

## **FDT Group Updates Specification - Improving Performance and Simplifying Applications**

### *Announcing FDT2.0 – Enhanced Specification Provides Investment Protection and Backward Compatibility*

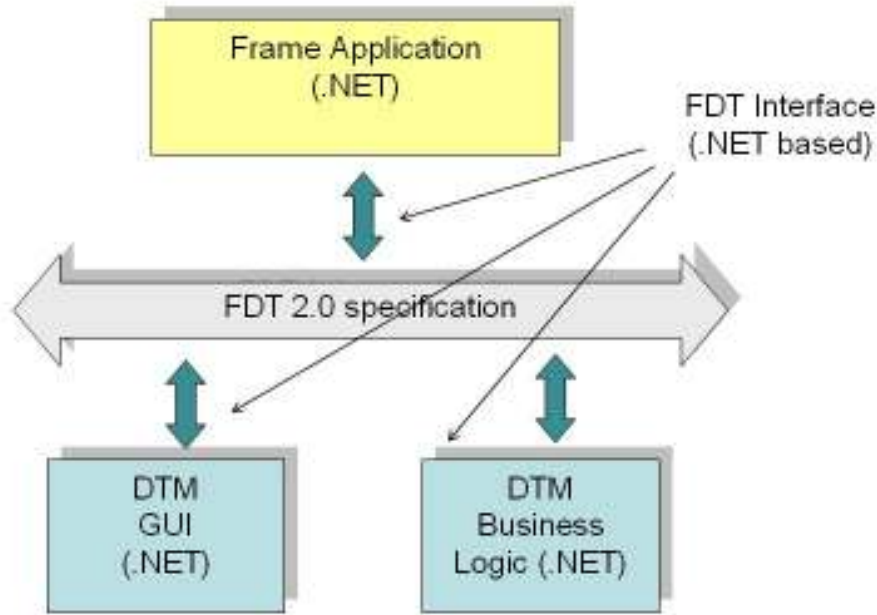
The FDT Group will revise the FDT specification regarding the basic technologies used today. What are the main reasons for changing today's specification 1.2.1 to the next version FDT2.0?

In the past years, IT technologies for software applications in machines and systems used by manufacturers and users have continuously been enhanced. End users and manufacturers request these new technologies to be able to offer advanced and competitive products and solutions. As a result, the revision of the FDT specification will mainly focus on updating the technologies used and not on functional expansions. The use of recent development environments inherent with FDT2.0 allows convenient access to extended device functions. The aim of FDT2.0 is to secure interoperability and optimize resources.

Technically, FDT2.0 replaces the currently specified COM and ActiveX technologies with current .NET technologies. For the user this step means improved performance including faster DTM call times and a faster DTM data storage. Also, the use of .NET technology simplifies DTM implementation and frame applications for the manufacturer.

All previously successfully established processes for certification of DTMs and frame applications will also be used for FDT2.0, and modified if necessary. Demands and recommendations of user groups such as NAMUR and WIB will be integrated into the FDT2.0 specification as well as the use of the style guide for user interfaces.

An addendum to the current specification 1.2.1 was created as an intermediate step towards the final FDT2.0. This addendum defines interaction of COM and .NET-based components in an existing system meeting specification 1.2.1. Thus, the .NET addendum protects and secures previous investments of users and manufacturers. However, in contrast to FDT2.0, .NET based DTMs following the .NET addendum need to be modified to interface with FDT 1.2.1 by using software adaptors which are not required in a FDT2.0 system.

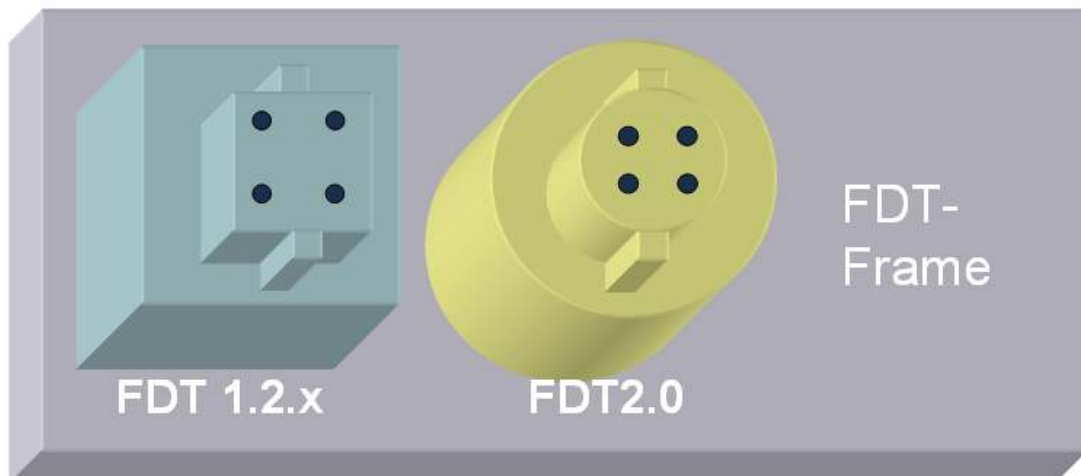


Picture 1: .NET interfaces used between FDT2.0 components

FDT2.0 meets market requirements to enhance performance and simplify DTM and frame development. During a transition period, FDT2.0 will support both technologies to ensure that current COM-based DTMs may also be used – which guarantee users backwards compatibility.

The development schedule for the FDT2.0 specification has been established and is on schedule. In fact, an important milestone, the “Conceptual Architecture” document, has already been created and is currently being reviewed by various technical FDT working groups. The next milestone to be achieved is to provide more detail to the description of the architecture.

The first developments using the new specification are expected to be started early in 2010.



Picture 2: Downwards compatibility to FDT 1.2.1 components

This enhancement of the FDT technology utilizes the functions and features included in current IT technologies which will facilitate competitive product development. FDT2.0 is therefore an important step for FDT and protects the investment of manufacturers and users worldwide.