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**Information technology —
Metadata Interoperability and Bindings (MDIB) —
Part 002: Common vocabulary**

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 20944-002 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC1, *Information Technology*, Subcommittee SC32, *Data Management and Interchange*.

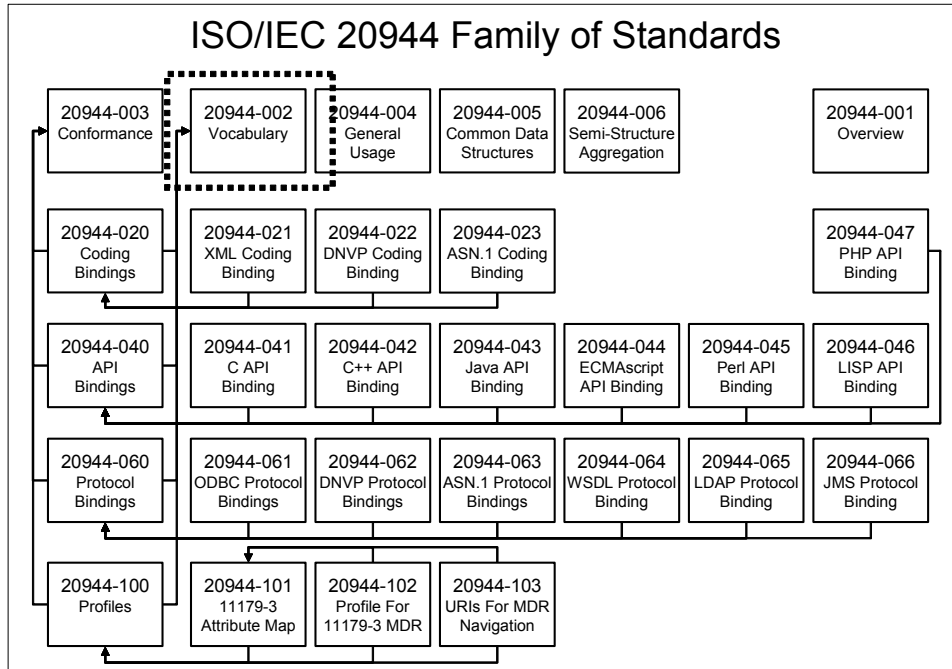
ISO/IEC 20944 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Metadata Interoperability and Bindings (MDIB)*:

- *Part 001: Framework*
- *Part 002: Common vocabulary*
- *Part 003: Common provisions for conformance*
- *Part 004: Generic usage*
- *Part 005: Common data structures and services*
- *Part 006: Semi-structured aggregation*
- *Part 020: Common provisions for coding bindings*
- *Part 021: XML coding binding*
- *Part 022: DNVP coding binding*
- *Part 023: ASN.1 coding binding*
- *Part 040: Common provisions for application programming interface (API) bindings*
- *Part 041: C API binding*

- *Part 042: C++ API binding*
- *Part 043: Java API binding*
- *Part 044: ECMAScript API binding*
- *Part 045: Perl binding*
- *Part 046: LISP binding*
- *Part 047: PHP binding*
- *Part 060: Common provisions for protocol bindings*
- *Part 061: ODBC protocol binding*
- *Part 062: DCTP protocol binding*
- *Part 063: SOAP protocol binding*
- *Part 064: WSDL protocol binding*
- *Part 065: LDAP protocol binding*
- *Part 066: JMS protocol binding*
- *Part 100: Common provisions for profiles*
- *Part 101: Attribute mapping for 11179-3 metadata registry metamodel*
- *Part 102: Profile for 11179-3 metadata registry metamodel*
- *Part 103: Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) suffixes for 11179-3 metadata registry metamodel navigation*

Introduction

This Part of ISO/IEC 20944 is a compilation of terms and definitions that are necessary for the other parts of this International Standard, and are useful for applications of this International Standard. The following diagram shows the organization of the ISO/IEC 20944 family of standards with this Part highlighted.



Organization of ISO/IEC 20944 family of standards.

Information technology — Metadata Interoperability and Bindings (MDIB) — Part 002: Common vocabulary

Editor's Note: Each part of 20944 is marked with a common sequence number ("**[Release Sequence #N]**") to indicate they are synchronized and harmonized among themselves. The mark "**[Release Sequence #N]**" does *not* imply that there are a complete set of N-1 prior drafts.

1 Scope

This Part provides the common terminology of the ISO/IEC 20944 family of standards.

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.

ISO/IEC Guide 2, *Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary*

ISO/IEC 704:2000, *Terminology work — Principles and methods*

ISO/IEC 1087-1:2000, *Terminology work — Vocabulary — Part 1: Theory and application*

ISO/IEC 2382 (all parts), *Information technology — Vocabulary*

ISO/IEC 10241:1992, *International terminology standards — Preparation and layout*

ISO/IEC 11179 (all parts)¹, *Information technology — Metadata Registries (MDR)*²

ISO/IEC 11404:1996, *Information technology — Programming languages, their environments, and system software interfaces — Language-independent datatypes*

ISO/IEC 14977:1996, *Information technology — Syntactic metalanguage — Extended BNF*

¹ At the time of publishing, some parts of ISO/IEC 11179 are being revised.

² The international standards, technical reports, and drafts of the 11179, 20943, and 20944 series are available at

<http://metadata-standards.org/11179>

<http://metadata-standards.org/20943>

<http://metadata-standards.org/20944>

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC Guide 2

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

3.1.1 Standardization

3.1.1.1

standardization

activity of establishing, with regard to actual or potential problems, provisions for common and repeated use, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context

NOTE 1 In particular, the activity consists of the processes of formulating, issuing and implementing standards.

NOTE 2 Important benefits of standardization are improvement of the suitability of products, processes and services for their intended purposes, prevention of barriers to trade and facilitation of technological cooperation.

3.1.1.2

level of standardization

geographical, political or economic extent of involvement in standardization

3.1.1.3

consensus

general agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments

3.1.2 Aims of standardization

3.1.2.1

fitness for purpose

ability of a product, process or service to serve a defined purpose under specific conditions

3.1.2.2

compatibility

suitability of products, processes or services for use together under specific conditions to fulfil relevant requirements without causing unacceptable interactions

3.1.2.3

interchangeability

ability of one product, process or service to be used in place of another to fulfil the same requirements

NOTE The functional aspect of interchangeability is called "functional interchangeability", and the dimensional aspect "dimensional interchangeability".

3.1.2.4

variety control

selection of the optimum number of sizes or types of products, processes or services to meet prevailing needs

NOTE Variety control is usually concerned with variety reduction.

3.1.3 Normative documents

3.1.3.1

normative document

document that provides rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results

NOTE 1 The term "normative document" is a generic term that covers such documents as standards, technical specifications, codes of practice and regulations.

NOTE 2 A "document" is to be understood as any medium with information recorded on or in it.

NOTE 3 The terms for different kinds of normative documents are defined considering the document and its content as a single entity.

3.1.3.2

standard

document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context

NOTE Standards should be based on the consolidated results of science, technology and experience, and aimed at the promotion of optimum community benefits.

3.1.3.3

international standard

standard that is adopted by an international standardizing/standards organization and made available to the public

3.1.3.4

regional standard

standard that is adopted by a regional standardizing/standards organization and made available to the public

3.1.3.5

national standard

standard that is adopted by a national standards body and made available to the public

3.1.3.6

provincial standard

standard that is adopted at the level of a territorial division of a country and made available to the public

3.1.3.7

prestandard

document that is adopted provisionally by a standardizing body and made available to the public in order that the necessary experience may be gained from its application on which to base a standard

3.1.3.8

technical specification

document that prescribes technical requirements to be fulfilled by a product, process or service

NOTE 1 A technical specification should indicate, whenever appropriate, the procedure(s) by means of which it may be determined whether the requirements given are fulfilled.

NOTE 2 A technical specification may be a standard, a part of a standard or independent of a standard.

3.1.3.9

regulation

document providing binding legislative rules, that is adopted by an authority

3.1.3.10

technical regulation

regulation that provides technical requirements, either directly or by referring to or incorporating the content of a standard, technical specification or code of practice

NOTE A technical regulation may be supplemented by technical guidance that outlines some means of compliance with the requirements of the regulation, i.e. deemed-to-satisfy provision.

3.1.4 Harmonization of standards

3.1.4.1

harmonized standards

equivalent standards

standards on the same subject approved by different standardizing bodies, that establish interchange-ability of products, processes and services, or mutual understanding of test results or information provided according to these standards

NOTE Within this definition, harmonized standards might have differences in presentation and even in substance, e.g. in explanatory notes, guidance on how to fulfil the requirements of the standard, preferences for alternatives and varieties.

3.1.4.2

unified standards

harmonized standards that are identical in substance but not in presentation

3.1.4.3

identical standards

harmonized standards that are identical in both sub-stance and presentation

NOTE 1 Identification of the standards may be different.

NOTE 2 If in different languages, the standards are accurate translations.

3.1.4.4

comparable standards

standards on the same products, processes or services, approved by different standardizing bodies, in which different requirements are based on the same characteristics and assessed by the same methods, thus permitting unambiguous comparison of differences in the requirements

NOTE Comparable standards are not harmonized (or equivalent) standards.

3.1.5 Content of normative documents

3.1.5.1

provision

expression of normative wording that takes the form of a statement, an instruction, a recommendation or a requirement

NOTE These types of provision are distinguished by the form of wording they employ; e.g. instructions are expressed in the imperative mood, recommendations by the use of the auxiliary "should" and requirements by the use of the auxiliary "shall".

3.1.5.2

statement

provision that conveys information

3.1.5.3

instruction

provision that conveys an action to be performed

3.1.5.4

recommendation

provision that conveys advice or guidance

3.1.5.5

requirement

provision that conveys criteria to be fulfilled

3.1.5.6

exclusive requirement

mandatory requirement (deprecated)

requirement of a normative document that must necessarily be fulfilled in order to comply with that document

NOTE The term "mandatory requirement" should be used to mean only a requirement made compulsory by law or regulation.

3.1.5.7

optional requirement

requirement of a normative document that must be fulfilled in order to comply with a particular option permitted by that document

NOTE An optional requirement may be either: (1) one of two or more alternative requirements; or (2) an additional requirement that must be fulfilled only if applicable and that may otherwise be disregarded.

3.1.5.8

deemed-to-satisfy provision

provision that indicates one or more means of compliance with a requirement of a normative document

3.1.5.9

descriptive provision

provision for fitness for purpose that concerns the characteristics of a product, process or service

NOTE A descriptive provision usually conveys design, constructional details, etc. with dimensions and material composition.

3.1.5.10

performance provision

provision for fitness for purpose that concerns the behavior of a product, process or service in or related to use

3.1.6 Implementation of normative documents

3.1.6.1

adoption of an international standard (in a national normative document)

publication of a national normative document based on a relevant international standard, or endorsement of the international standard as having the same status as a national normative document, with any deviations from the international standard identified [adapted from ISO/IEC Guide 2]

NOTE ISO/IEC Guide 2 uses the term "taking over of an international standard (in a national normative document)". ISO/IEC Guide 2 explains that "taking over of ..." is equivalent to "adoption of ...".

3.1.6.2

application of a normative document

use of a normative document in production, trade, etc.

3.1.6.3

direct application of a normative document

application of an international standard irrespective of the taking over of that international standard in any other normative document

3.1.6.4

indirect application of a normative document

application of an international standard through the medium of another normative document in which it has been taken over

3.1.7 References to standards

3.1.7.1

reference to standards (in regulations)

reference to one or more standards in place of detailed provisions within a regulation

NOTE 1 A reference to standards is either dated, undated or general, and at the same time either exclusive or indicative.

NOTE 2 A reference to standards may be linked to a more general legal provision referring to the state of the art or acknowledged rules of technology. Such a provision may also stand alone.

3.1.7.2

dated reference (to standards)

reference to standards that identifies one or more specific standards in such a way that later revisions of the standard or standards are not to be applied unless the reference is modified [adapted from ISO/IEC Guide 2]

NOTE The standard is usually identified by its number and either date or edition. The title may also be given.

3.1.7.3

undated reference (to standards)

reference to standards that identifies one or more specific standards in such a way that later revisions of the standard or standards are to be applied without the need to modify the reference [adapted from ISO/IEC Guide 2]

NOTE The standard is usually identified only by its number. The title may also be given.

3.1.7.4

general reference (to standards)

reference to standards that designates all standards of a specified body and/or in a particular field without identifying them individually

3.1.7.5

mandatory standard

standard the application of which is made compulsory by virtue of a general law or exclusive reference in a regulation

3.1.8 Conformity in general

3.1.8.1

conformity

fulfillment by a product, process, or service of specified requirements

3.1.8.2

conformity assessment

any activity concerned with determining directly or indirectly that relevant requirements are fulfilled

NOTE Typical examples of conformity assessment activities are sampling, testing and Inspection; evaluation, verification and assurance of conformity (supplier's declaration, certification); registration, accreditation and approval as well as their combinations.

3.2 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

3.2.1 Fundamental terms

3.2.1.1

International Standard

international standard where the international standards organization is ISO or IEC

3.3 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC JTC1 Directives

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from the ISO/IEC JTC1 Directives.

3.3.1 Fundamental terms

3.3.1.1

API

application programming interface

boundary across which application software uses facilities of programming languages to invoke services [adapted from JTC1 Directives, 4th edition, Annex J; and ISO/IEC 13886]

3.4 Terms and definitions from ISO 704

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from ISO 704.

3.4.1 Basic concepts

3.4.1.1

object

«terminology» anything that may be perceived or conceived [adapted from ISO 704]

3.4.1.2

symbol

designation that is non-linguistic [adapted from ISO 704]

3.4.1.3

sign

term, appellation, or symbol [adapted from ISO 704 and ISO 1087-1]

3.5 Terms and definitions from ISO 1087

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from ISO 1087.

