsU0BvL2bvSwJrPEqFlkDq3F4M6EGutL9axEcANWgbbEdAvNJDldmEmoWny27Pn
355 IMs6ZOZB
356 -----END CERTIFICATE-----

```

## 357 5.2 Virtual Disk Formats

358 OVF does not require any specific disk format to be used, but to comply with this specification the disk  
 359 format shall be given by a URI which identifies an unencumbered specification on how to interpret the  
 360 disk format. The specification need not be machine readable, but it shall be static and unique so that the  
 361 URI may be used as a key by software reading an OVF package to uniquely determine the format of the  
 362 disk. The specification shall provide sufficient information so that a skilled person can properly interpret  
 363 the disk format for both reading and writing of disk data. It is recommended that these URIs are  
 364 resolvable.

## 365 5.3 Distribution as a Single File

366 An OVF package can be stored as a single file using the TAR format. The extension of that file should be  
 367 .ova (open virtual appliance or application).

368 EXAMPLE: The following example shows a sample filename for an OVF package of this type:

```

369 D:\virtualappliances\myapp.ova

```

370 Ordinarily, a TAR extraction tool have to scan the whole archive, even if the file requested is found at the  
 371 beginning, because replacement files can be appended without modifying the rest of the archive. For  
 372 OVF TAR files, duplication is not allowed within the archive. In addition, the files shall be in the following  
 373 order inside the archive:

- 374 1) .ovf descriptor file
- 375 2) .mf manifest file (optional)
- 376 3) .cert certificate file (optional)
- 377 4) The remaining files shall be in the same order as listed in the *References* section (see 7.1).  
 378 Note that any external string resource bundle files for internationalization shall be first in the  
 379 *References* section (see clause 10).
- 380 5) .mf manifest file (optional)
- 381 6) .cert certificate (optional)

382 Note that the certificate file is optional. If no certificate file is present, the manifest file is also optional. If  
 383 the manifest or certificate files are present, they shall either both be placed after the OVF descriptor file,  
 384 or both be placed at the end of the archive.

385 For deployment, the ordering restriction ensures that it is possible to extract the OVF descriptor from an  
 386 OVF TAR file without scanning the entire archive. For generation, the ordering restriction ensures that an  
 387 OVF TAR file can easily be generated on-the-fly. The restrictions do not prevent OVF TAR files from  
 388 being created using standard TAR packaging tools.

389 The TAR format used shall comply with the USTAR (Uniform Standard Tape Archive) format as defined  
 390 by the POSIX IEEE 1003.1 standards group.

## 5.4 Distribution as a Set of Files

An OVF package can be made available as a set of files — for example on a standard Web server:

```
http://mywebsite/virtualappliances/package.ovf
http://mywebsite/virtualappliances/vmdisk1.vmdk
http://mywebsite/virtualappliances/vmdisk2.vmdk
http://mywebsite/virtualappliances/resource.iso
http://mywebsite/virtualappliances/de-DE-resources.xml
```

## 6 OVF Descriptor

All metadata about the package and its contents is stored in the OVF descriptor. This is an extensible XML document for encoding information, such as product details, virtual hardware requirements, and licensing.

The `ovf-envelope.xsd` XML schema definition file for the OVF descriptor contains the elements and attributes.

Clauses 7, 8, and 9, describe the semantics, structure, and extensibility framework of the XML descriptor. These clauses are not a replacement for reading the schema definitions, but they complement the schema definitions.

The XML document of an OVF descriptor shall contain one `Envelope` element, which is the only element allowed at the top level.

The XML namespaces used in this specification are listed in Table 1. The choice of any namespace prefix is arbitrary and not semantically significant.

**Table 1 – XML Namespace Prefixes**

Prefix	XML Namespace
ovf	<code>http://schemas.dmtf.org/ovf/envelope/1</code>
ovfenv	<code>http://schemas.dmtf.org/ovf/environment/1</code>
rasd	<code>http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wscim/1/cim-schema/2/CIM_ResourceAllocationSettingData</code>
vssd	<code>http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wscim/1/cim-schema/2/CIM_VirtualSystemSettingData</code>

## 7 Envelope element

The `Envelope` element describes all metadata for the virtual machines (including virtual hardware), as well as the structure of the OVF package itself.

The outermost level of the envelope consists of the following parts:

- A version indication, defined by the XML namespace URIs.
- A list of file references to all external files that are part of the OVF package, defined by the `References` element and its `File` child elements. These are typically virtual disk files, ISO images, and internationalization resources.
- A metadata part, defined by the `Section` elements.

- A description of the content, either a single virtual machine (`VirtualSystem` element) or a collection of multiple virtual machines (`VirtualSystemCollection` element).
- A specification of message resource bundles for zero or more locales, defined by a `Strings` element for each locale.

EXAMPLE: An example of the structure of an OVF descriptor with the top level `Envelope` element follows:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<Envelope xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xmlns:vssd="http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wscim/1/cim-
schema/2/CIM_VirtualSystemSettingData"
  xmlns:rasd="http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wscim/1/cim-
schema/2/CIM_ResourceAllocationSettingData"
  xmlns:ovf="http://schemas.dmtf.org/ovf/envelope/1"
  xmlns="http://schemas.dmtf.org/ovf/envelope/1"
  xml:lang="en-US">
  <References>
    <File ovf:id="de-DE-resources.xml" ovf:size="15240"
      ovf:href="http://mywebsite/virtualappliances/de-DE-resources.xml"/>
    <File ovf:id="file1" ovf:href="vmdisk1.vmdk" ovf:size="180114671"/>
    <File ovf:id="file2" ovf:href="vmdisk2.vmdk" ovf:size="4882023564"
ovf:chunkSize="2147483648"/>
    <File ovf:id="file3" ovf:href="resource.iso" ovf:size="212148764"
ovf:compression="gzip"/>
    <File ovf:id="icon" ovf:href="icon.png" ovf:size="1360"/>
  </References>
  <!-- Describes meta-information about all virtual disks in the package -->
  <DiskSection>
    <Info>Describes the set of virtual disks</Info>
    <!-- Additional section content -->
  </DiskSection>
  <!-- Describes all networks used in the package -->
  <NetworkSection>
    <Info>List of logical networks used in the package</Info>
    <!-- Additional section content -->
  </NetworkSection>
  <SomeSection ovf:required="false">
    <Info>A plain-text description of the content</Info>
    <!-- Additional section content -->
  </SomeSection>
  <!-- Additional sections can follow -->
  <VirtualSystemCollection ovf:id="Some Product">
    <!-- Additional sections including VirtualSystem or VirtualSystemCollection-->
  </VirtualSystemCollection >
  <Strings xml:lang="de-DE">
    <!-- Specification of message resource bundles for de-DE locale -->
  </Strings>
</Envelope>
```

The optional `xml:lang` attribute on the `Envelope` element specifies the default locale for messages in the descriptor. The optional `Strings` elements contain message resource bundles for different locales. See clause 10 for more details on internationalization support.

## 7.1 File References

The file reference part defined by the `References` element allows a tool to easily determine the integrity of an OVF package without having to parse or interpret the entire structure of the descriptor. Tools can safely manipulate (for example, copy or archive) OVF packages with no risk of losing files.

External string resource bundle files for internationalization shall be placed first in the `References` element, see clause 10 for details.

Each `File` element in the reference part shall be given an identifier using the `ovf:id` attribute. The identifier shall be unique inside an OVF package. Each `File` element shall be specified using the `ovf:href` attribute, which shall contain a URI. The URI schemes "file", "http", and "https" shall be supported. Using other URI schemes is allowed but not recommended. If no URI scheme is specified, the value of the `ovf:href` attribute shall be interpreted as a path name of the referenced file that is relative to the location of the OVF descriptor file itself. The relative path name shall use the syntax of relative-path references in IETF RFC 3986. The referenced file shall exist. Two different `File` elements shall not reference the same file with their `ovf:href` attributes.

The size of the referenced file can optionally be specified using the `ovf:size` attribute. The unit of this attribute is always bytes.

