VMmark Review Panel Guidelines and Operating Procedures

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Version 2.0

A VMmark Review Panel is established in order to provide a broader set of reviewers from multiple companies with the goal of maintaining impartiality of published VMmark results.

Review Panel Operating Procedures

1. Membership on the VMmark Review Panel is by invitation only. An interested company may request an invitation from VMware.

2. The Review Panel is in place in order to assess the adherence of a VMmark submission to the VMmark Run and Reporting Rules.

3. Once a submission is made, Review Panel members (including VMware) may flag any issue regarding the compliance of that submission with the Run and Reporting Rules. The Review Panel members are in an advisory role to VMware. If VMware or the submitter agrees it is a valid issue, the submitter has the remainder of the 10 business day review window to resolve it, or may request an extension of review to the next 10 business day cycle. Once any issues are resolved VMware will formally accept the submission and post the results to the VMmark Results webpage.

4. Issues must be flagged to the entire Review Panel and the submitter via accepted communication methods (official email list, official live meetings.)

Guidelines for the Handling of Materials Submitted for Review

The following guidelines regarding the proper use of review materials by Review Panel members are intended to assure fairness to the submitter:

1. New and previously unpublished optimization parameters used in a VMmark submission under review may not be utilized by another Review Panel member company until:

    a. the submission is published, or

    b. the originating vendor's documentation on the parameters is published, or

    c. 30 days after the submission is withdrawn or put on hold by the submitter's request, or

    d. 30 days from the last day of the review cycle where the submission was found to be noncompliant.

    The Review Panel may recommend that a submission's review be suspended if it appears that this guideline has not been followed. The Review Panel may recommend that a member be suspended from the panel if a panel member's company appears to have violated the guideline by independently publishing a result.

2. Trying to surpass a result currently under review is considered common practice and is not prohibited.

3. Published information found in press releases etc. can be used at any time.

4. Benchmark results submitted to the Review Panel for official publication are considered confidential. This includes the benchmark result, the configuration, availability dates, and tuning notes. Within a Review Panel member company this information should be shared only with those people necessary to provide a thorough review of the results.

5. After results are accepted and published on the VMmark webpage, then the result is public. If results are withdrawn during the review window or are not published because issues remain open at the end of the review period, then that submission remains confidential. For example, if a company submits results for VMmark publication but the submission is not published due to issues that are not resolved, Review Panel member companies may not make public use of that fact.

6. Information that the submitting company makes public (or is required to make public) is not considered confidential. For example, a company may issue a press release or briefing containing a VMmark score for a new system and around the same time submit those benchmark results for VMmark publication. In this case details included in the full VMmark disclosure under review, which may not have been included in the company's public announcement, are not considered VMmark confidential.

Handling VMmark Run Rule Violations in Published Results

The Review Panel may be asked to reassess a previously published result if significant questions are flagged as to its adherence to the Run and Reporting Rules. The Run and Reporting Rules define the handling of results that are determined to be non-compliant.

Submit, Review, and Publication Process

For a detailed description of the submit, review, and publication process refer to the *VMmark Run and Reporting Rules.*

Once the Review Panel is in place, the only way to have results published on the VMware VMmark website is by having results reviewed by the panel and accepted by VMware. Benchmark users may still self publish as described in the *VMmark Run and Reporting Rules*.

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