3.5.1 Basic concepts

3.5.1.1

definition

representation of a concept by a descriptive statement which serves to differentiate it from related concepts

3.5.1.2

designation

representation of a concept by a sign which denotes it

EXAMPLES Budget Amount (a term, according to ISO 704), New York City (an appellation, according to ISO 704), AHRS1 (a symbol, according to ISO 704)

NOTE 1 A designation may be human readable (e.g., Budget Amount, grand_total) or not (e.g., AHRS1, 1.3.60.1234).

NOTE 2 Designations are typically used in the context of information technology applications, but they may have applicability elsewhere.

3.6 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-01, fundamental terms

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01.

3.6.1 General terms

3.6.1.1

text

data in the form of characters, symbols, words, phrases, paragraphs, sentences, tables, or other character arrangements, intended to convey a meaning, and whose interpretation is essentially based upon the reader's knowledge of some natural language or artificial language

EXAMPLES A business letter printed on paper or displayed on a screen.

3.6.1.2

to access

to obtain the use of a resource

3.6.1.3

information processing

systematic performance of operations upon information, that includes data processing and may include operations such as data communication and office automation

NOTE The term information processing is not a synonym for data processing. Information processing includes data communication (e.g., computer networks) and office automation (e.g., satisfying the business needs of an entity), whereas data processing does not include data communication and office automation.

3.6.1.4

data processing

DP

automatic data processing

ADP

systematic performance of operations upon data

EXAMPLE Arithmetic or logic operations upon data, merging or sorting of data, assembling or compiling of programs, or operations on text, such as editing, sorting, merging, storing, retrieving, displaying, or printing.

NOTE The term data processing is not a synonym for information processing. Information processing includes data communication (e.g., computer networks) and office automation (e.g., satisfying the business needs of an entity), whereas data processing does not include data communication and office automation.

3.6.1.5

hardware

all or part of the physical components of an information processing system

EXAMPLE Computers, peripheral devices.

3.6.1.6

software

all or part of the programs, procedures, rules, and associated documentation of an information processing system

NOTE Software is an intellectual creation that is independent of the medium on which it is recorded.

3.6.1.7

storage

«device» functional unit into which data can be placed, in which they can be retained, and from which they can be retrieved

3.6.1.7

automatic

pertaining to a process or equipment that, under specified conditions, functions without human intervention

3.6.1.8

to automate

to make a process or equipment automatic

3.6.1.9

automation

conversion of processes or equipment to automatic operation, or the results of the conversion

3.6.1.10

data processing system

computer system

computing system

one or more computers, peripheral equipment, and software that perform data processing

3.6.1.11

information processing system

one or more data processing systems and devices, such as office and communication equipment, that perform information processing

3.6.1.12

information system

information processing system, together with associated organizational resources such as human, technical, and financial resources, that provides and distributes information

3.6.1.13

process 1

predetermined course of events defined by its purpose or by its effect, achieved under given conditions

3.6.1.14

process 2

«data processing» predetermined course of events that occur during the execution of all or part of a program

3.6.1.15

configuration

manner in which the resources of an information processing system are organized and interconnected [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.1.16

synchronous

pertaining to two or more processes that depend upon the occurrence of specific events such as common timing signals

3.6.1.17

asynchronous

pertaining to two or more processes that do not depend upon the occurrence of specific events such as common timing signals

3.6.1.18

input 1

«data» data entered into an information processing system or any of its parts for storage or processing

3.6.1.19

input 2

«process» process of entering data into an information processing system or any of its parts for storage or processing

3.6.1.20

input 3, adj.

pertaining to a device, process, or input-output channel involved in an input process, or to the associated data or states

NOTE The word "input" may be used in place of "input data", "input signal", or "input process" when such a usage is clear in a given context.

3.6.1.21

output 1

«data» data that an information processing system, or any of its parts, transfers outside of that system or part

3.6.1.22

output 2

«process» process by which an information processing system, or any of its parts, transfers data outside of that system or part

3.6.1.23

output 3, adj.

pertaining to a device, process, or input-output channel involved in an output process, or to the associated data or states

NOTE The word "output" may be used in place of "output data", "output signal", or "output process" when such a usage is clear in a given context.

3.6.1.24

to download

to transfer programs or data from a computer to a connected computer with fewer resources [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.1.25

to upload

transfer programs or data from a connected computer to a computer with greater resources [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.1.26

interface

shared boundary between two functional units, defined by various characteristics pertaining to the functions, physical interconnections, signal exchanges, and other characteristics, as appropriate

3.6.1.27

data communication

transfer of data among functional units according to sets of rules governing data transmission and the coordination of the exchange

3.6.1.28

functional unit

entity capable of accomplishing a specified purpose

EXAMPLES A hardware subsystem, a software component, both, a human operator, all three (hardware, software, operator).

3.6.1.29

online, adj

on-line GB, adj

pertaining to the operation of a functional unit when under the control of a computer

3.6.1.30

offline, adj

off-line GB, adj

pertaining to the operation of a functional unit that takes place either independently of, or in parallel with, the main operation of a computer

3.6.1.31

computer network

network of data processing nodes that are interconnected for the purpose of data communication

3.6.1.32

local area network

LAN

computer network located on a user's premises within a limited geographical area [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.1.33

interoperability

capability to communicate, execute programs, or transfer data among various functional units in a manner that requires the user to have little or no knowledge of the unique characteristics of those units

3.6.1.34

virtual

pertaining to a functional unit that appears to be real, but whose functions are accomplished by other means

3.6.1.35

virtual machine

VM

virtual data processing system that appears to be at the exclusive disposal of a particular user, but whose functions are accomplished by sharing the resources of a real data processing system

3.6.1.36

data medium

material in or on which data can be recorded and from which data can be retrieved

3.6.1.37

to log on

to log in

to initiate a session

3.6.1.38

to log off

to log out

to end a session

3.6.2 Information representation

3.6.2.1

numeric numerical

pertaining to data that consist of numerals as well as to processes and functional units that use those data

3.6.2.2

digital

pertaining to data that consist of digits as well as to processes and functional units that use those data

3.6.2.3

alphanumeric

pertaining to data that consist of letters, digits, and usually other characters, such as punctuation marks, as well as to processes and functional units that use those data

3.6.2.4

analog

pertaining to continuously variable physical quantities or to data presented in a continuous form, as well as to processes and functional units that use those data

3.6.2.5

bit

binary digit

either of the digits 0 or 1 when used in the binary numeration system

3.6.2.6

byte

string that consists of a number of bits, treated as a unit, and usually representing a character or a part of a character

NOTE 1 The number of bits in a byte is fixed for a given data processing system.

NOTE 2 The number of bits in a byte is usually 8.

3.6.2.7

octet

8-bit byte

byte that consists of eight bits

3.6.3 Hardware

3.6.3.1

computer

functional unit that can perform substantial computations, including numerous arithmetic operations and logic operations without human intervention

NOTE 1 A computer may consist of a stand-alone unit or several interconnected units.

NOTE 2 In English, in information processing, the term computer usually refers to a digital computer.

3.6.3.2

digital computer

A computer that is controlled by internally stored programs and that is capable of using common storage for all or part of a program and also for all or part of the data necessary for the execution of the programs; executing user-written or user-designated programs; performing user-designated manipulation of digitally represented discrete data, including arithmetic operations and logic operations; and executing programs that modify themselves during their execution

NOTE In English, in information processing, the term computer usually refers to a digital computer.

3.6.3.3

peripheral equipment

any device that is controlled by and can communicate with a particular computer

EXAMPLE Input-output units, external storage.

3.6.3.4

processor

functional unit that interprets and executes instructions in a computer

3.6.3.5

terminal

functional unit in a system or communication network at which data may be entered or retrieved

3.6.3.6

user terminal

terminal that enables a user to communicate with a computer

3.6.3.7

workstation

functional unit that usually has special purpose computing capabilities and includes user-oriented input units and output units

EXAMPLE A programmable terminal, a nonprogrammable terminal or a stand-alone microcomputer.

3.6.3.8

thick client

programmable terminal

intelligent terminal

user terminal that has built-in data processing capability [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.3.9

thin client

nonprogrammable terminal

dumb terminal

user terminal that has little or no independent data processing capability [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.3.10

video display terminal

VDT

visual display terminal

visual display unit

VDU

user terminal with a display screen, and usually equipped with an input unit such as a keyboard and a mouse

3.6.3.11

connectivity

capability of a system or device to be attached to other systems or devices without modification

3.6.4 Software

3.6.4.1

application software

application program

software or a program that is specific to the solution of an application problem

EXAMPLE A spreadsheet program.

3.6.4.2

system software

application-independent software that supports the running of application software

EXAMPLE An operating system.

3.6.4.3

support software

support program

software or a program that aids in the development, maintenance, or use of other software or provides general application-independent capability

EXAMPLE A compiler, a database management system.

3.6.4.4

system documentation

collection of documents that describe the requirements, capabilities, limitations, design, operation, and maintenance of an information processing system

3.6.4.5

application documentation

collection of documents that describe the requirements, capabilities, limitations, design, operation, and maintenance of application software or an application program

EXAMPLE User and installation documentation for a program.

3.6.4.6

portability (of a program or of data)

capability to be interpreted, understood, or executed on various types of data processing systems without conversion and with little or no modification

3.6.4.7

operating system

OS

software that controls the execution of programs and that may provide services such as resource allocation, scheduling, input-output control, and data management

3.6.5 Programming

3.6.5.1

program

computer program

syntactic unit that conforms to the rules of a particular programming language and that is composed of declarations and statements or instructions needed to solve a certain function, task, or problem

3.6.5.2

programming

designing, writing, modifying, and testing of programs

3.6.5.3

artificial language

language whose rules are explicitly established prior to its use

3.6.5.4

programming language

artificial language for expressing programs

3.6.6 Applications and end user

3.6.6.1

information retrieval

IR

actions, methods, and procedures for obtaining information on a given subject from stored data

3.6.6.2

prompt

visual, audible, or tactile message sent by a program to request the user's response [adapted ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.6.3

menu

list of options conveyed by a data processing system, from which the user can select an action to be initiated [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

EXAMPLES A menu may be conveyed by a visual display of options. A menu may be conveyed by audio via a recorded voice speaking the list of options.

3.6.6.4

compatibility

capability of a functional unit to meet the requirements of a specified interface without appreciable modification

NOTE This term differs from "compatibility" in ISO/IEC Guide 2 in that this term is specialized for use in information technology.

3.6.6.5

user-friendly

pertaining to ease and convenience of use by humans

3.6.7 Computer security

3.6.7.1

data protection

implementation of appropriate administrative, technical or physical means to guard against unauthorized intentional or accidental disclosure, modification, or destruction of data

3.6.8 Data management

3.6.8.1

information management

functions of controlling the acquisition, analysis, retention, retrieval, and distribution of information all within an information processing system [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.8.2

data management

functions that provide access to data, performs or monitors the storage of data, and controls input-output operations all within a data processing system [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

3.6.8.3

access method

technique to obtain the use of data, the use of storage in order to read or write data, or the use of an input-output method to transfer data [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-01]

EXAMPLE 1 Random access method, indexed access method, sequential access method.

EXAMPLE 2 In object-oriented design, any class method that sends or receives data.

3.6.8.4

data bank

set of data related to a given subject and organized in such a way that it can be consulted by subscribers

3.6.8.5

database

collection of data organized according to a conceptual structure describing the characteristics of these data and the relationships among their corresponding entities, supporting one or more application areas

3.6.8.6

file

labeled set of records treated as a unit

3.7 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-04, organization of data

3.7.1 Character sets

3.7.1.1

character

member of a set of elements that is used for the representation, organization, or control of data

NOTE Characters may be categorized as follows:

- character
 - graphic character
 - digit

- letter
- ideogram
- special character
- control character
 - transmission control character
 - format effector
 - code extension character
 - device control character

EXAMPLE The international reference version of the character set of ISO/IEC 10646-1.

3.7.1.2

character set

finite set of characters that is complete for a given purpose

EXAMPLE The international reference version of the character set of ISO/IEC 10646-1.

3.7.1.3

alphabetic character set

character set that contains letters and may contain special characters, but not digits

EXAMPLE The international reference version of the character set of ISO/IEC 10646-1.

3.7.1.4

numeric character set

character set that contains digits and may contain special characters, but usually not letters

3.7.1.5

alphanumeric character set

character set that contains both letters and digits and may contain special characters

3.7.1.6

binary character set

character set that consists of two characters

3.7.2 Codes

3.7.2.1

code 1, noun

coding scheme

collection of rules that maps the elements of a first set onto the elements of a second set

NOTE 1 The elements of either set may be characters or character strings.

NOTE 2 The first set is called coded set and the second set is called code set.

NOTE 3 Each element of the code set may be related to more than one element of the coded set but the reverse is not true.

3.7.2.2

coded set

set of elements that is mapped onto another set according to a code

EXAMPLE A list of the names of airports that is mapped onto a corresponding set of three-letter abbreviations.

3.7.2.3

code value

code element

code (deprecated in this sense)

result of applying a code to an element of a coded set

EXAMPLES “CDG” representing Paris Charles-De-Gaulle in the code for three-letter representation of airport names; the hexadecimal number 0041 representing “Latin capital letter A” in ISO/IEC 10646-1.

3.7.2.4

code set

code element set

code (deprecated in this sense)

result of applying a code to all elements of a coded set

EXAMPLES All the three-letter representations of airport names.