Each file referenced by a `File` element may be compressed using gzip (see [RFC1952](#)), which is indicated using the `ovf:compression="gzip"` attribute. Omitting the compression attribute, or specifying it as "identity", states that no compression is used. Alternatively, if the href is an HTTP or HTTPS URI, then the compression may be specified by the HTTP server by using the HTTP header `Content-Encoding: gzip` (see [RFC2616](#)). Using HTTP content encoding in combination with the `ovf:compression` attribute is allowed, but in general does not improve the compression ratio.

Files to be referenced from the reference part may be split into chunks to accommodate file size restrictions on certain file systems. Chunking is indicated by the presence of the `ovf:chunkSize` attribute; this attribute specifies the size of each chunk, except the last, which may be smaller.

When `ovf:chunkSize` is specified, the `File` element shall reference a chunk file representing a chunk of the entire file. In this case, the value of the `ovf:href` attribute specifies only a part of the URL and the syntax for the URL resolving to the chunk file is given below. The syntax use ABNF with the exceptions listed in 11.2ANNEX A.

```
chunk-url      = href-value "." chunk-number
chunk-number   = 9(decimal-digit)
decimal-digit  = "0" | "1" | "2" | "3" | "4" | "5" | "6" | "7" | "8" | "9"
```

where href-value is the value of the `ovf:href` attribute, and chunk-number is the 0-based position of the chunk starting with the value 0 and increases with increments of 1 for each chunk.

Chunking can be combined with compression, the entire file is then compressed before chunking and each chunk shall be an equal slice of the compressed file, except for the last chunk which may be smaller.

## 7.2 Content Part

The virtual machine configurations required by an OVF package is represented by a `VirtualSystem` or `VirtualSystemCollection` element. These elements shall be given an identifier using the `ovf:id` attribute, direct child elements of a `VirtualSystemCollection` shall have unique identifiers.

512 The `VirtualSystem` element describes a single virtual machine and is simply a container of section  
 513 elements. These section elements describe virtual hardware, resources, product information, and so on,  
 514 and are described in detail in clause 8 and 9.

515 The structure of a `VirtualSystem` element is as follows:

```
516 <VirtualSystem ovf:id="Simple Appliance">
517   <Info>A virtual machine</Info>
518   <SomeSection>
519     <!-- Additional section content -->
520   </SomeSection>
521   <!-- Additional sections can follow -->
522 </VirtualSystem>
```

523 The `VirtualSystemCollection` element is a container of multiple `VirtualSystem` or  
 524 `VirtualSystemCollection` elements. Thus, arbitrary complex configurations can be described. The  
 525 section elements at the `VirtualSystemCollection` level describe appliance information, properties,  
 526 resource requirements, and so on, and are described in detail in clause 9.

527 The structure of a `VirtualSystemCollection` element is as follows:

```
528 <VirtualSystemCollection ovf:id="Multi-tier Appliance">
529   <Info>A collection of virtual machines</Info>
530   <SomeSection>
531     <!-- Additional section content -->
532   </SomeSection>
533   <!-- Additional sections can follow -->
534   < VirtualSystem ovf:id="...">
535     <!-- Additional sections -->
536   </VirtualSystem>
537   <!-- Additional VirtualSystem or VirtualSystemCollection elements can follow-->
538 </VirtualSystemCollection>
```

539 In the OVF schema, the `VirtualSystem` and `VirtualSystemCollection` elements are part of a  
 540 substitution group with the `Content` element as head of the substitution group. The `Content` element is  
 541 abstract and cannot be used directly.

542 All elements in the `Content` substitution group contain an `Info` element which contains a human  
 543 readable description of the meaning of this entity. See clause 10 for details on how to localize the `Info`  
 544 element.

## 545 7.3 Extensibility

546 The use of substitution groups in the OVF schema is the basis for making OVF extensible, because  
 547 additional definitions for sections can be added. All sections defined in clause 8 and 9 are part of a  
 548 substitution group with the `Section` element as head of the substitution group. The `Section` element is  
 549 abstract and cannot be used directly.

550 On all elements in the `Section` substitution group, a Boolean `ovf:required` attribute specifies whether  
 551 the information in the section is required for correct behavior or optional. If not specified, the  
 552 `ovf:required` attribute defaults to TRUE. An OVF application that detects a section element that is  
 553 required and that it does not understand shall fail.

554 On child elements of `Section` elements, a Boolean `ovf:required` attribute is used to control the  
 555 handling of elements that are not explicitly defined by the OVF schema (that is, elements that are  
 556 accepted due to the XML Schema 1.1 OpenContent model). If not specified, the `ovf:required` attribute



defaults to TRUE. If child elements that are not understood are found and the value of their `ovf:required` attribute is TRUE, the OVF application shall interpret the entire section as one it does not understand. The check is not recursive; it applies only to the direct children of the `Section` element. This behavior ensures that older parsers will reject newer OVF specifications, unless explicitly instructed not to do so.

EXAMPLE:

```
<AnnotationSection>
  <Info>Specifies an annotation for this virtual machine</Info>
  <Annotation>This is an example of how a future element (Author) can still be
  parsed by older clients</Annotation>
  <Author ovf:required="false">John Smith</Author>
</AnnotationSection>
```

All elements in the `Section` substitution group contain an `Info` element which contains a human readable description of the meaning of this entity. The values of `Info` elements can be used, for example, to give meaningful warnings to users when a section is being skipped, even if the parser does not know anything about the section. See clause 10 for details on how to localize the `Info` element.

## 8 Virtual Hardware Description

### 8.1 VirtualHardware Section

The virtual hardware required by a virtual machine is specified in the `VirtualHardware` section. This specification supports abstract or incomplete hardware descriptions in which only the major devices are described. The hypervisor is allowed to create additional virtual hardware controllers and devices, as long as the required devices listed in the descriptor are realized.

This virtual hardware description is based on the CIM classes `CIM_VirtualSystemSettingData` and `CIM_ResourceAllocationSettingData`. The XML representation of the CIM model is based on the WS-CIM mapping ([DSP0230](#)).

EXAMPLE: Example of `VirtualHardware` section:

```
<VirtualHardwareSection ovf:transport="iso">
  <Info>500Mb, 1 CPU, 1 disk, 1 nic virtual machine</Info>
  <System>
    <vssd:VirtualSystemType>vmx-4</vssd:VirtualSystemType>
  </System>
  <Item>
    <rasd:AllocationUnits>byte * 2^20</rasd:AllocationUnits>
    <rasd:Description>Memory Size</rasd:Description>
    <rasd:ElementName>512 MB of memory</rasd:ElementName>
    <rasd:InstanceID>2</rasd:InstanceID>
    <rasd:ResourceType>4</rasd:ResourceType>
    <rasd:VirtualQuantity>512</rasd:VirtualQuantity>
  </Item>
  <!-- Additional Item elements can follow -->
</VirtualHardwareSection>
```

VirtualHardware is a required child element for a VirtualSystem element, and it is disallowed as a direct child element of a VirtualSystemCollection element and of an Envelope element.

Multiple VirtualHardware element occurrences are allowed within a single VirtualSystem element. The OVF application can select the most appropriate virtual hardware description, typically based on the family attribute.

The `ovf:transport` attribute specifies the types of transport mechanisms by which properties are passed to the virtual machine in an OVF environment document. This attribute supports a pluggable and extensible architecture for providing guest/platform communication mechanisms. Several transport types can be specified using comma separation; whitespace and leading or trailing commas are not allowed. See 9.5 for a description of properties and clause 11 for a description of transport types and OVF environments.

The optional `vssd:VirtualSystemType` element uniquely identifies the family of virtual hardware that is required. Multiple families can be specified with comma separation; whitespace before or after commas and leading or trailing commas are not allowed. For example, a family identifier could be `vmx-4` for VMware's fourth-generation virtual hardware or `xen-3` for Xen's third-generation virtual hardware.

The virtual hardware characteristics are described as a sequence of `Item` elements. The `Item` element is an XML representation of an instance of the CIM class `ResourceAllocationSettingData`. The element can describe all memory and CPU requirements as well as virtual hardware devices.

Multiple device subtypes can be specified in an `Item` element as a comma separated list; whitespace before or after commas and leading or trailing commas are not allowed.

