OMA General Q&A

What is the Open Mobile Alliance?
The Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) delivers open specifications for creating interoperable data services that work across all geographical boundaries, on any bearer network. The OMA's primary mission is to support the global adoption of data services.

How are OMA specifications used?
OMA's specifications support the billions of new and existing fixed and mobile devices across a variety of mobile networks. Driven by increasing global demand for data services, OMA increases the adoption of new and enhanced information, communication and entertainment solutions, including applications and services for machine-to-machine communication and the ever-expanding applications market.

Who are the members of the OMA?
The Open Mobile Alliance includes contributors from all key elements of the wireless value chain, and is seeing increased interest and participation from other industries that are now entering the mobile ecosystem.

OMA member companies include:
- Wireless Device and Consumer Electronics Manufacturers
- New and Established Internet and IT Companies
- Mobile Network Operators
- Content Providers
- Application and Service Providers including Automotive, Health, Sensors and Smart Grid

Who benefits from the OMA?
The Open Mobile Alliance is designed to be the center of all mobile application layer standardization work, enabling data services designed to meet the needs of the end-user, as well as companies that need to deploy applications and services on any kind of network.

What are the primary goals of OMA's technical work?
- Deliver high quality, open technical specifications based upon market requirements that drive modularity, extensibility, and consistency for service implementation efforts across all industries.
- Ensure OMA service enabler specifications provide interoperability across different devices, geographies, service providers, operators, and networks.
- Be the catalyst for the consolidation of standards activity within the data service industry; working in conjunction with other standards organizations and industry fora to reduce fragmentation.
- Provide value to OMA members as well as the ever-expanding mobile industry.

What is the specification development philosophy of the OMA?
- Products and services are based upon open, global standards, protocols and interfaces and are not locked to proprietary technologies.
- All specifications are bearer agnostic and work across all network types.
- The OMA Service Environment (OSE), Applications Programming Interfaces (APIs) and mobile service enablers are independent of Operating Systems (OS), programming languages and development platforms.
- Applications and platforms are interoperable, providing seamless geographic and inter-generational roaming.

How does OMA approach its technical work?
- OMA standardizes service enablers, which serve as modular building blocks that can be mixed and matched into applications. OMA standardizes generic building blocks as well as service-specific building blocks enabling a whole range of current as well as future applications.
- The OMA API Program creates standardized APIs that allow developers to build new applications and services through access to resources and capabilities within operator networks.
- OMA's specifications can easily extend to machine-to-machine (M2M) scenarios, including but not limited to OMA device management specifications as well as its API Program.

What is the relationship and position of the OMA to other standardization bodies?
By monitoring the activities of a number of organizations and sharing requirements, the OMA can address areas that fall outside the scope of other organizations, as well as streamline work that may have been previously duplicated by multiple organizations. OMA maintains robust and well-supported cooperation agreements with more than 50 other standards bodies.

Where is OMA currently deployed?
OMA specifications are deployed in every region of the world on operator networks and in billions of devices including smart phones, consumer electronics and appliances, in-car applications and services, sensors and location services.

What is the Open Mobile Naming Authority (OMNA)?
OMNA is the operational naming authority established by the WAP Forum (as WAP Interim Naming Authority—WINA) and inherited by OMA. The goal of OMNA is to foster interoperability and compatibility between implementations utilizing OMA technology through the registration and mediation of assigned names and numbers. OMNA is specifically concerned with names and numbers not already administered by other bodies (e.g., IANA).

OMA Organizational Chart

- OMA Board of Directors oversee the strategic and financial governance of OMA
- OMA Technical Plenary is responsible for technical deliverables and execution of work program
- OMA Working Groups are directly responsible for creating and maintaining specifications