3.7.2.5

alphabetic code

code whose application results in an alphabetic code set

3.7.2.6

numeric code

code whose application results in a numeric code set

3.7.2.7

alphanumeric code

code whose application results in an alphanumeric code set

3.7.2.8

binary code

code whose application results in a binary code set

3.7.2.9

alphabetic code set

alphabetic code element set

code set whose elements are taken from an alphabetic character set

3.7.2.10

numeric code set

numeric code element set

code set whose elements are constructed from a numeric character set

3.7.2.11

alphanumeric code set

alphanumeric code element set

code set whose elements are constructed from an alphanumeric character set

3.7.2.12

binary code set

binary code element set

code set whose elements are constructed from a binary character set

3.7.3 Graphic characters

3.7.3.1

graphic character

character, other than a control character, that has a visual representation and is normally produced by writing, printing, or displaying on a screen

NOTE A graphic character may be used to represent a control character in text.

3.7.3.2

letter

alphabetic character

graphic character that, when appearing alone or combined with others, represents one or more concepts of a written language, or one or more sound elements of a spoken language

NOTE Diacritical marks used alone and punctuation marks are not considered to be letters.

3.7.3.3

alphabet

character set in which the order of its elements has been agreed upon

EXAMPLE The 128 ASCII characters.

3.7.3.4

ideogram

ideographic character

graphic character, in a natural language, that represents an object or a concept and associated sound elements

EXAMPLES A Chinese ideogram or a Japanese Kanji.

3.7.3.5

digit

numeric character

character that represents a natural number

EXAMPLES One of the characters 0 through 9 in the decimal system; these digits plus the characters A through F used in the hexadecimal system.

NOTE 1 The mathematical term “natural number” denotes all non-negative integers.

NOTE 2 This is a modified version of the definition in ISO/IEC 2382-01.

3.7.3.6

alphanumeric character

character of an alphanumeric character set

3.7.3.7

decimal digit

digit used in the decimal system

EXAMPLE The Arabic digits 0 through 9.

3.7.3.8

hexadecimal digit

digit used in the hexadecimal system

EXAMPLE The graphic characters 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F.

3.7.3.9

bit

binary digit

either of the digits 0 or 1 when used in the binary system

3.7.3.10

binary character

either character of a binary character set

EXAMPLES T (true) or F (false), Y (yes) or N (no).

3.7.3.11

blank

blank character

character that represents an empty position in a graphic character string

NOTE 1 A blank is conceptually different from a space character but may not be differentiated in a particular character set. For example, some character sets include a blank as a "nonbreaking space" that may be used between two graphic characters without being treated as a delimiter.

NOTE 2 Blank is not included in ISO/IEC 10646-1.

3.7.3.12

special character

graphic character that is neither a letter, digit, nor blank, and usually not an ideogram

EXAMPLES A punctuation mark, a percent sign, a mathematical symbol.

3.7.4 Control characters

3.7.4.1

control character

character whose purpose is to effect format, to control data transmission, or to perform other control functions

NOTE A control character, although it is not a graphic character, may have a graphic representation.

3.7.4.2

transmission control character

control character used to control or facilitate data transmission between data terminal equipment

NOTE Transmission control characters are described in ISO/IEC 10646-1 and ISO 6429.

3.7.4.3

space character

character that causes the print or display position to advance one position along the line without producing any graphic character

NOTE The space character is described in ISO/IEC 10646-1, ISO 4873 and ISO 6937-1.

3.7.4.4

format effector

control character used to position printed, displayed, or recorded data

NOTE Format effectors are described in ISO/IEC 10646-1 and ISO 6429.

EXAMPLES Space character, horizontal-tab character, carriage-return character, line-feed character, and form-feed character.

3.7.4.5

code extension character

control character used to indicate that one or more of the succeeding code values are to be interpreted according to a different code

NOTE Code extension characters are described in ISO/IEC 10646-1 and ISO 2022.

3.7.4.6

device control character

control character used to specify a control function for peripheral equipment associated with a data processing system

NOTE Device control characters are described in ISO/IEC 10646-1 and ISO 6429.

3.7.5 Strings

3.7.5.1

string

sequence of elements of the same nature, such as characters or bits, considered as a whole

NOTE A string may be empty or contain only one element.

3.7.5.2

character string

string consisting solely of characters

3.7.5.3

alphabetic string

string consisting solely of letters from the same alphabet

3.7.5.4

bit string

string consisting solely of bits

3.7.5.5

null string

string that contains no elements

3.7.5.6

position

location of an element in a string

3.7.5.7

n-bit byte

byte with an explicit specification of the number of its bits

EXAMPLE 7-bit byte.

3.7.6 Words

3.7.6.1

word

character string or a bit string treated as a unit for a given purpose

NOTE The length of a computer word is defined by the computer architecture, while the words in text processing are delimited by special characters or control characters.

3.7.6.2

alphabetic word

word that consists of characters from the same alphabetic character set

3.7.6.3

numeric word

word that consists of digits and possibly space characters and special characters

EXAMPLE The string "33 (1) 41 62 80 00" as written for the AFNOR telephone number.

3.7.6.4

alphanumeric word

word that consists of characters from the same alphanumeric character set

3.7.6.5

computer word

machine word

word, usually treated as a unit, that is suitable for processing by a given computer

3.7.6.6

word length

word size

number of characters or bits in a word

3.7.7 Structuring of data

3.7.7.1

data element

«organization of data» unit of data that is considered, in context, to be indivisible

EXAMPLE 1 The data element "age of a person" with values consisting of all combinations of 3 decimal digits.

EXAMPLE 2 A personnel record that includes the data elements "name" and "address". In the context of the personnel record, "name" and "address" function as an indivisible unit, e.g., the data element "name" and the data element "address" each can be stored and retrieved as an indivisible unit. However, in a *different* context, "address" itself may be considered a record that contains its own data elements "street address", "city", "postal code", "country".

3.7.7.2

record

«organization of data» set of data elements treated as a unit

3.7.7.3

table

arrangement of data in which each item may be referenced by means of arguments or keys [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-04]

3.7.8 Delimiters and identifiers

3.7.8.1

internal label

label that is recorded on a data medium and that provides information about data recorded on the data medium

3.7.8.2

volume label

beginning-of-volume label

volume header

internal label that identifies the volume and indicates the beginning of its data

3.7.8.3

end-of-volume label

EOV

internal label that indicates the end of the data contained in a volume

3.7.9 Trees

3.7.9.1

node

«organization of data» point from which subordinate items originate within a data structure

NOTE A node may have no subordinate items and is then called a terminal node.

3.7.9.2

tree

rooted tree

data structure containing nodes that are linked together hierarchically with at most one parent node for each node, and with only one root node

3.7.9.3

subtree

node within a tree with all its connected descendent nodes

3.7.9.4

ordered tree

tree in which the order of the subtrees of each node is significant

3.8 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-05, representation of data

3.8.1 Types of data representation

3.8.1.1

comment remark

language construct exclusively used to include text that has no intended effect on the language processing [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-05]

EXAMPLES An explanation to a human reader; data for an automatic documentation system.

3.8.1.2

implicit declaration

declaration caused by the occurrence of an identifier that designates an object, whose characteristics are determined by default [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-05]

EXAMPLE In the POSIX command shell, assigning an uninitialized variable ("X=17") causes the implicit declaration of the variable.

3.8.1.3

predefined built-in intrinsic

pertaining to a language construct that is declared by the definition of the artificial language [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-05]

EXAMPLE The construct **sizeof()** is built-in to the C programming language.

3.9 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-06, preparation and handling of data

3.9.1 General terms

3.9.1.1

to read

to obtain data from a storage device, from a data medium, or from another source

3.9.1.2

to write

to make a permanent or transient recording of data in a storage device or on a data medium

NOTE The phrases "to read to" and "to read from" are often distinguished from the phrases "to write to" and "to write from" only by the viewpoint of the description. For example, the transfer of a block of data from internal storage to external storage may be called "writing to the external storage" or "reading from the internal storage", or both.

3.9.1.3

to copy

to read data from a source data medium, leaving the source data unchanged, and to write the same data on a destination data medium that may differ from that of the source

EXAMPLE To copy a file from a magnetic tape onto a magnetic disk.

3.9.1.4

to duplicate

to copy from a source data medium to a destination data medium that has the same physical form

EXAMPLE To copy a file from a magnetic tape to another magnetic tape.

3.9.2 Input and output

3.9.2.1

input-output, adj.

I/O, adj.

pertaining to a device, process, or channel involved in an input process and in an output process, concurrently or not, or to their associated data or states

NOTE The phrase "input-output" may be used in place of "input-output data", "input-output signals", "input-output process" when such a usage is clear in a given context.

3.9.2.2

data collection

process of bringing data together from one or more points for use in a computer

EXAMPLE To collect transactions generated at branch offices by a data network for use at a computer center.

3.9.2.3

data entry

process of putting data onto a machine-readable medium

EXAMPLE To enter data to a payroll file on a flexible disk from a terminal.

3.9.2.4

data acquisition

process of collecting and entering data

3.9.3 Transfer and conversion

3.9.3.1

to transfer

to move

to send data from one storage location to another

3.9.3.2

to transform

to change the form of data according to specified rules, without fundamentally changing the meaning of the data

3.9.3.3

to translate

to change the form of data from one artificial language into artificial language or into some other representation suitable for processing [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-06]

3.9.3.4

to convert

to change the representation of data from one form to another, without changing the information conveyed

EXAMPLE Code conversion; radix conversion; analog to digital conversion, media conversion.

3.9.3.5

to transliterate

to convert data character by character

3.9.3.6

to encode 1

to code

to convert data by the use of a code in such a manner that reconversion to the original form is possible

3.9.3.7

to decode

to convert data by reversing the effect of some previous encoding

3.9.3.8

to transcribe

to copy data from one data medium to another, converting them as necessary for acceptance by the receiving medium

3.9.3.9

to pack

to convert data to a compact form in a storage medium by taking advantage of known characteristics of the data and of the storage medium, in such a way that the original form of the data can be recovered

EXAMPLE To make use of bit or byte locations that would otherwise remain unused.

3.9.3.10

packing

operation performed when data are packed

3.9.3.11

to unpack

to recover the original form of the data from packed data

3.9.3.12

to compress

to compact

to reduce the space taken on a data medium by encoding or removing repetitive characters

3.9.3.13

to expand

to return compressed data to their original form

3.9.4 Searches

3.9.4.1

search

examination of one or more data elements of a set to find those elements that have a given property

3.9.4.2

search cycle

sequence of events of a search that is repeated for each data element

3.9.4.3

search key

key used for data retrieval

3.9.4.4

scanning

systematic examination of data

3.9.5 Ordering, sorting, and collating

3.9.5.1

to order

to place items in an arrangement in accordance with specified rules

3.9.5.2

order

specified arrangement resulting from ordering

NOTE In contrast to a sequence, an order need not be linear, for example the ordering of a hierarchy of items.

3.9.5.3

to sequence

to place items in an arrangement in accordance with the order of the natural numbers

NOTE Methods or procedures may be specified for mapping other natural linear orders onto the natural numbers; then, by extension, sequencing may be, for example, alphabetic or chronological.

3.9.5.4

sequence

series of items that have been sequenced

3.9.5.5

index

list of the contents of a file or of a document, together with keys or references for locating the contents

3.9.5.6

to sort

to segregate items into groups according to specified criteria without necessarily ordering the items within each group

3.9.5.7

to merge

to combine the items of two or more sets of data that are in the same given order into one set in that order

3.9.5.8

to collate

to arrange two or more sets of data into a single one according to a predetermined order

3.9.5.9

collating sequence

specified arrangement resulting from collating

3.9.6 Preparation of data

3.9.6.1

to edit

to prepare data for a later operation

NOTE Editing may include the rearrangement, the addition or modification of data, the deletion of unwanted data, format control, code conversion, and the application of standard processes such as zero suppression.

3.9.6.2

to extract

to select and remove from a group of items those which meet specific criteria

3.9.6.3

to clear

to cause one or more storage locations to be set in a prescribed state, usually that corresponding to zero or that corresponding to the space character

3.9.6.4

to zerofill

to fill unused storage locations with the representation of the character denoting zero

3.9.6.5

zero suppression

elimination of non-significant zeros from a numeral

3.10 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-07, computer programming

3.10.1 Kinds of languages

3.10.1.1

expression language

programming language in which assignments can be made in the context of an expression

EXAMPLE C.

NOTE The expression "if (x = y < 0) ..." is legal in C, but would be illegal in Ada.

3.10.1.2

markup language

text-formatting language designed to transform raw text into structured documents, by inserting procedural and descriptive markup into the raw text

3.10.1.3

authoring language

problem-oriented language designed to develop courseware for computer-aided instruction

3.10.1.4

specification language

problem-oriented language, often a computer-processible combination of natural language and artificial language, used for expressing the requirements, design, behavior, or other characteristics of a system or a component and that provides special language constructs and, sometimes, verification *protocols used to develop, analyze, and document the specified entities

3.10.1.5

pseudocode

combination of language constructs from a programming language with those of natural language that is not necessarily computer-processible, but intended to make the design of a program manifest to human readers

EXAMPLE

```
IF the data arrive faster than expected,  
    THEN reject every third input.  
    ELSE process all data received.  
ENDIF.
```

3.10.2 Program preparation

3.10.2.1

to parse

to determine the syntactic structure of a language construct by decomposing it into lexical tokens and establishing the relationships among them

EXAMPLE To parse blocks into statements, statements into expressions, expressions into operators and operands.

3.10.2.2

parser

software tool that parses programs or other text, often as the first step of assembly, compilation, interpretation, or analysis

3.10.3 Program execution

3.10.3.1

language processor

functional unit for translating and executing programs written in a specified programming language

EXAMPLE A LISP machine.