EXAMPLE:

```
<rasd:ResourceSubType>buslogic,lsilogic</rasd:ResourceSubType>
```

The XML representation of the CIM class `CIM_ResourceAllocationSettingData` used for the `Item` element is an extension of the XML representation defined in (DSP0230). That XML representation is extensible in that additional elements may be added at the end of the sequence of elements representing the CIM properties, as well as additional attributes on any element. In addition, CIM schema updates may add properties to that class. Because the WS-CIM mapping orders elements representing the properties alphabetically, any elements representing such new properties may need to be added before the first element, between elements, or after the last element. Therefore, this specification has extended the WS-CIM mapping by using the XML Schema 1.1 `openContent` element with `mode="interleave"`.

## 8.2 Extensibility

The optional `ovf:required` property on the `Item` element specifies whether the realization of the element (for example, a CD-rom or USB controller) is required for correct behavior of the guest software. If not specified, `ovf:required` defaults to TRUE.

On child elements of the `Item` element, the optional Boolean attribute `ovf:required` shall be interpreted, even though these elements are in a different RASD WS-CIM namespace. A tool parsing an `Item` element shall act according to Table 2.

**Table 2 – Actions for Child Elements with `ovf:required` Attribute**

Child Element	<code>ovf:required</code> Attribute Value	Action
Known	TRUE or not specified	Shall interpret <code>Item</code>

Known	FALSE	Shall interpret Item
Unknown	TRUE or not specified	Shall fail Item
Unknown	FALSE	Shall ignore Item

### 8.3 Virtual Hardware Elements

The general form of any Item element in a VirtualHardware element is as follows:

```

<Item ovf:required="..." ovf:configuration="..." ovf:bound="...">
  <rasd:Address> ... </rasd:Address>
  <rasd:AddressOnParent> ... </rasd:AddressOnParent>
  <rasd:AllocationUnits> ... </rasd:AllocationUnits>
  <rasd:AutomaticAllocation> ... </rasd:AutomaticAllocation>
  <rasd:AutomaticDeallocation> ... </rasd:AutomaticDeallocation>
  <rasd:Caption> ... </rasd:Caption>
  <rasd:Connection> ... </rasd:Connection>
  <!-- multiple connection elements can be specified -->
  <rasd:ConsumerVisibility> ... </rasd:ConsumerVisibility>
  <rasd:Description> ... </rasd:Description>
  <rasd:ElementName> ... </rasd:ElementName>
  <rasd:HostResource> ... </rasd:HostResource>
  <rasd:InstanceID> ... </rasd:InstanceID>
  <rasd:Limit> ... </rasd:Limit>
  <rasd:MappingBehavior> ... </rasd:MappingBehavior>
  <rasd:OtherResourceType> ... </rasd:OtherResourceType>
  <rasd:Parent> ... </rasd:Parent>
  <rasd:PoolID> ... </rasd:PoolID>
  <rasd:Reservation> ... </rasd:Reservation>
  <rasd:ResourceSubType> ... </rasd:ResourceSubType>
  <rasd:ResourceType> ... </rasd:ResourceType>
  <rasd:VirtualQuantity> ... </rasd:VirtualQuantity>
  <rasd:Weight> ... </rasd:Weight>
</Item>

```

The elements represent the properties exposed by the CIM\_ResourceAllocationSettingData class. They have the semantics of defined settings as defined in DSP1041, any profiles derived from DSP1041 for specific resource types, and this document.

EXAMPLE: The following example shows a description of the number of virtual CPUs:

```

<Item>
  <rasd:AllocationUnits>hertz * 10^6</rasd:AllocationUnits>
  <rasd:Description>The number of virtual CPUs</rasd:Description>
  <rasd:ElementName>2 virtual CPUs, a 300 MHz reservation</rasd:ElementName>
  <rasd:InstanceID>1</rasd:InstanceID>
  <rasd:Reservation>300</rasd:Reservation>
  <rasd:ResourceType>3</rasd:ResourceType>
  <rasd:VirtualQuantity>2</rasd:VirtualQuantity>
</Item>

```

679 The `Description` element is used to provide additional metadata about the element itself. This element  
 680 enables an OVF application to provide descriptive information about all items, including items that were  
 681 unknown at the time the application was written.

682 The `Caption`, `Description` and `ElementName` elements are localizable using the `ovf:msgid`  
 683 attribute from the OVF envelope namespace. See clause 10 for more details on internationalization  
 684 support.

685 The optional `ovf:configuration` attribute contains a comma-separated list of configuration names;  
 686 whitespace before or after commas and leading or trailing commas are not allowed in this case. See  
 687 clause 9.8 on deployment options for semantics of this attribute. The optional `ovf:bound` attribute is  
 688 used to specify ranges (see 8.4).

689 Devices such as disks, CD-ROMs, and networks need a backing from the deployment platform. The  
 690 requirements on a backing are either specified using the `HostResource` or the `Connection` element.

691 For an Ethernet adapter, a logical network name is specified in the `Connection` element. Ethernet  
 692 adapters that refer to the same logical network name within an OVF package shall be deployed on the  
 693 same network.

694 The `HostResource` element is used to refer to resources included in the OVF descriptor as well as  
 695 logical devices on the deployment platform. Values for `HostResource` elements are formatted as URIs.  
 696 The URIs in Table 3 shall be used to refer to entities in the OVF package.

697 **Table 3 – HostResource Element**

Type	Description
<code>ovf://file/&lt;id&gt;</code>	A reference to a file in the OVF, as specified in the References section. The <code>&lt;id&gt;</code> maps to the <code>id</code> attribute on the <code>File</code> element.
<code>ovf://disk/&lt;id&gt;</code>	A reference to a virtual disk, as specified in the DiskSection. The <code>&lt;id&gt;</code> maps to the <code>diskId</code> attribute on the <code>DiskSection</code> element.

698 If no backing is specified for a device that requires a backing, the deployment platform shall make an  
 699 appropriate choice, for example, by prompting the user. Specifying more than one backing for a device is  
 700 not allowed.

701 Table 4 gives a brief overview on how elements are used to describe virtual devices and controllers.

702

**Table 4 – Elements for Virtual Devices and Controllers**

Element	Usage
<code>rasd:Description</code>	A human-readable description of the meaning of the information. For example, “Specifies the memory size of the virtual machine”.
<code>rasd:ElementName</code>	A human-readable description of the content. For example, “256MB memory”.
<code>rasd:InstanceID</code>	A unique instance ID of the element within the section.
<code>rasd:HostResource</code>	Abstractly specifies how a device shall connect to a resource on the deployment platform. Not all devices need a backing. See Table 3.
<code>rasd:ResourceType</code> <code>rasd:OtherResourceType</code> <code>rasd:ResourceSubtype</code>	Specifies the kind of device that is being described.
<code>rasd:AutomaticAllocation</code>	For devices that are connectable, such as floppies, CD-ROMs, and Ethernet adaptors, this element specifies whether the device should be connected at power on.
<code>rasd:Parent</code>	The InstanceID of the parent controller (if any).
<code>rasd:Connection</code>	For an Ethernet adapter, this specifies the abstract network connection name for the virtual machine. All Ethernet adapters that specify the same abstract network connection name within an OVF package shall be deployed on the same network. The abstract network connection name shall be listed in the NetworkSection at the outermost envelope level.
<code>rasd:Address</code>	Device specific. For an Ethernet adapter, this specifies the MAC address.
<code>rasd:AddressOnParent</code>	For a device, this specifies its location on the controller.
<code>rasd:AllocationUnits</code>	Specifies the units of allocation used. For example, “byte * 2 <sup>20</sup> ”.
<code>rasd:VirtualQuantity</code>	Specifies the quantity of resources presented. For example, “256”.
<code>rasd:Reservation</code>	Specifies the minimum quantity of resources guaranteed to be available.
<code>rasd:Limit</code>	Specifies the maximum quantity of resources that will be granted.
<code>rasd:Weight</code>	Specifies a relative priority for this allocation in relation to other allocations.

703 Only fields directly related to describing devices are mentioned. Refer to the [CIM MOF](#) for a complete  
704 description of all fields.

## 705 8.4 Ranges on Elements

706 The optional `ovf:bound` attribute can be used to specify ranges for the `Item` elements. A range has a  
707 minimum, normal, and maximum value, denoted by `min`, `normal`, and `max`, where `min` <= `normal` <=  
708 `max`. The default values for `min` and `max` are those specified for `normal`.

709 A platform deploying an OVF package is recommended to start with the normal value and adjust the  
710 value within the range for ongoing performance tuning and validation.

711 For the `Item` elements in `VirtualHardware` and `ResourceAllocation` elements, the following  
712 additional semantics is defined:

- 713 • Each `Item` element has an optional `ovf:bound` attribute. This value can be specified as `min`,  
714 `max`, or `normal`. The value defaults to `normal`. If the attribute is not specified or is specified as  
715 `normal`, then the item is interpreted as being part of the regular virtual hardware or resource  
716 allocation description.

- If the `ovf:bound` value is specified as either `min` or `max`, the item is used to specify the upper or lower bound for one or more values for a given `InstanceID`. Such an item is called a range marker.

The semantics of range markers are:

- `InstanceID` and `ResourceType` shall be specified, and the `ResourceType` shall match other `Item` elements with the same `InstanceID`.
- Specifying more than one `min` range marker or more than one `max` range marker for a given RASD (identified with `InstanceID`) is invalid.
- An `Item` element with a range marker shall have a corresponding `Item` element without a range marker, that is, an `Item` element with no `ovf:bound` attribute or `ovf:bound` attribute with value `normal`. This corresponding item specifies the default value.
- For an `Item` element where only a `min` range marker is specified, the `max` value is unbounded upwards within the set of valid values for the property.
- For an `Item` where only a `max` range marker is specified, the `min` value is unbounded downwards within the set of valid values for the property.
- The default value shall be inside the range.
- The use of non-integer elements in range marker RASDs is invalid.

EXAMPLE: The following example shows the use of range markers:

```

717 <VirtualHardwareSection>
718   <Info>...</Info>
719   <Item>
720     <rasd:AllocationUnits>byte * 2^20</rasd:AllocationUnits>
721     <rasd:ElementName>512 MB memory size</rasd:ElementName>
722     <rasd:InstanceID>0</rasd:InstanceID>
723     <rasd:ResourceType>4</rasd:ResourceType>
724     <rasd:VirtualQuantity>512</rasd:VirtualQuantity>
725   </Item>
726   <Item ovf:bound="min">
727     <rasd:AllocationUnits>byte * 2^20</rasd:AllocationUnits>
728     <rasd:ElementName>384 MB minimum memory size</rasd:ElementName>
729     <rasd:InstanceID>0</rasd:InstanceID>
730     <rasd:Reservation>384</rasd:Reservation>
731     <rasd:ResourceType>4</rasd:ResourceType>
732   </Item>
733   <Item ovf:bound="max">
734     <rasd:AllocationUnits>byte * 2^20</rasd:AllocationUnits>
735     <rasd:ElementName>1024 MB maximum memory size</rasd:ElementName>
736     <rasd:InstanceID>0</rasd:InstanceID>
737     <rasd:Reservation>1024</rasd:Reservation>
738     <rasd:ResourceType>4</rasd:ResourceType>
739   </Item>
740 </VirtualHardwareSection>

```

## 9 Core Metadata Sections

The following core metadata sections are defined:

Section	Locations	Multiplicity
<code>DiskSection</code> Describes meta-information about all virtual disks in the package	Envelope	Zero or One
<code>NetworkSection</code> Describes logical networks used in the package	Envelope	Zero or One
<code>ResourceAllocationSection</code> Specifies reservations, limits, and shares on a given resource, such as memory or CPU for a virtual machine collection	VirtualSystem VirtualSystemCollection	Zero or more
<code>AnnotationSection</code> Specifies a free-form annotation on an entity	VirtualSystem VirtualSystemCollection	Zero or One
<code>ProductSection</code> Specifies product-information for a package, such as product name and version, along with a set of properties that can be configured	VirtualSystem VirtualSystemCollection	Zero or more
<code>EulaSection</code> Specifies a license agreement for the software in the package	VirtualSystem VirtualSystemCollection	Zero or more
<code>StartupSection</code> Specifies how a virtual machine collection is powered on	VirtualSystemCollection	Zero or One
<code>DeploymentOptionSection</code> Specifies a discrete set of intended resource requirements	Envelope	Zero or One
<code>OperatingSystemSection</code> Specifies the installed guest operating system of a virtual machine	VirtualSystem	Zero or One
<code>InstallSection</code> Specifies that the virtual machine needs to be initially booted to install and configure the software	VirtualSystem	Zero or One

The following clauses describe the semantics of the core sections and provide some examples. The sections are used in several places of an OVF envelope, the description of each section defines where it may be used. See the OVF schema for a detailed specification of all attributes and elements.

### 9.1 DiskSection

A `DiskSection` describes meta-information about virtual disks in the OVF package. Virtual disks and their metadata are described outside the virtual hardware to facilitate sharing between virtual machines within an OVF package.

```
<DiskSection>
```

```

771     <Info>Describes the set of virtual disks</Info>
772     <Disk ovf:diskId="vmdisk1" ovf:fileRef="file1" ovf:capacity="8589934592"
773         ovf:populatedSize="3549324972"
774         ovf:format="http://www.vmware.com/specifications/vmdk.html#sparse">
775     </Disk>
776     <Disk ovf:diskId="vmdisk2" ovf:capacity="536870912"
777         ovf:format="http://www.vmware.com/specifications/vmdk.html#sparse">
778     </Disk>
779     <Disk ovf:diskId="vmdisk3" ovf:capacity="${disk.size}"
780         ovf:capacityAllocationUnits="GigaBytes"
781         ovf:format="http://www.vmware.com/specifications/vmdk.html#sparse">
782     </Disk>
783 </DiskSection>

```

DiskSection is a valid section at the outermost envelope level.

Each virtual disk is represented by a `Disk` element that shall be given a identifier using the `ovf:diskId` attribute, the identifier shall be unique within the `DiskSection`.

The capacity of a virtual disk shall be specified by the `ovf:capacity` attribute with an `xs:long` integer value. The default unit of allocation shall be bytes. The optional string attribute `ovf:capacityAllocationUnits` may be used to specify a particular unit of allocation. Values for `ovf:capacityAllocationUnits` shall match the format for programmatic units defined in DSP0004.

The format URI (see clause 5.2) of a virtual disk shall be specified by the `ovf:format` attribute.

The `ovf:fileRef` attribute denotes the virtual disk content by identifying an existing `File` element in the `References` element, the `File` element is identified by matching its `ovf:id` attribute value with the `ovf:fileRef` attribute value. Omitting the `ovf:fileRef` attribute shall indicate an empty disk. In this case, the disk shall be created and the entire disk content zeroed at installation time.

Different `Disk` elements shall not contain `ovf:fileRef` attributes with identical values. `Disk` elements shall be ordered such that they identify any `File` elements in the same order as these are defined in the `References` element.

For empty disks, rather than specifying a fixed virtual disk capacity, the capacity for an empty disk can be given using an OVF property, for example `ovf:capacity="${disk.size}"`. The OVF property shall resolve to an `xs:long` integer value. See 9.5 for a description of OVF properties. The `ovf:capacityAllocationUnits` attribute is useful when using OVF properties because a user may be prompted and can then enter disk sizing information in e.g. gigabytes.

For non-empty disks, the actual used size of the disk can optionally be specified using the `ovf:populatedSize` attribute. The unit of this attribute is always bytes. `ovf:populatedSize` is allowed to be an estimate of used disk size but shall not be larger than `ovf:capacity`.

OVF allows a disk image to be represented as a set of modified blocks in comparison to a parent image. The use of parent disks can often significantly reduce the size of an OVF package, if it contains multiple disks with similar content. For a `Disk` element, a parent disk can optionally be specified using the `ovf:parentRef` attribute, which shall contain a valid `ovf:diskId` reference to a different `Disk` element. If a disk block does not exist locally, lookup for that disk block then occurs in the parent disk. In `DiskSection`, parent `Disk` elements shall occur before child `Disk` elements that refer to them.



## 9.2 NetworkSection

The NetworkSection element shall list all logical networks used in the OVF package.

```
<NetworkSection>
  <Info>List of logical networks used in the package</Info>
  <Network ovf:id="red">
    <ElementName>Red Network</ElementName>
    <Description>The network the Red service will be available on</Description>
  </Network>
</NetworkSection>
```

NetworkSection is a valid element at the outermost envelope level.

All networks referred to from Connection elements in all VirtualHardware elements shall be defined in the NetworkSection.