3.10.3.2

execution time

run time

any instant at which the execution of a particular program takes place

3.10.3.3

to exit

to execute an instruction or statement in a program or part thereof that terminates the execution of that program or part

3.10.3.4

exit point

point in a program, module, or statement at which execution of this program, module, or statement can terminate

3.10.3.5

entry point

entrance

point in a program, module, or statement at which execution of this program, module, or statement can begin

3.10.3.6**reentry point**

point in a program, module, or statement at which this program, module, or statement resumes execution following the execution of another program, module, or statement

3.10.3.7**deadlock**

situation in which data processing is suspended because two or more devices or concurrent processes are each awaiting resources assigned to the other(s) or because of other mutual dependencies

EXAMPLE A situation in which a program A, with an exclusive lock on record X, asks for a lock on record Y, which is allocated to program B. Likewise, program B is waiting for exclusive control over record X before giving up control over record Y.

3.10.3.8**lockout**

technique for allocation of resources in which shared resources are protected by permitting access by only one device or process at a time and excluding others

EXAMPLE To prohibit reading of data while they are being updated.

3.10.3.9**to raise (an exception)**

to cause an exception to be signaled based upon the occurrence of a specified condition

3.10.3.10**exception handle**

portion of a program executed in response to a specific kind of exception

3.10.3.11**to handle (an exception)**

to take direct action as the result of the occurrence of an exception

NOTE Normally, control is transferred to an exception handler that takes action.

3.10.3.12**to propagate (an exception)**

to transfer control to the exception handler of a prior calling module or nesting module due to lack of required handling within a given module, or to explicitly raise the exception again within an exception handler

3.10.3.13**data exception**

exception that occurs when a program or process attempts to use or access data incorrectly [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-07]

3.10.3.14**operation exception**

exception that occurs when a program or process encounters an invalid operation part [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-07]

3.10.3.15**protection exception**

exception that occurs when a program or process attempts to access a protected area in a storage device or storage medium [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-07]

3.11 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-08, security

3.11.1 General concepts

3.11.1.1

computer security

protection of data and resources from accidental or malicious acts, usually by taking appropriate actions [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

NOTE These acts may be modification, destruction, access, disclosure, or acquisition, if not authorized.

3.11.1.2

administrative security

procedural security

administrative measures for computer security

NOTE These measures may be operational and accountability procedures, procedures of investigating breaches in security, and reviewing audit trails.

3.11.1.3

communications security

computer security applied to data communication

3.11.1.4

data security

computer security applied to data

3.11.1.5

security policy

plan or course of action adopted for providing computer security

3.11.1.6

data integrity

property of data whose accuracy and consistency are preserved regardless of changes made

NOTE 1 From an information security perspective, data integrity is a technical policy about information security that reduces inbound security threats to an acceptable level.

NOTE 2 Data integrity may include: controlling the creation of information, controlling changes to information, or other techniques. The policy may be implemented by various security techniques, security technologies, security procedures, practices, etc..

3.11.1.7

file protection

implementation of appropriate administrative, technical, or physical means to guard against the unauthorized access to, modification of, or deletion of a file

3.11.1.8

confidentiality

property of data that indicates the extent to which these data have not been made available or disclosed to unauthorized individuals, processes, or other entities [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

NOTE 1 Confidentiality is a security technique that minimizes outbound security threats to an acceptable level by permitting retrieval or read access to authorized entities, and prohibiting retrieval and read access to unauthorized entities.

NOTE 2 Various security technologies may implement "confidentiality".

3.11.1.9

accountability

property that ensures that the actions of an entity may be traced uniquely to that entity

3.11.1.10

authentication

act of verifying the claimed identity of an entity

3.11.1.11

message authentication

verification that a message was sent by the purported originator to the intended recipient and that the message was not changed in transit

3.11.1.12

authentication information

information used to establish the validity of a claimed identity of an entity

3.11.1.13

credentials

data that are transferred to establish the claimed identity of an entity

3.11.1.14

authentication exchange

mechanism intended to ensure the identity of an entity by means of an information exchange

3.11.1.15

authorization

granting of rights, which includes the granting of access based on access rights

3.11.1.16

availability

«computer security» property of data or of resources being accessible and usable on demand by an authorized entity

3.11.1.17

security level

combination of a hierarchical security classification and a security category that represents the sensitivity of an object or the security clearance of an individual

3.11.1.18

closed-security environment

environment in which special attention is paid (in the form of authorizations, security clearances, configuration controls, etc.) to protect data and resources from accidental or malicious acts

3.11.1.19

open-security environment

environment in which protection of data and resources from accidental or malicious acts is achieved through normal operational procedures

3.11.1.20

privacy

«data handling» pertaining to the freedom from intrusion into the private life or affairs of an individual when that intrusion results from undue or illegal gathering and use of data about that individual [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

NOTE Privacy is a technical policy about information security that reduces outbound security threats to an acceptable level. Privacy may include: controlling the copying of information, controlling transfer of information, or other techniques. The security policy may be implemented by various security techniques, security technologies, security procedures, practices, etc..

3.11.1.21

risk analysis

risk assessment

systematic method of identifying the assets of a data processing system, the threats to those assets, and the vulnerability of the system to those threats

3.11.1.22

risk acceptance

managerial decision to accept a certain degree of risk, usually for technical or cost reasons

3.11.1.23

sensitivity

measure of importance assigned to information by the information owner to denote its need for protection

3.11.1.24

system integrity

quality of a data processing system fulfilling its operational purpose while both preventing unauthorized users from making modifications to or use of resources and preventing authorized users from making improper modifications to or improper use of resources

3.11.1.25

threat analysis

examination of actions and events that might adversely affect a data processing system

3.11.1.26

trusted computer system

data processing system that provides sufficient computer security to allow for concurrent access to data by users with different access rights and to data with different security classification and security categories

3.11.1.27

subject

«computer systems security» active entity that can access objects

EXAMPLE A process that involves execution of a program.

NOTE A subject may cause information to flow among objects or may change the state of the data processing system.

3.11.1.28

object 2

«computer systems security» entity to which access is controlled

EXAMPLE A file, a program, an area of main storage; data collected and maintained about a person.

3.11.2 Classification of information

3.11.2.1

security classification

determination of which specific degree of protection against access the data or information requires, together with a designation of that degree of protection

EXAMPLES "Top secret", "secret", "confidential".

3.11.2.2

sensitive information

information that, as determined by a competent authority, must be protected because its disclosure, modification, destruction, or loss will cause perceivable damage to someone or something

3.11.2.3

security category

nonhierarchical grouping of sensitive information used to control access to data more finely than with hierarchical security classification alone

3.11.2.4

compartmentalization

division of data into isolated blocks with separate security controls for the purpose of reducing risk

EXAMPLE The division of data relative to a major project into blocks corresponding to subprojects, each with its own security protection, in order to limit exposure of the overall project.

3.11.2.5

multilevel device

functional unit that can simultaneously process data of two or more security levels without risking to compromise computer security

3.11.2.6

single-level device

functional unit that can only process data of a single security level at a particular time

3.11.3 Cryptographic techniques

3.11.3.1

encryption

encipherment

cryptographic transformation of data

3.11.3.2

irreversible encryption

irreversible encipherment

one-way encryption

encryption that produces ciphertext from which the original data cannot be reproduced

NOTE Irreversible encryption is useful in authentication. For example, a password might be irreversibly encrypted and the resulting ciphertext stored. A password presented later would be irreversibly encrypted identically and the two strings of ciphertext compared. If they are identical, the presented password is correct.

3.11.3.3

**decryption
decipherment**

process of obtaining, from a ciphertext, the original corresponding data

NOTE A ciphertext may be encrypted a second time, in which case a single decryption does not produce the original plaintext.

3.11.3.4

key

bit string that controls the operations of encryption or decryption

3.11.3.5

private key

key that is intended for decryption for the exclusive use by its owner

3.11.3.6

public key

key that is intended for use by any entity for encrypted communication with the owner of the corresponding private key

3.11.3.7

**public-key cryptography
asymmetric cryptography**

cryptography in which a public key and a corresponding private key are used for encryption and decryption

NOTE If a public key is used for encryption, the corresponding private key must be used for decryption, and vice versa.

3.11.3.8

symmetric cryptography

cryptography in which the same key is used for encryption and decryption

3.11.3.9

secret key

key that is intended for use by a limited number of correspondents for encryption and decryption

3.11.4 Access control

3.11.4.1

access control

means of ensuring that the resources of a data processing system can be accessed only by authorized entities in authorized ways

3.11.4.2

**access control list
access list**

list of entities, together with their access rights, that are authorized to access a resource

3.11.4.3

access category

category to which entities may be assigned, based on the resources that the entity is authorized to use

3.11.4.4

access level

level of authority required from an entity to access a protected resource

EXAMPLE The authority to access data or information at a particular security level.

3.11.4.5

access right

permission for a subject to access a particular object for a specific type of operation

EXAMPLE Permission for a process to read a file but not write to it.

3.11.4.6

access permission

all of a subject's access rights with respect to some object

3.11.4.7

access period

period of time during which specified access rights prevail

3.11.4.8

access type

«computer security» type of operation specified by an access right

EXAMPLES Read, write, execute, append, modify, delete, create.

3.11.4.9

ticket

«computer security» representation of one or more access rights that a possessor has to an object

NOTE The ticket represents an access permission.

3.11.4.10

capability

«computer security» representation of the identification of an object, or of a class of objects, and of a set of authorized access types for these objects

NOTE A capability can be implemented in the form of a ticket.

3.11.4.11

capability list

list associated with a subject that identifies all of the subject's access types for all objects

EXAMPLE A list associated with a process that identifies all of its access types for all files and other protected resources.

3.11.4.12

identity authentication

identity validation

performance of tests to enable a data processing system to recognize entities

EXAMPLE The checking of a password or of an identity token.

3.11.4.13

identity token

device used for identity authentication

EXAMPLE Smart card, metal key.

3.11.4.14

password

character string that is used as authentication information

3.11.4.15

minimum privilege

restriction of the access rights of a subject to only those rights that are necessary for the execution of authorized tasks

3.11.4.16

need-to-know

legitimate requirement of a prospective recipient of data to know, to access, or to possess any sensitive information represented by these data

3.11.4.17

logical access control

use of mechanisms related to data or information to provide access control

EXAMPLE The use of a password.

3.11.4.18

physical access control

use of physical mechanisms to provide access control

EXAMPLE Keeping a computer in a locked room.

3.11.4.19

computer access system

means of automating physical access control [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

EXAMPLE The use of magnetic-striped badges, smart cards, biometric readers.

3.11.4.20

read access

access right that gives permission to read data

3.11.4.21

write access

access right that gives permission to write data

NOTE Write access may grant permission to append, modify, delete, or create data.

3.11.4.22

user ID

user identification

character string or pattern that is used by a data processing system to identify a user

3.11.4.23

user profile 1

description of a user, typically used for access control

NOTE A user profile may include data such as user ID, user name, password, access rights, and other attributes.

3.11.4.24

user profile 2

pattern of a user's activity that can be used to detect changes in the activity

3.11.5 Security violations

3.11.5.1

threat

potential violation of computer security [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

3.11.5.2

risk

possibility that a particular threat will exploit a particular vulnerability of a data processing system [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

3.11.5.3

denial of service

prevention of authorized access to resources or the delaying of time-critical operations

3.11.5.4

compromise

violation of computer security whereby programs or data may have been modified, destroyed, or made available to unauthorized entities [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

3.11.5.5

loss

quantitative measure of harm or deprivation resulting from a compromise [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

3.11.5.6

exposure

possibility that a particular attack will exploit a particular vulnerability of a data processing system

3.11.5.7

compromising emanation

signals that are unintentionally emitted and that, if intercepted and analyzed, may reveal sensitive information being processed or transmitted

EXAMPLES Acoustic emanation, electromagnetic emanation.

3.11.5.8

disclosure

violation of computer security whereby data have been made available to unauthorized entities

3.11.5.9

penetration

unauthorized access to a data processing system [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

3.11.5.10

breach

circumvention or disablement of some element of computer security, with or without detection, which could result in a penetration of the data processing system [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-08]

3.11.5.11

attack

attempt to violate computer security

EXAMPLES Malicious logic, wiretapping.

3.11.5.12

eavesdropping

unauthorized interception of information-bearing emanations

3.11.5.13

wiretapping

surreptitious access to some part of a data circuit to obtain, modify, or insert data

3.11.5.14

active wiretapping

wiretapping with the purpose to modify or insert data

3.11.5.15

passive wiretapping

wiretapping limited to obtaining data

3.11.5.16

masquerade

pretense by an entity to be a different entity in order to gain unauthorized access

3.11.5.17

to spoof

to take action intended to deceive a user, an observer (such as an eavesdropper), or a resource

3.11.5.18

aborted connection

disconnection that does not follow established procedures

NOTE An aborted connection may enable other entities to gain unauthorized access.

3.11.5.19

aggregation

«computer security» acquisition of sensitive information by collecting and correlating information of lesser sensitivity

3.11.5.20

data corruption

accidental or intentional violation of data integrity

3.11.5.21

flooding

accidental or intentional insertion of a large volume of data resulting in denial of service

3.11.5.22

contamination

introduction of data of one security classification or security category into data of a lower security classification or different security category

3.11.5.23

covert channel

transmission channel that may be used to transfer data in a manner that violates security policy

3.11.6 Protection of sensitive information

3.11.6.1

verification

comparing an activity, a process, or a product with the corresponding requirements or specifications

EXAMPLES

Comparing a specification with a security policy model or comparing object code with source code.

3.11.6.2

data validation

process used to determine if data are accurate, complete, or meet specified criteria

NOTE

Data validation may include format checks, completeness checks, check key tests, reasonableness checks, and limit checks.

3.11.6.3

privacy protection

measures taken to ensure privacy

NOTE

The measures include data protection and limitations on the gathering, combining, and processing of data about individuals.