## 9.3 ResourceAllocationSection

The ResourceAllocationSection element describes all resource allocation requirements of a VirtualSystemCollection entity. These resource allocations shall be performed when deploying the OVF package.

```
<ResourceAllocationSection>
  <Info>Defines reservations for CPU and memory for the collection of VMs</Info>
  <Item>
    <rasd:AllocationUnits>byte * 2^20</rasd:AllocationUnits>
    <rasd:ElementName>300 MB reservation</rasd:ElementName>
    <rasd:InstanceID>0</rasd:InstanceID>
    <rasd:Reservation>300</rasd:Reservation>
    <rasd:ResourceType>4</rasd:ResourceType>
  </Item>
  <Item ovf:configuration="..." ovf:bound="...">
    <rasd:AllocationUnits>hertz * 10^6</rasd:AllocationUnits>
    <rasd:ElementName>500 MHz reservation</rasd:ElementName>
    <rasd:InstanceID>0</rasd:InstanceID>
    <rasd:Reservation>500</rasd:Reservation>
    <rasd:ResourceType>3</rasd:ResourceType>
  </Item>
</ResourceAllocationSection>
```

ResourceAllocationSection is a valid element for a VirtualSystemCollection entity.

The optional ovf:configuration attribute contains a comma-separated list of configuration names. See 9.8 on deployment options for semantics of this attribute.

The optional ovf:bound attribute contains a value of min, max, or normal. See 8.4 for semantics of this attribute.

## 9.4 AnnotationSection

The AnnotationSection element is a user-defined annotation on an entity. Such annotations may be displayed when deploying the OVF package.

```
<AnnotationSection>
```

```

855     <Info>An annotation on this service. It can be ignored</Info>
856     <Annotation>Contact customer support if you have any problems</Annotation>
857 </AnnotationSection >

```

858 AnnotationSection is a valid element for a VirtualSystem and a VirtualSystemCollection  
859 entity.

860 See clause 10 for details on how to localize the Annotation element.

## 861 9.5 ProductSection

862 The ProductSection element specifies product-information for an appliance, such as product name,  
863 version, vendor, and so on.

```

864 <ProductSection ovf:class="com.mycrm.myservice" ovf:instance="1">
865     <Info>Describes product information for the service</Info>
866     <Product>MyCRM Enterprise</Product>
867     <Vendor>MyCRM Corporation</Vendor>
868     <Version>4.5</Version>
869     <FullVersion>4.5-b4523</FullVersion>
870     <ProductUrl>http://www.mycrm.com/enterprise</ProductUrl>
871     <VendorUrl>http://www.mycrm.com</VendorUrl>
872     <AppUrl>http://{app.ip}</AppUrl>
873     <Icon ovf:height="32" ovf:width="32" ovf:mimeType="image/png" ovf:fileRef="icon">
874     <Category>Email properties</Category>
875     <Property ovf:key="admin.email" ovf:type="string" ovf:userConfigurable="true">
876         <Label>Admin email</Label>
877         <Description>Email address of administrator</Description>
878     </Property>
879     <Category>Admin properties</Category>
880     <Property ovf:key="app.log" ovf:type="string" ovf:value="low"
881 ovf:userConfigurable="true">
882         <Description>Loglevel for the service</Description>
883     </Property>
884     <Property ovf:key="app.ip" ovf:type="string" ovf:qualifiers="ip"
885 ovf:value="{appserver-vm}">
886         <Description>The IP address of the application server virtual
887 machine</Description>
888     </Property>
889 </ProductSection>

```

890 Property elements specify application-level customization parameters and are particularly relevant to  
891 appliances that need to be customized during deployment with specific settings such as network identity,  
892 the IP addresses of DNS servers, gateways, and others.

893  
894 ProductSection is a valid section for a VirtualSystem and a VirtualSystemCollection entity.

895 Property elements may be grouped by using Category elements. The set of Property elements  
896 grouped by a Category element is the sequence of Property elements following the Category  
897 element, until but not including an element that is not a Property element. For OVF packages  
898 containing a large number of Property elements, this may provide a simpler installation experience.  
899 Similarly, each Property element may have a short label defined by its Label child element in addition

to a description defined by its `Description` child element. See clause 10 for details on how to localize the `Category` element and the `Description` and `Label` child elements of the `Property` element.

Each `Property` element in a `ProductSection` shall be given an identifier that is unique within the `ProductSection` using the `ovf:key` attribute.

**Each `Property` element in a `ProductSection` shall be given a type using the `ovf:type` attribute and optionally type qualifiers using the `ovf:qualifiers` attribute. Valid types are listed in Table 5 – Property types**

Type	Description
uint8	Unsigned 8-bit integer
sint8	Signed 8-bit integer
uint16	Unsigned 16-bit integer
sint16	Signed 16-bit integer
uint32	Unsigned 32-bit integer
sint32	Signed 32-bit integer
uint64	Unsigned 64-bit integer
sint64	Signed 64-bit integer
string	String
boolean	Boolean
real32	IEEE 4-byte floating point
real64	IEEE 8-byte floating point

The following CIM type qualifiers defined in DSP0004 shall be supported:

**Table 6 – Property qualifiers**

Type	Description
string	MinLen(min) MaxLen(max) ValueMap{...}
uint8 sint8 uint16 sint16 uint32 sint32 uint64 sint64	ValueMap{...}
string	ip(network)

909 In addition, the OVF specification defines the additional `ip` qualifier on the `string` type, meaning that the  
 910 string value is an IPv4 address in dot-decimal notation or an IPv6 address in colon-hexadecimal notation.  
 911 The syntax of IPv4 and IPv6 addresses is as defined in IETF RFC 3986.

912 The `ip` qualifier takes an optional argument, `ip(network)`, that must refer to a network defined in the  
 913 `NetworkSection`, this specifies that the IP address shall be on that particular network.

914 and valid qualifiers are listed in Table .

915 The optional attribute `ovf:value` is used to provide a default value for a property. An optional `Value`  
 916 element may be used to define alternative default values for specific configurations, as defined in clause  
 917 9.8.

918 The optional attribute `ovf:userConfigurable` determines whether the property value is configurable  
 919 during the installation phase. If `ovf:userConfigurable` is `FALSE` or omitted, the `ovf:value` attribute  
 920 specifies the value to be used for that customization parameter during installation. If  
 921 `ovf:userConfigurable` is `TRUE`, the `ovf:value` attribute specifies a default value for that  
 922 customization parameter, which may be changed during installation.

923 A simple OVF implementation such as a command-line installer typically uses default values for  
 924 properties and does not prompt even though `ovf:userConfigurable` is set to `TRUE`. To force  
 925 prompting at startup time, omitting the `ovf:value` attribute is sufficient for integer and IP types, because  
 926 the empty string is not a valid integer or IP value. For string types, prompting can be forced by using a  
 927 type for a non-empty string.

928 Zero or more `ProductSections` can be specified within a `VirtualSystem` or  
 929 `VirtualSystemCollection`. Typically, a `ProductSection` corresponds to a particular software  
 930 product that is installed. Each product section at the same entity level shall have a unique `ovf:class`  
 931 and `ovf:instance` attribute pair. For the common case where only a single `ProductSection` is used,  
 932 the `ovf:class` and `ovf:instance` attributes are optional and default to the empty string. It is  
 933 recommended that the `ovf:class` property be used to uniquely identify the software product using the  
 934 reverse domain name convention. Examples of values are `com.vmware.tools` and  
 935 `org.apache.tomcat`. If multiple instances of the same product are installed, the `ovf:instance`  
 936 attribute is used to identify the different instances.

937 Property elements are exposed to the guest software through the OVF environment, as described in  
 938 clause 11. The value of the `ovfenv:key` attribute of a `Property` element exposed in the OVF  
 939 environment shall be constructed from the value of the `ovf:key` attribute of the corresponding  
 940 `Property` element defined in a `ProductSection` entity of an OVF descriptor as follows:

941 `key-value-env = [class-value "."] key-value-prod ["." instance-value]`

942 where:

- 943 • `class-value` is the value of the `ovf:class` attribute of the `Property` element defined in the  
 944 `ProductSection` entity. The production `[class-value "."]` shall be present if and only if  
 945 `class-value` is not the empty string.
- 946 • `key-value-prod` is the value of the `ovf:key` attribute of the `Property` element defined in the  
 947 `ProductSection` entity.
- 948 • `instance-value` is the value of the `ovf:instance` attribute of the `Property` element defined in  
 949 the `ProductSection` entity. The production `["." instance-value]` shall be present if and only  
 950 if `instance-value` is not the empty string.

951 EXAMPLE: The following OVF environment example shows how properties can be propagated to the guest  
 952 software:

```

953 <Property ovf:key="com.vmware.tools.logLevel"    ovf:value="none" />
954 <Property ovf:key="org.apache.tomcat.logLevel.1" ovf:value="debug" />
955 <Property ovf:key="org.apache.tomcat.logLevel.2" ovf:value="normal" />

```

956  
 957 The consumer of an OVF package should prompt for properties where `ovf:userConfigurable` is  
 958 TRUE. These properties can be defined in multiple `ProductSections` as well as in sub-entities in the  
 959 OVF package.

960 The first `ProductSection` entity defined in the top-level `Content` element of a package shall define  
 961 summary information that describes the entire package. After installation, an OVF application could  
 962 choose to make this information available as an instance of the `CIM_Product` class.

963 `Property` elements specified on a `VirtualSystemCollection` can also be seen by its immediate  
 964 children (see clause 11). Children can refer to the properties of a parent `VirtualSystemCollection`  
 965 using macros on the form `${name}` as value for the `ovf:key` attributes.

966 **Table 5 – Property types**

Type	Description
uint8	Unsigned 8-bit integer
sint8	Signed 8-bit integer
uint16	Unsigned 16-bit integer
sint16	Signed 16-bit integer
uint32	Unsigned 32-bit integer
sint32	Signed 32-bit integer
uint64	Unsigned 64-bit integer
sint64	Signed 64-bit integer
string	String
boolean	Boolean
real32	IEEE 4-byte floating point
real64	IEEE 8-byte floating point

967 The following CIM type qualifiers defined in DSP0004 shall be supported:

968 **Table 6 – Property qualifiers**

Type	Description
string	MinLen(min) MaxLen(max) ValueMap{...}
uint8 sint8 uint16 sint16 uint32 sint32 uint64	ValueMap{...}

sint64	
string	ip(network)

969 In addition, the OVF specification defines the additional `ip` qualifier on the `string` type, meaning that the  
 970 string value is an IPv4 address in dot-decimal notation or an IPv6 address in colon-hexadecimal notation.  
 971 The syntax of IPv4 and IPv6 addresses is as defined in IETF RFC 3986.

972 The `ip` qualifier takes an optional argument, `ip(network)`, that must refer to a network defined in the  
 973 `NetworkSection`, this specifies that the IP address shall be on that particular network.

974 lists the valid types for properties. These are a subset of CIM intrinsic types defined in DSP0004, which  
 975 also define the value space and format for each intrinsic type.

976 **Table 5 – Property types**

Type	Description
uint8	Unsigned 8-bit integer
sint8	Signed 8-bit integer
uint16	Unsigned 16-bit integer
sint16	Signed 16-bit integer
uint32	Unsigned 32-bit integer
sint32	Signed 32-bit integer
uint64	Unsigned 64-bit integer
sint64	Signed 64-bit integer
string	String
boolean	Boolean
real32	IEEE 4-byte floating point
real64	IEEE 8-byte floating point

977 The following CIM type qualifiers defined in DSP0004 shall be supported:

978 **Table 6 – Property qualifiers**

Type	Description
string	MinLen(min) MaxLen(max) ValueMap{...}
uint8 sint8 uint16 sint16 uint32 sint32 uint64 sint64	ValueMap{...}
string	ip(network)

In addition, the OVF specification defines the additional `ip` qualifier on the `string` type, meaning that the string value is an IPv4 address in dot-decimal notation or an IPv6 address in colon-hexadecimal notation. The syntax of IPv4 and IPv6 addresses is as defined in IETF RFC 3986.

The `ip` qualifier takes an optional argument, `ip(network)`, that must refer to a network defined in the `NetworkSection`, this specifies that the IP address shall be on that particular network.

## 9.6 EulaSection

A `EulaSection` contains the legal terms for using its parent `Content` element.. This license shall be shown and accepted during deployment of an OVF package. Multiple `EulaSections` can be present in an OVF. If unattended installations are allowed, all embedded license sections are implicitly accepted.

```
<EulaSection>
  <Info>Licensing agreement</Info>
  <License>
    Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, ligula suspendisse nulla pretium, rhoncus tempor placerat
    fermentum, enim integer ad vestibulum volutpat. Nisl rhoncus turpis est, vel elit,
    congue wisi enim nunc ultricies sit, magna tincidunt. Maecenas aliquam maecenas ligula
    nostra, accumsan taciti. Sociis mauris in integer, a dolor netus non dui aliquet,
    sagittis felis sodales, dolor sociis mauris, vel eu libero cras. Interdum at. Eget
    habitasse elementum est, ipsum purus pede porttitor class, ut adipiscing, aliquet sed
    auctor, imperdiet arcu per diam dapibus libero duis. Enim eros in vel, volutpat nec
    pellentesque leo, scelerisque.
  </License>
</EulaSection>
```

`EulaSection` is a valid section for a `VirtualSystem` and a `VirtualSystemCollection` entity.

See clause 10 for details on how to localize the `License` element.

## 9.7 StartupSection

The `StartupSection` specifies how a virtual machine collection is powered on and off.

```
<StartupSection>
  <Item ovf:id="vm1" ovf:order="0" ovf:startDelay="30" ovf:stopDelay="0"
    ovf:startAction="powerOn" ovf:waitingForGuest="true"
    ovf:stopAction="powerOff"/>
  <Item ovf:id="teamA" ovf:order="0"/>
  <Item ovf:id="vm2" ovf:order="1" ovf:startDelay="0" ovf:stopDelay="20"
    ovf:startAction="powerOn" ovf:stopAction="guestShutdown"/>
</StartupSection>
```

Each `Content` element that is a direct child of a `VirtualSystemCollection` may have a corresponding `Item` element in the `StartupSection` entity of the `VirtualSystemCollection` entity. Note that `Item` elements can correspond to both `VirtualSystem` and `VirtualSystemCollection` entities. When a start or stop action is performed on a `VirtualSystemCollection` entity, the respective actions on the `Item` elements of its `StartupSection` entity are invoked in the specified order. Whenever an `Item` element corresponds to a (nested) `VirtualSystemCollection` entity, the actions on the `Item` elements of its `StartupSection` entity shall be invoked before the action on the `Item` element corresponding to that `VirtualSystemCollection` entity is invoked (i.e. depth-first traversal)..

The following required attributes on `Item` are supported for a `VirtualSystem` and `VirtualSystemCollection`:

- `ovf:id` shall match the value of the `ovf:id` attribute of a `Content` element which is a direct child of this `VirtualSystemCollection`. That `Content` element describes the virtual machine or virtual machine collection to which the actions defined in the `Item` element apply.
- `ovf:order` specifies the startup order using non-negative integer values. The order of execution of the start action is the numerical ascending order of the values. `Items` with same order identifier may be started up concurrently. The order of execution of the stop action is the numerical descending order of the values.

The following optional attributes on `Item` are supported for a `VirtualSystem`.

- `ovf:startDelay` specifies a delay in seconds to wait until proceeding to the next order in the start sequence. The default value is 0.
- `ovf:waitingForGuest` enables the platform to resume the startup sequence after the guest software has reported it is ready. The interpretation of this is deployment platform specific. The default value is `FALSE`.
- `ovf:startAction` specifies the start action to use. Valid values are `powerOn` and `none`. The default value is `powerOn`.
- `ovf:stopDelay` specifies a delay in seconds to wait until proceeding to the previous order in the stop sequence. The default value is 0.
- `ovf:stopAction` specifies the stop action to use. Valid values are `powerOff`, `guestShutdown`, and `none`. The interpretation of `guestShutdown` is deployment platform specific. The default value is `powerOff`.

If not specified, an implicit default `Item` is created for each entity in the collection with `ovf:order="0"`. Thus, for a trivial startup sequence no `StartupSection` needs to be specified.