3.11.6.4

digital signature

data appended to a message, that allow the recipient of the message to verify the source of the message

3.11.6.5

digital envelope

data appended to a message, that allow the intended recipient to verify the integrity of the content of the message

3.11.6.6

biometric

pertaining to the use of specific attributes that reflect unique personal characteristics, such as a fingerprint, an eye blood-vessel print, or a voice print, to validate the identity of a person

3.11.6.7

residual data

data left in a data medium after deletion of a file or a portion of a file

NOTE

Residual data remain recoverable until clearing of the data medium has taken place.

3.11.6.8

sanitizing

Removing sensitive information from a document to reduce its sensitivity

3.11.6.9

contingency procedure

procedure that is an alternative to the normal path of a process if an unusual but anticipated situation occurs

3.11.6.10

data authentication

process used to verify data integrity

EXAMPLES Verification that data received are identical to data sent, verification that a program is not infected by a virus.

NOTE Not to be confused with authentication.

3.11.6.11

message authentication code

bit string that is a function of both data (either plaintext or ciphertext) and a secret key, and that is attached to the data in order to allow data authentication

NOTE The function used to generate the message authentication code is typically a one-way function.

3.11.6.12

manipulation detection

modification detection

procedure that is used to detect whether data have been modified, either accidentally or intentionally

3.11.6.13

manipulation detection code

modification detection code

MDC

bit string that is a function of data to which it is attached to allow manipulation detection

NOTE 1 The resulting message (data plus MDC) may then be encrypted in order to achieve secrecy or data authentication.

NOTE 2 The function used to generate the MDC must be public.

3.11.6.14

repudiation

denial by one of the entities involved in a communication of having participated in all or part of the communication

NOTE In the description of techniques and mechanisms the term “non-repudiation” is often used to mean that none of the entities involved in a communication can deny its participation in the communication.

3.11.6.15

security filter

trusted computer system that enforces a security policy on the data that pass through the system

3.11.6.16

guard

«computer security» functional unit that provides a security filter between two data processing systems operating at different security levels or between a user terminal and a database to filter out data that the user is not authorized to access

3.11.6.17

mutual suspicion

relationship between interacting entities in which neither entity relies upon the other entity to function correctly or securely with respect to some property

3.11.6.18

notarization

registration of data with a trusted third party that allows the later assurance of the accuracy of the data's characteristics such as content, origin, time, and delivery

3.11.7 Recovery of data

3.11.7.1

data restoration

act of regenerating data that have been lost or contaminated

NOTE Methods include copying data from archive, data reconstruction from source data, or data reconstitution from alternative sources.

3.11.7.2

data reconstruction

method of data restoration by analyzing original sources

3.11.7.3

data reconstitution

method of data restoration by assembling data from components available in alternative sources

3.11.7.4

backward recovery

data reconstitution of an earlier version of data by using a later version and data recorded in a journal

3.11.7.5

forward recovery

data reconstitution of a later version of data by using an earlier version and data recorded in a journal

3.12 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-09, data communications

3.12.1 General

3.12.1.1

data transmission

transmission

transfer of data from one point to one or more other points over telecommunication facilities

3.12.1.2

data source

functional unit that originates data for transmission

3.12.1.3

data sink

functional unit that accepts transmitted data

3.12.1.4

transmission medium

natural or artificial medium that conveys signals

3.12.2 Transmission — general

3.12.2.1

to transmit

to send from one location for reception elsewhere

3.12.2.2

parallel transmission

simultaneous transmission over separate transmission channels of the signal elements of a group representing a character or other entity of data

3.12.2.3

serial transmission

sequential transmission over one transmission channel of the signal elements of a group representing a character or other entity of data

3.12.2.4

simplex transmission

data transmission in one preassigned direction only

3.12.2.5

half-duplex transmission

data transmission in either direction, one direction at a time

3.12.2.6

duplex transmission

full-duplex transmission

data transmission in both directions at the same time

3.12.2.7

asynchronous transmission

data transmission in which the start of each character or block of characters is arbitrary but, once started, the time of occurrence of each signal element has the same relationship to significant instants of a fixed time base

3.12.2.8

start-stop transmission

asynchronous transmission such that each group of signal elements representing a character is preceded by a specific signal, called a start signal, and is followed by another signal, called a stop signal

3.12.2.9

synchronous transmission

data transmission in which the time of occurrence of each signal element is related to a fixed time base

3.12.2.10

transmission channel

channel

means of transmission of signals in one direction between two points

NOTE A transmission channel may be provided, for example, by frequency division multiplexing or time division multiplexing.

3.12.2.11

forward channel

transmission channel in which the direction of transmission is restricted to the direction in which user data are being transferred

3.12.2.12

backward channel

transmission channel associated with the forward channel but with the opposite direction of transmission, used for supervisory or error control signals

NOTE In case of simultaneous transfer of data in both directions, this definition applies with respect to the data source under consideration.

3.12.3 Transmission facilities

3.12.3.1

communication adapter

hardware feature that allows a functional unit to be attached to transmission facilities

3.12.4 Transmission techniques

3.12.4.1

line code

code that suits the characteristics of a transmission channel

NOTE This code may differ from the code or codes used by the sending and receiving data terminal equipments.

3.12.4.2

bit rate

speed at which bits are transferred

NOTE Bit rate is usually expressed in bits per second, kilobit/s, megabit/s, etc.

3.12.4.3

actual transfer rate

transfer rate

average number of bits, characters, or blocks transferred per unit time between two points

3.12.4.4

effective transfer rate

average number of bits, characters, or blocks transferred per unit time between two points and accepted as valid at the reception

3.12.4.5

multiplexing

process for combining signals from several separate sources into a signal for transmission over a single transmission channels

3.12.4.6

demultiplexing

process applied to a signal formed by multiplexing, for recovering the original independent signals, or groups of these signals

NOTE Demultiplexing may be partial, for instance, for extracting a group from a supergroup.

3.12.4.7

multiple access

technique whereby a number of terminals are able to share the capacity of a transmission channel in a predetermined manner or in accordance with traffic demand

3.12.5 Data link

3.12.5.1

data link

parts of two data terminal equipments that are controlled by a protocol along with the interconnecting data circuit, which together enable data transfer [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

3.12.5.2

data circuit

pair of associated transmission channels that provide a means of two-way data transmission [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

NOTE 1 Between data switching exchanges, the data circuit may or may not include data circuit-terminating equipment (DCE), depending on the type of interface used at the data switching exchange.

NOTE 2 Between a data station and a data switching exchange or data concentrator, the data circuit includes the data circuit-terminating equipment at the data station end, and may include equipment similar to a DCE at the data switching exchange or data concentrator location.

3.12.5.3

line

transmission line

physical transmission medium

NOTE The line is the portion of a data circuit external to data circuit-terminating equipment (DCE), that connects the DCE to a data switching exchange (DSE), that connects a DCE to one or more other DCEs, or that connects a DSE to another DSE.

3.12.5.4

protocol

set of rules that determines the behavior of functional units in achieving communication

3.12.5.5

error control

part of a protocol that enables error detection, and possibly error correction, of errors

3.12.5.6

bit error ratio

BER

bit error rate (deprecated)

number of erroneous bits divided by the total number of bits transmitted, received, or processed over some stipulated period of time

3.12.5.7

flow control

control of the actual transfer rate in data communication [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

3.12.5.8

acknowledgment

affirmative response, by a receiver, to a sender, indicating that transmitted data have been received

3.12.5.9

polling

process whereby data stations are invited one at a time to transmit

3.12.5.10

contention

condition arising when two or more data stations attempt to transmit at the same time over the same transmission channel

3.12.5.11

data transfer phase

phase of a call during which user data may be transferred between data terminal equipments that are interconnected via a network

NOTE While generally used on a multipoint connection, polling can be used on a point-to-point connection.

3.12.5.12

selecting

process of requesting one or more data stations to receive data

NOTE While generally used on a multipoint connection, selecting can be used on a point-to-point connection.

3.12.5.13

interrogating

process whereby a master station requests a slave station to indicate its identity or its status

3.12.5.14

time-out

event designed to occur at the conclusion of a predetermined elapsed time

NOTE A time-out can be prevented by sending an appropriate signal; a time-out condition can be cancelled by the receipt of an appropriate time-out cancellation signal.

3.12.5.15

recovery

process for resolving conflicting or erroneous conditions arising during the transfer of data in data transmission [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

3.12.5.16

data station

functional unit that originates data for transmission, that accepts transmitted data, and that performs all functions necessary for communication with another functional unit [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

3.12.5.17

data terminal equipment

DTE

part of a data station that serves as a data source, a data sink, or both [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

NOTE The DTE may be connected directly to a data processing system, or may be part of it.

3.12.5.18

data circuit-terminating equipment

DCE

equipment that provides the signal conversion and coding between the data terminal equipment (DTE) and the line in a data station [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

NOTE 1 The DCE may be separate equipment or an integral part of the DTE or of the intermediate equipment.

NOTE 2 The DCE may perform other functions that are usually performed at the network end of the line.

3.12.6 Data network

3.12.6.1

node

«data communication» point where one or more functional units interconnect transmission channels or data circuits in a data network [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

3.12.6.2

port

termination through which signals can enter or leave a network

3.12.6.3

connection

association established between functional units for data transmission

3.12.6.4

point-to-point connection

connection established between two data stations

3.12.6.5

multipoint connection

connection established among more than two data stations

3.12.6.6

broadcast

transmission of the same data to all destinations

3.12.6.7

multicast

transmission of the same data to a selected group of destinations

3.12.6.8

data network

network in which data circuits and possibly switching facilities enable data communication among data terminal equipments

3.12.6.9

metropolitan area network

MAN

network for connecting local area networks located in the same urban area

NOTE A MAN generally operates at a higher speed than the networks interconnected, crosses administrative boundaries, and supports several access methods.

3.12.6.10

wide area network

WAN

network that provides communication services to a geographic area larger than that served by a local area network or a metropolitan area network

3.12.6.11

store and forward

mode of operation of a data network in which data are temporarily stored before they are retransmitted toward the destination

3.12.6.12

data switching exchange

DSE

equipment installed at a single location to perform switching functions between data circuits

3.12.6.13

switching

process of temporarily associating functional units, transmission channels, or telecommunication circuits for providing a connection

EXAMPLE Circuit switching, message switching, packet switching.

3.12.6.14

circuit switching

process that, on demand, connects two or more data terminal equipment and permits the exclusive use of a data circuit between them until the connection is released

3.12.6.15

message switching

process of routing messages by receiving, storing as necessary, and forwarding complete messages in a data network [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

3.12.6.16

packet

sequence of bits arranged in a specific format, containing control data and possibly user data, and that is transmitted and switched as a whole

3.12.6.17

packet sequencing

process of ensuring that packets are delivered to the receiving data terminal equipment (DTE) in the same order as they were submitted by the sending DTE

3.12.6.18

packet switching

the process of routing and transferring data by means of addressed packets so that, between two nodes, each transmission channel is allocated dynamically to packets having different addresses in a data network [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-09]

3.12.6.19

datagram

packet, independent of other packets, that carries information sufficient for routing from the originating data terminal equipment (DTE) to the destination DTE, without relying on earlier exchanges between the DTEs and the network

3.12.6.20

datagram service

service that routes a datagram to the destination identified in its address field without reference by the network to any other datagram

NOTE Datagrams may be delivered to a destination address in a different order from that in which they were entered in the network.

3.12.7 Data network

3.12.7.1

user class of service

category of a data transmission service provided by a data network in which the data signaling rate, the data terminal equipment operating mode, and the code structure, if any, are standardized

3.12.7.2

user facility

set of functions available on demand to a user, and provided by a data network as a service for data transmission

NOTE Some user facilities may be available on a per-call basis, and others may be assigned for an agreed period of time at the request of the user.

3.12.7.3

calling

process of transmitting selection signals in order to establish a connection between data stations

3.12.7.4

call

relationship established between data stations that includes establishing a connection, transmitting messages, and terminating the connection

3.12.7.5

answering

process of responding to a calling data station to complete the establishment of a connection between data stations

3.12.7.6

manual answering

answering in which a call is established only if the called user indicates a readiness to receive the call by means of a manual operation

3.12.7.7

automatic answering

answering in which the called data terminal equipment (DTE) automatically responds to the calling signal

NOTE The call may be established whether or not the called DTE is attended.

3.12.7.8

server

functional unit that provides shared services to workstations or to other functional units over a data network

EXAMPLES A file server, a print server, a mail server.

3.12.7.9

client

functional unit that receives shared services from a server

3.13 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-15, programming languages

3.13.1 Lexical tokens

3.13.1.1

lexical token

lexical element

lexical unit

string of one or more characters of the alphabet of an artificial language that, by convention, represents an elemental unit of meaning [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

EXAMPLES A string literal such as **"hello world"** or an open-tag **<** in XML.

3.13.1.2

language construct

syntactically allowable part that may be formed from one or more lexical tokens in accordance with the rules of an artificial language [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

3.13.1.3

predefined identifier

identifier that is defined as part of an artificial language [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

EXAMPLE A reserved word in a programming language.

NOTE If a predefined identifier is not reserved, then a declaration using that identifier redefines its meaning for the scope of the declaration.

3.13.1.4

reserved word

predefined identifier that cannot be redefined [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

3.13.1.5

delimiter

lexical token that indicates the beginning or the end of another lexical token or of a character string considered as a syntactic unit

NOTE 1 Special characters or reserved words may serve as delimiters.

NOTE 2 Contrast with separator.

3.13.1.6

separator

delimiter that prevents adjacent lexical tokens or syntactic units from being interpreted as a single item

EXAMPLES The space character or a format effector.

NOTE Contrast with delimiter.

3.13.1.7

to overload

to assign more than one meaning to a lexical token

EXAMPLE The lexical token "+" can mean integer addition, real addition, set union, concatenation, etc..

3.13.1.8

disambiguation

action of determining which language construct, of several with the same sequence of lexical tokens, is referred to by a particular occurrence [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

3.13.2 Declarations

3.13.2.1

declaration

explicit language construct that introduces one or more identifiers into a program and specifies how these identifiers are to be interpreted

EXAMPLES Declarations of data types, storage organization, packages, or tasks.

NOTE In some programming languages, declarations are considered to be statements.

3.13.2.2

default adj.

pertaining to an attribute, data value, or option that is assumed when none is explicitly specified

3.13.2.3

scope

scope of a declaration

that portion within which a declaration is valid [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

3.13.2.4

dynamic scope

scope created by the activation of portions or all of the modules that contain declarations used by another module that lacks these declarations during the execution of the latter module [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

3.13.2.5

static scope

scope as determined by finding the innermost surrounding module in which the declaration is made [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

NOTE Static scope may be discovered by visual inspection.

3.13.2.6

local, adj.

pertaining to a language construct that has a scope only within the module in which it is declared [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

3.13.2.7

global

pertaining to a language construct that is within the scope of all modules [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

3.13.2.8

external

pertaining to a language construct that is defined outside the module in which it is referenced [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

NOTE A declaration may be required within the module to provide an identifier and to indicate that the complete definition is external.

3.13.2.9

static

pertaining to objects that exist and retain their values throughout the execution of a processing system [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-15]

EXAMPLE A subprogram variable that has been declared static to retain its values from one execution to the next.

3.14 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 2382-17, databases

3.14.1 General terms

3.14.1.1

database

collection of data organized according to a conceptual structure describing the characteristics of these data and the relationships among their corresponding entities, supporting one or more application areas

3.14.1.2

schema

complete description of the structure of a database pertaining to a specific level of consideration

3.14.1.3

data model

description of the organization of data in the management information system of an enterprise

3.14.1.4

data structuring rule

rule that specifies the structure of data as instances of a certain datatype

3.14.1.5

data object

discrete data, considered as a unit, representing an instance of a datatype that is known or assumed to be known [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-17]

3.14.1.6

data manipulation rule

prescription for manipulating data objects as instances of a certain datatype according to the permissible operations upon data of this datatype

3.14.1.7

database schema

set of various schemas, each of which has the following properties: (1) it pertains to a specific level of consideration of a particular universe of discourse or entity world and to the relevant aspects of an appropriate database; (2) it defines the representation forms for the consistent collection of those sentences of the information base relevant to its respective level of consideration, and it includes the manipulation aspects of these forms

3.14.1.8

database subschema

part of a database schema for one or more applications

3.14.2 Conceptual level

3.14.2.1

entity

concrete or abstract thing that exists, did exist, or might exist, including associations among these things

EXAMPLES A person, an object, an event, an idea, a process, etc..

NOTE An entity exists whether data about it are available or not.

3.14.2.2

attribute

named property of an entity

3.14.2.3

value

«attribute» specific occurrence of an attribute

EXAMPLE "Blue" is an attribute value for the attribute "color".

3.14.2.4

domain

«attribute» set of all possible attribute values

3.14.2.5

attribute class

set of all possible attribute values, corresponding to the same property, of entity occurrences of an entity class

EXAMPLE The name of a column of a relation table can be viewed as the name of an attribute class.

NOTE An attribute class must be a subset of the corresponding attribute domain.

3.14.2.6

relationship

«entity» perceived association among objects, entities, among attributes [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-17]

NOTE A relationship itself may be considered an object, entity, or attribute.

3.14.2.7

dependency

entity relationship or an attribute relationship that denotes that the existence of one entity or attribute is of interest only if another entity or attribute, respectively, exists

3.14.2.8

action

«database» series of insertions, deletions or retrievals of a collection of sentences in an information base or conceptual schema that changes them into a collection of sentences or that makes them known

3.14.2.9

permissible action

action conforming to specific provisions [adapted from ISO/IEC 2382-17]

3.14.3 External, internal (logical and physical)

3.14.3.1

external level

level of consideration at which all aspects deal with the user-oriented representation of information visible at the input and the output of an information system

3.14.3.2

internal level

level of consideration at which all aspects deal with the representation of information within a physical implementation of an information system

3.14.3.3

external schema

part of a database schema that pertains to the external level and that defines the external representations of the possible collections of sentences within a particular user view, including the manipulation aspects of these representations

3.14.3.4

internal schema

part of a database schema that pertains to the internal level and that defines the corresponding representations of the possible collections of sentences within a particular user view, including the manipulation aspects of these representations

3.14.3.5

logical level

level of consideration at which all aspects deal with a database and its architecture, consistent with a conceptual schema and the corresponding information base, but abstract from its physical implementation

3.14.3.6

physical level

level of consideration at which all aspects deal with the physical representation of data structures and with mapping them on corresponding storage organizations and their access operations in a data processing system

3.14.3.7

logical schema

part of the database schema that pertains to the logical level

3.14.3.8

physical schema

part of the database schema that pertains to the physical level

3.14.3.9

storage organization

mapping of a data structure and the operations on its data into a storage device and the corresponding access operations

NOTE The logical elements of the data structure are mapped into their stored physical counterparts; for example, the records of a record type are mapped into stored records of a file.

3.14.3.10

file organization

«entity» arrangement of data in a storage device and the implementation of an access method that are in accordance with the data structures of a particular file and of its records and that provide for the file being part of a database

3.14.3.11

primary key

key that identifies one record

3.14.3.12

secondary key

key that is not a primary key, but for which an index is maintained and that may denote more than one record

3.14.3.13

access path

chain of addresses that leads to the desired data

NOTE There may simultaneously exist more than one access path for one data item.

3.14.3.14

access path independence

separation of a data description from its access path so that changes to the access path do not require changes to the data description in a program

3.14.3.15

current pointer

pointer that is updated, if necessary, at the execution of a data manipulation language statement to identify the location of the current record of the data manipulation

3.14.4 Relational structure

3.14.4.1

relation

set of entity occurrences that have the same attributes, together with these attributes

NOTE In a relational database, a relation can be represented by a table with the rows corresponding to the entity occurrences and the columns corresponding to the attributes.

3.14.4.2

relation class

all relations having identical sets of attributes

NOTE A relation class can be characterized by a set of names of attributes.

3.14.4.3**relational structure**

structure of data, in which the data are arranged as relations

3.14.4.4**relational model**

data model whose structure is based on a set of relations

EXAMPLE SQL represents such a model.

3.14.4.5**relational database**

database in which the data are organized according to a relational model

3.14.4.6**relational database management system****RDBMS**

database management system designed for relational databases

3.14.4.7**tuple**

«relational database» part of a relation that uniquely describes an entity occurrence and its attributes

NOTE A tuple can be represented by one row of a relation table.

3.14.4.8**relational algebra**

algebra for expressing and manipulating relations

NOTE Common operations in a relational algebra are projection, selection, join, cartesian product, union, intersection, and difference.

3.14.4.9**projection**

operation of relational algebra that forms a new relation by using a subset of the attributes from a given relation

3.14.4.10**selection**

operation of relational algebra that forms a new relation which is a subset of the entity occurrences from a given relation

EXAMPLE Given a relation of "books" containing the attributes "author" and "title", the formation of the subset of the books written by a particular author.

3.14.4.11**join**

operation of relational algebra that forms a new relation from two or more relations having common attribute domains for one or more attributes of each relation

NOTE The operation is based on the Cartesian product of the relations and proceeds by combining rows from the original relations that have identical values from the common domains.

3.14.4.12

normalization

«relational database» process of transforming a relation into one or more simpler relations free of attribute redundancies or inconsistencies in order to support referential integrity

3.14.4.13

referential integrity

property of a set of relations such that the attribute values of foreign keys are null values or are identical to the values of primary keys of other relations

3.14.4.14

cardinality

«relational database» number of tuples in a relation

3.14.4.15

foreign key

in a relation, one or a group of attributes that corresponds to a primary key in another relation

3.14.4.16

cursor

«relational database» pointer to a row in a table, used to move within that table

NOTE In SQL, a current pointer is called a cursor.

3.14.5 Hierarchical and network structures

3.14.5.1

hierarchical model

data model whose pattern of structure is based on a tree structure

3.14.5.2

tree structure

«database» data structure that arranges entities or attributes as nodes, with at most one parent node for each node, and with only one root node

3.14.5.3

network model

data model whose pattern of structure is based on a network structure

EXAMPLE The Network Database Language (NDL) model.

3.14.5.4

network structure

data structure that arranges entities or attributes as nodes and that, in contrast to a tree structure, permits nodes to have multiple parent nodes

3.14.5.5

root node

«database» node that has no parent node

3.14.5.6

parent node

«database» node to which at least one other node is directly subordinate

3.14.5.7

terminal node

leaf

«database» node that has no subordinate node

3.14.5.8

record

data object that is an instance of a record datatype

3.14.5.9

realm

«database» part of a database that can be opened and closed as a unit

3.15 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC TR 10000-1

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from ISO/IEC TR 10001-1.

3.15.1 Relationships among normative documents

3.15.1.1

base standard

approved standard used for creating derived standards [adapted from ISO/IEC TR 10000-1]

3.15.1.2

international standardized profile

ISP

internationally agreed-to, harmonized normative document which describes one or more profiles [adapted from ISO/IEC TR 10000-1]

3.15.1.3

profile

set of one or more base standards and/or ISPs, and, where applicable, the identification of chosen classes, conforming subsets, options and parameters of those base standards, or ISPs necessary to accomplish a particular function

NOTE ISPs may contain normative references to specifications other than International Standards; see document JTC1/N4047: *The Normative Referencing of Specifications other than International Standards in JTC1 International Standardized Profiles — Guidelines for ISP Submitters*.

3.15.1.4

IT system

set of IT resources providing services at one or more interfaces.

3.15.2 Conformance terminology

3.15.2.1

implementation conformance statement

ICS

statement made by the supplier of an implementation or IT system claimed to conform to one or more specifications, stating which capabilities have been implemented, specifically including the relevant optional capabilities and limits

3.16 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 11404

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from ISO/IEC 11404.

3.16.1 Fundamental concepts of datatypes

3.16.1.1 datatype

set of distinct values, characterized by properties of those values, and by operations on those values

3.16.1.2 datatype

property of distinct values, indicating common features of those values and operations on those values [ISO/IEC 11404]

3.16.1.3 value space

set of values for a given datatype

3.16.1.3 characterizing operations (of a datatype)

collection of operations on, or yielding, values of the datatype that distinguish this datatype from other datatypes with identical value spaces

EXAMPLE The integers may have characterizing operations Add(), Negate(), Multiply(), Quotient(), and Remainder(), while the rational numbers include additional characterizing operations, such as Reciprocal().

3.16.2 Computational aspects of datatypes

3.16.2.1 regular value

element of a value space that is subject to a datatype's properties and characterizing operations

3.16.2.2 sentinel value

element of a value space that is not subject to a datatype's properties and characterizing operations

3.16.2.3 variable

computational object to which a value of a particular datatype is associated at any given time; and to which different values of the same datatype may be associated at different times

3.16.2.4 representation (of a datatype)

mapping from the value space of the datatype to the value space of some internal datatype of a computer system, file system or communications environment [adapted from ISO/IEC 11404]

3.16.3 Derived and generated datatypes

3.16.3.1 datatype family

collection of datatypes which have equivalent characterizing operations and relationships, but value spaces that differ in the number and identification of the individual values

3.16.3.2

aggregate datatype

generated datatype each of whose values is made up of values of the component datatypes, in the sense that operations on all component values are meaningful

3.17 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 11179

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from ISO/IEC 11179-1, ISO/IEC 11179-3, and ISO/IEC 11179-6.

3.17.1 General terms

3.17.1.1

metadata

data that defines and describes other data or processes

3.17.1.2

metadata registry

MDR

information system for registering metadata

3.17.2 Registry metamodel

3.17.2.1

administered item

registry item for which administrative information is recorded in an administration record

3.17.2.2

attribute 2

characteristic of an object or entity [ISO/IEC 11179-1]

3.17.2.3

value domain

VD

set of permissible values

3.17.2.4

enumerated value domain

value domain that is specified by a list of all its permissible values

3.17.2.5

non-enumerated value domain

value domain that is specified by a description rather than a list of all permissible values

3.17.2.6

permissible value

ordered pair consisting of a value and its corresponding value meaning

3.17.2.7

value

data value

3.17.2.8

value meaning

meaning or semantic content of a value

NOTE Given a permissible value, representation of its value meaning shall be independent of (and shall not constrain) the representation of its corresponding value.

3.17.3 Registration

3.17.3.1

registration

relationship between an administered item and the registration authority

3.17.3.2

registration authority

RA

organization responsible for maintaining a registry

3.17.3.3

registration status

designation of the status in the registration life-cycle of an administered item

3.18 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 13886

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from ISO/IEC 13886.

*** TO BE SUPPLIED ***

3.19 Terms and definitions from ISO/IEC 19501

The following terms have been incorporated or adapted from ISO/IEC 19501.

3.19.1 Fundamental concepts of metamodel

3.19.1.1

association

«UML» definition of a semantic relationship among classifiers [adapted from ISO/IEC 19501-1]

3.19.1.2

association class

«UML» association that is also a class [ISO/IEC 19501-1]

3.19.1.3

association end

«UML» endpoint of an association, which connects [ISO/IEC 19501-1]

3.19.1.4

class

description of a set of objects that share the same attributes, operations, methods, relationships, and semantics [ISO/IEC 19501-1]

3.19.1.5

relationship

«UML» connection among model elements [adapted from ISO/IEC 19501-1]

NOTE In UML, a relationship may be an association, a dependency, a flow, or a generalization.