## 9.8 DeploymentOptionSection

The `DeploymentOptionSection` specifies a discrete set of intended resource configurations. The author of an OVF package can include sizing metadata for different configurations. A consumer of the OVF shall select a configuration, for example, by prompting the user. The selected configuration will be visible in the OVF environment, enabling guest software to adapt to the selected configuration. See clause 11.

The `DeploymentOptionSection` specifies an ID, label, and description for each configuration.

```
<DeploymentOptionSection>
  <Configuration ovf:id="Minimal">
    <Label>Minimal</Label>
    <Description>Some description</Description>
  </Configuration>
  <Configuration ovf:id="Typical" ovf:default="true">
    <Label>Typical</Label>
    <Description>Some description</Description>
  </Configuration>
  <!-- Additional configurations -->
</DeploymentOptionSection>
```



The DeploymentOptionSection has the following semantics:

- If present, the DeploymentOptionSection is valid only at the envelope level, and only one section can be specified in an OVF descriptor.
- The discrete set of configurations is described with Configuration elements, which shall have identifiers specified by the `ovf:id` attribute that are unique in the package.
- A default Configuration element can be specified with the optional `ovf:default` attribute. If no default is specified, the first element in the list is the default. Specifying more than one element as the default is invalid.
- The Label and Description elements are localizable using the `ovf:msgid` attribute. See clause 10 for more details on internationalization support.

Configurations can be used to control resources for virtual hardware and for virtual machine collections. Item elements in VirtualHardwareSection elements describe resources for VirtualSystem entities, while Item elements in ResourceAllocationSection elements describe resources for virtual machine collections. For these two Item types, the following additional semantics are defined:

Each Item has an optional `ovf:configuration` attribute. This is a comma-separated list of configurations. If specified, the item is selected only if the chosen configuration ID is in the list. A configuration attribute shall not contain an ID that is not specified in the DeploymentOptionSection.

- Within a single VirtualHardwareSection or ResourceAllocationSection, multiple Item elements are allowed to refer to the same InstanceID. A single combined Item for the given InstanceID is constructed by applying the fields picked up from each Item element, with a latter field in the OVF descriptor overwriting a former field.
- All Item elements shall specify ResourceType, and Item elements with the same InstanceID shall agree on ResourceType.

EXAMPLE: The following example shows a VirtualHardwareSection:

```

<VirtualHardwareSection>
  <Info>...</Info>
  <Item>
    <rasd:AllocationUnits>byte * 2^20</rasd:AllocationUnits>
    <rasd:ElementName>512 MB memory size and 256 MB
reservation</rasd:ElementName>
    <rasd:InstanceID>0</rasd:InstanceID>
    <rasd:Reservation>256</rasd:Reservation>
    <rasd:ResourceType>4</rasd:ResourceType>
    <rasd:VirtualQuantity>512</rasd:VirtualQuantity>
  </Item>
  ...
  <Item ovf:configuration="big">
    <rasd:AllocationUnits>byte * 2^20</rasd:AllocationUnits>
    <rasd:ElementName>1024 MB memory size and 512 MB
reservation</rasd:ElementName>
    <rasd:InstanceID>0</rasd:InstanceID>
    <rasd:Reservation>512</rasd:Reservation>
    <rasd:ResourceType>4</rasd:ResourceType>
    <rasd:VirtualQuantity>1024</rasd:VirtualQuantity>
  </Item>
</VirtualHardwareSection>

```

1110 Note that the attributes `ovf:configuration` and `ovf:bound` on `Item` can be used in combination to  
 1111 provide very flexible configuration options.

1112 Configurations can further be used to control default values for properties. For `Property` elements inside  
 1113 a `ProductSection`, the following additional semantic is defined:

- 1114 • It is possible to use alternative default property values for different configurations in a  
 1115 `DeploymentOptionSection`. In addition to a `Label` and `Description` element, each  
 1116 `Property` element may optionally contain a `Value` element. The `Value` element shall have  
 1117 an `ovf:value` attribute specifying the alternative default and an `ovf:configuration`  
 1118 attribute specifying the configuration in which this new default value should be used. Multiple  
 1119 `Value` elements shall not refer to the same configuration..

1120 EXAMPLE: The following shows an example `ProductSection`:

```
1121 <ProductSection>
1122   <Property ovf:key="app.log" ovf:type="string" ovf:value="low"
1123   ovf:userConfigurable="true">
1124     <Label>Loglevel</Label>
1125     <Description>Loglevel for the service</Description>
1126     <Value ovf:value="none" ovf:configuration="minimal">
1127   </Property>
1128 </ProductSection>
```

## 1129 9.9 OperatingSystemSection

1130 An `OperatingSystemSection` specifies the operating system installed on a virtual machine.

```
1131 <OperatingSystemSection ovf:id="76">
1132   <Info>Specifies the operating system installed</Info>
1133   <Description>Microsoft Windows Server 2008</Description>
1134 </OperatingSystemSection>
```

1135 The valid values for `ovf:id` are defined by the `ValueMap` qualifier in the  
 1136 `CIM_OperatingSystem.OsType` property.

1137 `OperatingSystemSection` is a valid section for a `VirtualSystem` entity.

## 1138 9.10 InstallSection

1139 The `InstallSection` indicate that the virtual machine needs to be initially booted to install and  
 1140 configure the software.

```
1141 <InstallSection ovf:initialBootStopDelay="300">
1142   <Info>Specifies that the virtual machine needs to be pre-booted in order to install
1143   the software
1144   </Info>
1145 </InstallSection>
```

1146 `InstallSection` is a valid section for a `VirtualSystem` entity.

1147 The optional `ovf:initialBootStopDelay` attribute specifies a delay in seconds to wait for the virtual  
 1148 machine to power off. If not set, the implementation shall wait for the virtual machine to power off by itself.  
 1149 Note that the guest software in the virtual machine can do multiple reboots before powering off.

1150 Several VMs in a virtual machine collection may have an `InstallSection` defined, in which case the  
 1151 above step is done for each VM, potentially concurrently.

## 10 Internationalization

The following elements support localizable messages using the optional `ovf:msgid` attribute:

- Info element on Entity
- Info element on Section
- Annotation element on AnnotationSection
- License element on EulaSection
- Description element on NetworkSection
- Description element on OperatingSystemSection
- Description, Product, Vendor, Label, and Category elements on ProductSection
- Description and Label elements on DeploymentOptionSection
- ElementName, Caption and Description subelements on the System element in VirtualHardwareSection
- ElementName, Caption and Description subelements on Item elements in VirtualHardwareSection
- ElementName, Caption and Description subelements on Item elements in ResourceAllocation

The `ovf:msgid` attribute contains an identifier that refers to a message that can have different values in different locales.

EXAMPLE 1:

```
<Info ovf:msgid="info.text">Default info.text value if no locale is set or no locale
match</Info>
<License ovf:msgid="license.tomcat-6_0"/> <!-- No default message -->
```

The `xml:lang` attribute on the `Envelope` element specifies the default locale for messages in the descriptor. If not specified, the locale defaults to the locale of the consumer of the OVF package.

Message resource bundles can be internal or external to the OVF descriptor. Internal resource bundles are represented as `Strings` elements at the end of the `Envelope` element.

EXAMPLE 2:

```
<ovf:Envelope xml:lang="en-US">
...
... sections and content here ...
...
<Info msgid="info.os">Operating System</Info>
...
<Strings xml:lang="da-DA">
  <Msg ovf:msgid="info.os">Operativsystem</Msg>
  ...
</Strings>
<Strings xml:lang="de-DE">
  <Msg ovf:msgid="info.os">Betriebssystem</Msg>
  ...
</Strings>
</ovf:Envelope>
```

External resource bundles shall be listed first in the `References` section and referred to from `Strings` elements. An external message bundle follows the same schema as the embedded one.

EXAMPLE 3:

```
<ovf:Envelope xml:lang="en-US">
  <References>
    ...
    <File ovf:id="it-it-resources" ovf:href="resources/it-it-bundle.msg"/>
  </References>
  ... sections and content here ...
  ...
  <Strings xml:lang="it-IT" ovf:fileRef="it-it-resources"/>
  ...
</ovf:Envelope>
```

EXAMPLE 4: Example content of external `resources/it-it-bundle.msg` file, which is referenced in previous example:

```
<Strings
  xmlns:ovf="http://schemas.dmtf.org/ovf/envelope/1"
  xmlns="http://schemas.dmtf.org/ovf/envelope/1"
  xml:lang="it-IT">
  <Msg ovf:msgid="info.os">Sistema operativo</Msg>
  ...
</Strings>
```

The embedded and external `Strings` elements can be interleaved, but they shall be placed at the end of the `Envelope` element. If multiple occurrences of a `msgid` attribute with a given locale occurs, a latter value overwrites a former.