3.20 Terms and definitions particular to this document

The following terms are particular to this document.

3.20.1 Properties of implementations

3.20.1.1

implementation feature

artifact associated with an implementation

3.20.1.2

implementation value

quantifiable artifact associated with an implementation

3.20.1.3

implementation behavior

observable actions or appearance of an implementation

NOTE Implementation behavior may be specified by performance provisions.

3.20.2 Implementation documentation

3.20.2.1

implementation documentation

collection of documents that describe the capabilities, limitations, and other information required for an implementation

EXAMPLE An implementation conformance statement and its supporting documentation.

3.20.2.2

application documentation

collection of documents that describe the requirements, capabilities, limitations, design, operation, and maintenance of application software or an application program

EXAMPLE User and installation documentation for a program.

3.20.3 Deemed-to-satisfy provisions not necessarily requiring implementation documentation

3.20.3.1

unspecified, adj

«technical specification» lacking of one or more provisions

NOTE 1 The term "unspecified" is always relative in nature, i.e., the determination of "enough provisions" is dependent upon context. Compare to "undefined".

NOTE 2 The term "unspecified" itself does not imply a deemed-to-satisfy provision, but related terms may be deemed-to-satisfy provisions, e.g., unspecified feature, unspecified value, unspecified behavior.

3.20.3.2

unspecified feature

«technical specification» implementation feature, within a content, for which a normative document provides two or more alternatives and imposes no further requirements on what is chosen in any instance

3.20.3.3

unspecified value

«technical specification» implementation value, within a content, for which a normative document provides two or more alternatives and imposes no further requirements on what is chosen in any instance

3.20.3.4

unspecified behavior

«technical specification» implementation behavior, within a content, for which a normative document provides two or more alternatives and imposes no further requirements on what is chosen in any instance

3.20.3.5

smallest permitted maximum

SPM

«technical specification» meet-or-exceed provision for a required minimum value that specifies an implementation value describing the maximum value of a sizing parameter

EXAMPLE In the provision "the smallest permitted maximum length of field **X** shall be **17**", the SPM is **17** (which applies to the field length). This provision means: implementers may implement "field **X**" with a maximum length of **17**, **18**, **19**, etc., but not with a length of **16** or less. Thus, `char x[17]` satisfies the implementation requirements, even though the data itself might be smaller, e.g., a 10-character string stored in a 17-character array.

NOTE An SPM sets a lower bound for implementations.

3.20.4 Deemed-to-satisfy provisions requiring implementation documentation

3.20.4.1

implementation-defined, adj

«technical specification» unspecified, yet each implementation documents how the choice among the available alternatives is made

EXAMPLE 1 An implementation-defined feature; an implementation-defined value; an implementation-defined behavior.

EXAMPLE 2 A standard specifies that size of array **X** is implementation-defined with a minimum size of **17**. This provision implies two requirements: (1) the size of the array is greater than or equal to **17**, and (2) the implementation will document the actual size. This example is a meet-or-exceed provision (e.g., a smallest permitted maximum).

NOTE The distinction between "unspecified" and "implementation-defined" is that the latter requires implementation documentation while the former does not require implementation documentation (nor does the former prohibit implementation documentation).

3.20.4.2

implementation-defined value

«technical specification» unspecified value for which each implementation documents how the choice among the available alternatives is made

3.20.4.3

implementation-defined behavior

«technical specification» unspecified behavior for which each implementation documents how the choice among the available alternatives is made

EXAMPLE The exception handling associated with integer overflows; the exception handling with syntax errors on input data; the exception handling associated with file creation errors.

3.20.5 Deemed-to-satisfy provisions requiring implementation documentation

3.20.5.1

undefined, adj

«technical specification» absence of requirements and/or description such that meaning is not understood

NOTE 1 The term "undefined" is always relative in nature, i.e., the dependent upon the scope of the context. Compare to "unspecified".

NOTE 2 If there exists any requirements, then the requirements (although possibly incomplete) would be a deemed-to-satisfy provision.

3.20.5.2

undefined feature

«technical specification» implementation feature, within a content, for which a normative document imposes no requirements

3.20.5.3

undefined value

«technical specification» implementation value, within a content, for which a normative document imposes no requirements

3.20.5.4

undefined behavior

«technical specification» implementation behavior for which a normative document imposes no requirements

NOTE Possible undefined behaviors include, but are not limited to: ignoring the situation completely; unpredictable results; behaving in a documented manner characteristic of the environment; terminating processing.

3.20.5.5

defined, adj

«technical specification» sufficient specification of requirements and/or description

NOTE The terms "defined", "unspecified", and "undefined" are related as follows: "defined" indicates completeness in specification, but does not necessarily exclude the possibility of a deemed-to-satisfy provision; "unspecified" indicates a deemed-to-satisfy provision, but does not indicate whether or not the lack of provisions is intended to be complete; "undefined" indicates the lack of description to give meaning. Thus, a feature may be: defined (but not unspecified), defined and unspecified, or undefined.

3.20.6 Conformance scope

3.20.6.1

in-scope

affirmative sense of applicability with respect to scope

3.20.6.2

out-of-scope 1

negative sense of applicability with respect to scope

3.20.6.3

out-of-scope 2

pertaining to features that are not specified in a normative document and may be specified elsewhere

3.20.6.4

scope

subject and aspects covered, thereby indicating the limits of applicability [adapted from ISO/IEC Directives, Part 4, 4th edition]

3.20.7 Conformance kinds

3.20.7.1

conform

conforming

C

property, with respect to a normative document, that indicates the satisfaction of requirements

3.20.7.2

conformance

act of conforming

NOTE The distinction between "conformance" and "conformity" is the former refers to an action while the latter refers to a state.

3.20.7.3

comply

complying

compliance

property, with respect to a mandatory standard, that indicates the satisfaction of requirements

NOTE Thus, compliance concerns conformity to compulsory specifications, such as laws and regulations.

3.20.7.4

compliance

act of conforming to a mandatory standard

3.20.7.5

non-compliance

property, with respect to a mandatory standard, that indicates the lack of satisfaction of requirements

3.20.7.6

non-compliance

act of not conforming to a mandatory standard

3.20.7.7

strictly conform

strictly conforming

SC

property, with respect to a normative document, that (1) indicates the satisfaction of requirements, (2) indicates, for meet-or-exceed provisions, the absence of implementation features that exceed the minimum requirements, (3) indicates, for provisions other than meet-or-exceed provisions, the absence of implementation--specific features, (4) indicates the absence of unspecified implementation features, and (5) indicates the absence of undefined implementation features

NOTE A strictly conforming implementation implies a conforming implementation, i.e., it is not possible to be both strictly conforming and non-conforming.

3.20.7.8**strict conformance**

act of strictly conforming

3.20.7.9**nonconforming****not conform****not conforming****NC**

property, with respect to a normative document, that indicates the lack of satisfaction of requirements

3.20.7.10**non-conformance**

act of strictly conforming

3.20.7.11**merely conform****merely conforming****MC**

property of conforming, but not strictly conforming

3.20.7.12**mere conformance**

act of merely conforming

3.20.7.13**SC/C****strictly conform/conform****strictly conforming/conforming**

parallel linguistic construction meaning both "strictly conforming" and "conforming"

NOTE The term "SC/C" functions similar to "and/or" (meaning both "and" and "or").

EXAMPLE 1 The provision "a SC/C implementation shall SC/C to the data model **X**" is equivalent to two provisions: (1) "a strictly conforming implementation shall strictly conform to the data model **X**", and (2) "a conforming implementation shall conform to the data model **X**".

EXAMPLE 2 If record **R** has two mandatory data elements **J** and **K**, and **R** permits extended data elements, then the record { **J** , **K** } can be designated SC (strictly conforming), C (conforming), or SC/C (both strictly conforming and conforming), the choice of designation is dependent upon the intent of the conformity statement; but the record { **J** , **K** } can be designated C (conforming) or MC (merely conforming).

3.20.8 Conformance framework**3.20.8.1****conformance paradigm**

description of the nature and kind of roles of conformance claims

EXAMPLE 1 A communications protocol may have a conformance paradigm that involves **2** roles: a client and a server. In this conformance paradigm, implementations may claim conformance to the client role, the server role, or both.

EXAMPLE 2 A data interchange standard may have a conformance paradigm that involves **4** roles: a data instance (i.e., data conforms to the standard), a data reader (e.g., an import tool conforms to the standard), a data writer (e.g., an export tool conforms to the standard), a data repository (e.g., a database that conforms to the standard).

EXAMPLE 3 A programming language standard may have a conformance paradigm that involves **3** roles: a program (that conforms to the language description), a translator (e.g., a compiler that conforms to the standard), an environment (e.g., an operating system conforms by providing services).

NOTE 1 A conformance paradigm is not a deemed-to-satisfy provision because each conformance role of a conformance paradigm represents a *different* set of provisions, not the same set of provisions that may be implemented differently.

NOTE 2 The use of conformance paradigms, typically, simplifies the development, presentation, editing, and maintenance of a normative document. For example, a communications protocol standard with a client-server conformance paradigm could be rewritten as two separate standards, "communications protocol for a server" and "communications protocol for a client", but developing two documents may be more difficult because there may be much normative wording in common between the two documents, and it may be less convenient to read two documents than a single document.

3.20.8.2

conformance role

function performed by an implementation in a conformance paradigm

NOTE An implementation may play more than one conformance role, e.g., in a client-server conformance paradigm, an implementation may be a client, server, or both; in a data interchange conformance paradigm, an implementation may be both a data reader and a data writer (but not a data repository).

3.20.9 Implementation adaptation and specialization

3.20.9.1

locale

common characteristics and their properties for users based upon location

3.20.9.2

locale-specific, adj

changing, dependent upon locale

3.20.9.3

locale-specific feature

implementation-defined feature that changes, depending upon locale

3.20.9.4

locale-specific value

implementation-defined value that changes, depending upon locale

3.20.9.5

locale-specific behavior

implementation-defined behavior that changes, depending upon locale

3.20.9.6

user

human, his/her agent, a surrogate, or an entity that interacts with information processing systems

3.20.9.7

user context

state of a user and his/her surrounding environment

NOTE A user's surrounding environment may include IT components and non-IT components.

3.20.9.8**user-contextualized**, adj.

changing, dependent upon user context

NOTE Typically, a user's context includes application-independent data or application-specific data that is user-independent. For example, in a banking application a user's context might include how numbers are displayed (the "thousands separator" and "decimal indicator" are application-independent), the currency notation used (the spelling and placement of currency symbols are application-specific to banking and finance, but are user-independent), but the user's context might exclude the bank balance (application-specific and user-dependent data) because this is merely user data.

3.20.9.9**user-contextualized feature**

implementation-defined behavior that changes, depending upon user context

3.20.9.10**user-contextualized value**

implementation-defined value that changes, depending upon user context

3.20.9.11**user-contextualized behavior**

implementation-defined behavior that changes, depending upon user context

3.20.10 Data associated with implementation adaptation and specialization**3.20.10.1****locale identifier**

designation that denotes a locale

NOTE 1 A location may imply cultural, linguistic, or regional conventions.

NOTE 2 See also: localized string, localized value, multicultural value, multicultural string.

EXAMPLE The locale

```
en-GB;GMT0BST;dd.mm.yyyy hh:mm
```

might mean the following conventions apply:

- The language is English, specifically British English.
- The timezone in the winter is called GMT and is 0 hours West of UTC.
- The timezone in the summer is called BST.
- The date and time are written in the format "dd.mm.yyyy hh:mm".

3.20.10.2**localized string**

user-context-dependent string determined by a particular locale

3.20.10.3**localized value**

user-context-dependent value determined by a particular locale

3.20.10.4

multistring

MUC string

multi-user-context string

set of characterstrings and their expression contexts, that are intended to represent the same meaning, but are expressed differently according to some culture, language, function, or other user context

NOTE 1 User contexts may be distinguished by locales.

NOTE 2 Elements of a multistring may be indexed by locale identifiers.

EXAMPLE 1 The of strings { "standardization", "normalisation", "стандартизация", "Normungsarbeit", "normalización", "noramzione", "normalisatie", "standardisering" } all have the same meaning (as per ISO/IEC Guide 2).

EXAMPLE 2 A multistring for the concept "July 1, 1999 6PM" (New York City time) might be:

```
mcstring_for_july_1 =
(
  ( "en-GB;GMT0BST;dd.mm.yyyy hh:mm",
    "01.07.1999 23:00" )
  ( "en-US;EST5EDT;mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm aa",
    "07/01/1999 06:00 PM" )
  ( "iso_8601;UTC0;yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm tz",
    "1999-07-01 22:00 UTC" )
)
```

This multistring `multistring_for_july_1` contains three elements: the localized string for London ("01.07.1999 23:00"), the localized string for New York City ("07/01/1999 06:00 PM"), and the localized string for ISO 8601 ("1999-07-01 22:00 UTC").

EXAMPLE 3 A multistring for the concept "information technology" might be:

```
multistring_for_IT =
(
  ( "fr-CA", "Technologies de l'information" ),
  ( "en-US", "Information technology" ),
)
```

This multistring `multistring_for_IT` contains two elements: the localized string for Canadian French, and the localized string for US English.

3.20.10.5

multivalue

MUC value

multi-user-context value

set of values of a particular datatype and their expression contexts, that are intended to represent the same meaning, but are expressed differently according to some culture, language, function, or other user context

NOTE 1 A multivalue is similar to a multistring except that the base datatype of the latter is characterstring while the base datatype of the former is unspecified (by this definition).

NOTE 2 User contexts may be distinguished by locales.

NOTE 3 Elements of a multivalue may be indexed by locale identifiers.

3.20.10.6**context-dependent string****UCD string****user-context-dependent string**

element of an multistring

NOTE Context may be dependent upon locale.