## 11 OVF Environment

The OVF environment defines how the guest software and the deployment platform interact. This environment allows the guest software to access information about the deployment platform, such as the user-specified values for the properties defined in the OVF descriptor.

The environment specification is split into a *protocol* part and a *transport* part. The *protocol* part defines the format and semantics of an XML document that can be made accessible to the guest software. The *transport* part defines how the information is communicated between the deployment platform and the guest software.

The `ovf-environment.xsd` XML schema definition file for the OVF environment contains the elements and attributes.

### 11.1 Environment Document

The environment document is an extensible XML document that is provided to the guest software about the environment in which it is being executed. The way that the document is obtained depends on the transport type.

EXAMPLE: An example of the structure of the OVF environment document follows::

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<Environment xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xmlns:ovfenv="http://schemas.dmtf.org/ovf/environment/1"
  xmlns="http://schemas.dmtf.org/ovf/environment/1"
  ovfenv:id="identification of VM from OVF descriptor">
```

```

1238 <!-- Information about virtualization platform -->
1239 <PlatformSection>
1240   <Kind>Type of virtualization platform</Kind>
1241   <Version>Version of virtualization platform</Version>
1242   <Vendor>Vendor of virtualization platform</Vendor>
1243   <Locale>Language and country code</Locale>
1244   <TimeZone>Current timezone offset in minutes from UTC</TimeZone>
1245 </PlatformSection>
1246 <!-- Properties defined for this virtual machine -->
1247 <PropertySection>
1248   <Property ovfenv:key="key" ovfenv:value="value">
1249     <!-- More properties -->
1250   </Property>
1251 </PropertySection>
1252 <Entity ovfenv:id="id of sibling virtual system or virtual machine collection">
1253   <!-- More properties -->
1254 </Entity>
</Environment>

```

The `PlatformSection` element contains optional information provided by the deployment platform. Elements `Kind`, `Version`, and `Vendor` describe deployment platform vendor details. Elements `Locale` and `TimeZone` describe the current locale and time zone.

The `PropertySection` element contains `Property` elements that correspond to those defined in the OVF descriptor for the current virtual machine. The environment presents properties as a simple list to make it easy for applications to parse. Furthermore, the single list format supports the override semantics where a property on a `VirtualSystem` can override one defined on a parent `VirtualSystemCollection`.

The value of the `ovfenv:id` attribute of the `Environment` element shall match the value of the `ovf:id` attribute of the `VirtualSystem` entity describing this virtual machine. The `Property` section contains the key/value pairs defined for all the properties specified in the OVF descriptor for the current virtual machine, as well as properties specified for the immediate parent `VirtualSystemCollection`, if one exists.

An `Entity` element exists for each sibling `VirtualSystem` and `VirtualSystemCollection`, if any are present. The value of the `ovfenv:id` attribute of the `Entity` element shall match the value of the `ovf:id` attribute of the sibling entity. The `Entity` elements contain the property key/value pairs in the siblings OVF environment documents. This information can be used, for example, to make configuration information such as IP addresses available to `VirtualSystems` being part of a multi-tiered application.

The environment document is extensible by providing new section types. A consumer of the document should ignore unknown section types and elements.

## 11.2 Transport

The environment document information can be communicated in a number of ways to the guest software. These ways are called transport types. The transport types are specified in the OVF descriptor by the `ovf:transport` attribute of `VirtualHardwareSection`. Several transport types can be specified using comma separation, in which case an implementation is free to use any of them.

The transport types define methods by which the environment document is communicated from the deployment platform to the guest software. Standardizing transport types does pose some challenges, since no industry-standard cross-vendor para-virtualized device exists. Possible transports types includes dynamically generated DVD images, dynamically generated floppy images, XenSource XenBus, Microsoft VMBus, VMware VMCI, and so on.

1285 To enable interoperability, OVF requires all implementations to support the "iso" transport type. This  
1286 transport communicates the environment document by making a dynamically generated ISO image  
1287 available to the guest software. To support the iso transport type, prior to booting a virtual machine, an  
1288 implementation shall make an ISO 9660 read-only disk image available as backing for a disconnected  
1289 CD-ROM. If the iso transport is selected for a VirtualHardwareSection, at least one disconnected  
1290 CD-ROM device shall be present in this section.

1291 Support for the "iso" transport type is not a requirement for virtual hardware architectures or guest  
1292 operating systems which do not have CD-ROM device support.

1293 The ISO image shall contain the OVF environment for this particular virtual machine, and the environment  
1294 shall be present in an XML file named `ovf-env.xml` that is contained in the root directory of the ISO  
1295 image. The guest software can now access the information using standard guest operating system tools.

1296 If the virtual machine has more than one disconnected CD-ROM, the guest software may have to scan  
1297 drives in order to locate the drive containing the `ovf-env.xml` file. If the appliance itself needs a  
1298 disconnected CD-ROM for other purposes, more than one CD-ROM shall be present.

1299 To be compliant with this specification, any transport format other than iso shall be given by a URI which  
1300 identifies an unencumbered specification on how to use the transport. The specification need not be  
1301 machine readable, but it shall be static and unique so that it may be used as a key by software reading an  
1302 OVF descriptor to uniquely determine the format. The specification shall be sufficient for a skilled person  
1303 to properly interpret the transport mechanism for implementing the protocols. It is recommended that  
1304 these URIs are resolvable.

## ANNEX A (informative)

### Symbols and Conventions

XML examples use the XML namespace prefixes defined in Table 1. The XML examples use a style to not specify namespace prefixes on child elements. Note that XML rules define that child elements specified without namespace prefix are from the namespace of the parent element, and not from the default namespace of the XML document. Throughout the document, whitespace within XML element values is used for readability. In practice, a service can accept and strip leading and trailing whitespace within element values as if whitespace had not been used.

Syntax definitions in Augmented BNF (ABNF) use ABNF as defined in IETF RFC 2234 with the following exceptions:

- Rules separated by a bar (|) represent choices, instead of using a forward slash (/) as defined in ABNF.
- Any characters must be processed case sensitively, instead of case-insensitively as defined in ABNF.
- Whitespace is allowed between syntactical elements, instead of assembling elements without white space as defined in ABNF.

**ANNEX B**  
(informative)**Change Log**

Version	Date	Description
1.0.0a		Work in progress release
1.0.0b		Revised XML schemas to use substitution groups



## ANNEX C (normative)

### OVF XSD

1328  
1329  
1330  
1331

1332 A normative copy of the XML schemas for this specification may be retrieved by resolving the XML  
1333 namespace URIs for this specification. Note that ".xsd" has to be appended to the URIs.

1334 XML Schema 1.1 syntax is used to enable definitions that are flexible enough to tolerate later revisions in  
1335 a backward- and forward-compatible way. In particular, the `openContent` element is used with `mode=`  
1336 `"suffix"` to express extensibility only at the end; `openContent` element is used with `mode=`  
1337 `"interleave"` to express extensibility before the first element, between every element and after the last  
1338 element.

1339 Normative copies of the XML schemas for the WS-CIM mapping ([DSP0230](#)) of  
1340 `CIM_ResourceAllocationSystemSettingsData` and `CIM_VirtualSystemSettingData` may be  
1341 retrieved by resolving the following XML namespace URIs below. Note that ".xsd" has to be appended  
1342 to the URIs.

```
1343 xmlns:vssd="http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wscim/1/cim-  
1344 schema/2/CIM_VirtualSystemSettingData"  
1345 xmlns:rasd="http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wscim/1/cim-  
1346 schema/2/CIM_ResourceAllocationSettingData"
```

1347 This specification is based on the following [CIM MOFs](#):

```
1348 CIM_VirtualSystemSettingData.mof  
1349 CIM_ResourceAllocationSettingData.mof  
1350 CIM_OperatingSystem.mof
```