3.20.10.7**context-dependent value****UCD value****user-context-dependent value**

element of an multivalue

NOTE Context may be dependent upon locale.

3.20.10.8**context-independent string****UCI string****user-context-independent string**

string the has the same meaning regardless of culture, language, function, or other user context

EXAMPLE The date "1999-07-01" is context-independent string that represents July 1, 1999. The specification for this string is ISO 8601, Date and Time Formats.

NOTE 1 There may be more than one context-independent string that has the same meaning, e.g., "1999-07-01" and "19990701" are both context-independent strings that have the same meaning.

NOTE 2 A context-independent string may be an element of a multistring.

3.20.10.9**context-independent value****UCI value****user-context-independent value**

value of a particular datatype the has the same meaning regardless of culture, language, function, or other user context

EXAMPLE The value "004" is a context-independent value that represents Afghanistan, as specified by ISO 3166-1, Country Codes.

3.20.11 Signs and symbols**3.20.11.1****designation value space**

set of possible designations for a designation convention

EXAMPLE In the North American Numbering Plan (the 10-digit telephone numbering scheme for North America), the value space is the set of 10-digit numbers (10,000,000,000 combinations), but not all numbers are *available designations* because certain subset have been reserved for future use.**3.20.11.2****designation formation**

process of creating a designation and associating it with its concept(s)

ISO/IEC CD1 20944-002 [Release Sequence #6]

EXAMPLE An algorithm that generates a UUID. (See ISO/IEC 11578, Information technology — Open systems interconnection — Remote Procedure Call (RPC), for the definition of the UUID algorithm.)

3.20.11.3

available designation

designation whose use is permitted

3.20.11.4

designation encoding

representation of a designation's sign by one or more codes

EXAMPLE The designation **XYZ123** could be encoded (1) as a series of characters (a text-based encoding), or (2) as a 2-dimensional array of pixels (a graphical-based encoding).

3.20.11.5

designation encoding type

kind of encoding technique for a designation

EXAMPLE Internet URLs are encoded in ASCII.

3.20.11.6

to reference, verb

to create an association with a particular object

3.20.11.7

referent

reference, noun

result of referencing

3.20.11.8

to dereference

to access the object to which a referent references

3.20.11.9

identifier

designation that is intended to be dereferenced

NOTE 1 An identifier is also a reference.

NOTE 2 This definition is consistent with IETF RFC 2396 which describes the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) syntax and semantics.

3.20.11.10

locator

identifier that includes an access method

NOTE This definition is consistent with IETF RFC 2396 which distinguishes between a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

3.20.11.11

identification

associating an identifier with an object

NOTE 1 The *reason* for forming an identifier is outside the scope of this Part of this International Standard.

NOTE 2 The process of identification may involve other tasks, such as registration (described in Part 6).

3.20.11.12

to identify 1

process of discovering unique or essential characteristics

EXAMPLE 1 A criminal may be identified by his/her fingerprints at a crime scene (presumably, fingerprints are unique).

EXAMPLE 2 An object contains identifiers or has identifiers associated with it. The object is identified by extracting these previously assigned identifiers from the object.

3.20.11.13

identification 2

process of forming an identifier

3.20.11.14

to identify 3

to assign users, groups, and other entities with one or more identifiers

3.20.11.15

to identify 4

to associate users, groups, and other entities by means of their identifiers

3.20.11.16

identity

collective aspect of the set of characteristics by which a thing is recognizable or known [Wordnet]

3.20.11.17

label

tag

identifier that is associated with one or more objects that are data

EXAMPLE An identifier associated with a data element is a label. For example, the data element "budget amount" has the identifier "budamt" associated with it; "budamt" is a label for the data element.

3.20.11.18

namespace

set of designations

3.20.11.19

namespace designation, noun

designation used to disambiguate objects within a particular scope

3.20.11.20

navigable identifier

identifier that may be used for navigation and access

3.20.12 Data and information

3.20.12.1

data

instantiation of a relation between a concept and a sign whose concept includes a definition of an equality function

ISO/IEC CD1 20944-002 [Release Sequence #6]

EXAMPLE 1 The sign "... " is associated with the concept of "image in monochrome pixels" and its data is a 2-dimensional array of bits with three of the bits (representing the dots in the ellipsis) are set to black and all others set to white.

EXAMPLE 2 The sign "... " is associated with the concept of "horizontal ellipsis" in ISO/IEC 10646-1 and its data is 2026 (in hexadecimal).

EXAMPLE 3 The sign "... " is associated with the concept of "the letter S" in Morse Code and its data is dot-dot-dot.

NOTE 1 The purpose of using the same sign in each of the examples is to show (1) how the concept influences the nature of the data (the relation between the concept and the sign), and (2) how different data can be created from the same sign.

NOTE 2 The first example is a simple set of pixels (sign) that creates data consisting of a set of bits (the 2-dimensional array). The second example is a sign that is related to a permissible value (each character's code value of ISO/IEC 10646-1 is a permissible value) that is part of a value domain (ISO/IEC 10646-1 character set) whose datatype is numeric. The third example is similar to the second example except that the datatype, fundamentally, is non-numeric. Of course, for all data that is computable in a digital data processing system, it is possible to map all data to numeric datatypes.

3.20.12.2 **information**

data in some context that gives it meaning

EXAMPLE 1 If X is a sequence of bits that represents an encrypted message (the data), there is no meaning (no information) until the decryption key is supplied. The decryption key is the context that gives meaning to the data (the sequence of bits).

EXAMPLE 2 20 is data, 20 becomes information when it is the "temperature in degrees Celsius of New York City at 2003-07-19 16:00 UTC".

3.20.12.3 **metadata**

data that is used for description

3.20.12.4 **data instance**

element of the value space from a datatype

3.20.12.5 **instantiation (of a datatype)**

selection of an element of the value space from a datatype

NOTE The instantiation of a datatype may be considered "creating data".

3.20.12.6 **instantiation (of a class)**

result of invocation of a constructor method

NOTE The instantiation of a class may be considered "creating an object".

3.20.12.7 **pointer**

«organization of data» datatype for referencing an object

3.20.12.8

characterstring

datatype that describes a finite sequence of characters from the repertoire of a particular character set

EXAMPLES An ASCII characterstring; an ISO/IEC 10646-1 characterstring.

3.20.12.9

list

datatype containing finite, ordered set of related items

NOTE The items in a list may be lists themselves.

3.20.12.10

aggregate

«datatype» instance of an aggregate datatype

3.20.12.11

data structure

an instance of an aggregate datatype of zero or more components

EXAMPLES A record; a set; a sequence; a list; an array.

NOTE A data structure itself may be a data element in a larger data structure.

3.20.12.12

logical record

record whose data elements are related from a logical viewpoint, independent of their physical environment

NOTE Portions of one logical record may be located in different physical records, or several logical records or parts of logical records may be located in one physical record.

NOTE 1 Metadata may describe data, data elements, or other objects.

NOTE 2 Metadata may include data descriptions, data about data ownership, access paths, access rights, and data volatility.

3.20.12.13

physical record

record located in one physical position on a data medium or in a storage device

3.20.12.14

record length

record size

number of bytes, or any other appropriate unit, in a record

3.20.12.15

data repository

«data» implementation of a collection of data along with data access and control mechanisms, such as search, indexing, storage, retrieval and security

EXAMPLE A repository might support services such as search, indexing, storage, retrieval and security.

3.20.12.16

resource

anything that has identity [ISO 15836 and IETF RFC 2396]

EXAMPLES An electronic document, an image, a service (e.g., "today's weather report for Los Angeles"), and a collection of other resources. Not all resources are "retrievable" via computer networks; e.g., human beings, corporations, and bound books in a library can also be considered resources.

3.20.12.17

semi-structured data

aggregate datatype whose components' datatypes and their labels are not predetermined

3.20.12.18

code, verb

process of representing information in some structure

3.20.12.19

coding, noun

formalized or structured representation of information

3.20.12.20

encoding

coding that maps to a sequence of bits and/or bytes

NOTE 1 The result of encryption is ciphertext.

NOTE 2 The reverse process is called decryption.

3.20.13 Conformance framework for data interchange

3.20.13.1

data interchange

data exchange

concerning the representation, transmission, reception, storage, and retrieval of data

NOTE In reference to the terminology of ISO/IEC 2382-01, *data interchange* is *information processing* excluding *data processing* (e.g., excluding the operational aspects involving humans).

3.20.13.2

data interchange conformance paradigm

conformance paradigm that includes the roles: data instance, data reader, data writer, and data repository

NOTE Normative documents that specify a data interchange conformance paradigm may include additional conformance roles.

3.20.13.3

transformation phase

«data handling» single phase within a series of phases of data processing whereby data is received (e.g., phase N-1), processed (phase N), and emitted for further processing (e.g., phase N+1)

3.20.13.4

data instance

data instantiation

instance (of a datatype)

instantiation (of a datatype)

selection of an element of the value space from a datatype

NOTE The instantiation of a datatype may be considered "creating data".

3.20.13.5**binding**

result of applying or mapping one framework or specification to another

3.20.13.6**bound data instance****bound data**

data instantiated from a datatype and rendered in a binding

3.20.13.7**data structure**

bound data instance of an aggregate datatype

3.20.13.8**data application**

«conformance paradigm» implementation of a functional unit interface of a normative document that contains a data interchange specification

EXAMPLES A data reader, a data writer; a data repository.

NOTE 1 A functional unit interface may be described by a coding specification, an API specification, a protocol specification, or some other interface specification.

NOTE 2 Given a data interchange specification named **X**, a "**X** data application" is different from a "conforming **X** application". The latter is any information technology implementation that conforms to the **X** specification, while the former is a limited subset of information technology systems, e.g., a data reader, a data writer, a data repository.

3.20.13.9**to consume****to consume data****data consumer****data consumption**

«data» to read data and then process it to the extent that lexical or coding boundaries are discovered

NOTE 1 A data consumer performs a limited number of transformation phases. Data is consumed before it is interpreted. See example in definition of "to interpret".

NOTE 2 See also: generate; interpret; produce.

3.20.13.10**to interpret****interpret data****data interpreter****data interpretation**

«data» to process data to discover its meaning to the extent required by an application

NOTE 1 In terms of transformation phases, data is consumed before it is interpreted.

EXAMPLE In the following character stream:

```
<R>
  <A>123.45</A>
  <B>PQR</B>
  <C X="Y">Z</C>
</R>
```

```
<R>
  <D>JKL</D>
  <E>
    <F>XXX</F>
    <G>YYY</G>
  </E>
</R>
```

a data consumer might recognize: there are two records, both with tags "R"; the first "R" record contains three records with tags "A", "B", "C"; the second "R" record contains two records with tags "D" and "E". Because only these tags are recognized, only these tags are candidates for data interpretation. Assuming tag "E" represents an extended data element, a data interpreter might only recognize the standardized tags "A", "B", "C", and "D". Based on (1) the separation of the "consume" and "interpret" transformation phases, and (2) a particular standards binding (XML-like in this case), an application might only interpret the standardized features A, B, C, and D.

NOTE 2 An application that combines data consumption and data interpretation, but only interprets standardized data elements, might be strictly conforming data reader.

NOTE 3 See also: consume; generate; produce.

3.20.13.11

to generate
generate data
data generator
data generation

«data» to transform data from its meaning to some coding suitable for data interchange

NOTE 1 In terms of transformation phases, data is generated before it is produced.

NOTE 2 See also: consume; interpret; produce.

EXAMPLE To serialize a data structure according to a conceptual model without rendering the data in a specific coding or encoding.

3.20.13.12

to produce
produce data
data producer
data production

«data» to process data to the extent that lexical or coding boundaries are defined and then to output the resultant data

NOTE 1 Data is generated before it is produced.

NOTE 2 See also: consume; generate; interpret.

3.20.13.13

data reader

data application that operates *as if* it processes data in two transformation phases (1) by consuming data based on the normative document and the application's inputs, and (2) by interpreting the result based on the normative document and creating data instances which are transformed to data that is internal to the application

EXAMPLE An application *consumes* data from an input stream according to specified lexical and syntactic rules; then the application *interprets* the result by specified semantic and deserialization rules to produce an object for use by the application.

NOTE 1 The "as if" provision implies that, conceptually, the data reader processes the information in two phases: consumption and interpretation. However, the design of implementations is not constrained; implementations may use any number of phases of data processing.

NOTE 2 A particular data application implies a particular normative document. See definition of "data application".

3.20.13.14

data writer

data application that operates *as if* it processes data in two transformation phases (1) by generating data from application data based on the normative document, and (2) by producing data to the application's outputs based on the normative document

EXAMPLE An application *generates* data by creating objects according to semantic rules; then the application *produces* data by serializing the objects according to syntactic and lexical rules resulting in an output stream.

NOTE 1 The "as if" provision implies that, conceptually, the data writer processes the information in two phases: generation and production. However, the design of implementations is not constrained; implementations may use any number of phases of data processing.

NOTE 2 A particular data application implies a particular normative document. See definition of "data application".

3.20.13.15

data repository

functional unit that stores and retrieves data

EXAMPLE A data repository might support services such as search, indexing, storage, retrieval, and security.

3.20.13.16

API application

«conformance paradigm» implementation that uses the services and resources of an API specification

EXAMPLE Implementation P, a software program, conforms as an API application because it uses (in contrast to implements) the API according to the requirements of that API standard.

3.20.13.17

API environment

«conformance paradigm» implementation that implements the interface, services, resources, etc. of an API specification

EXAMPLE Implementation L, a software library, conforms as an API environment because it implements (in contrast to uses) the interface, services, resources, etc. of the API according to the requirements of the API specification.

NOTE Some API environments may be nested in nature and, therefore, the implementation may be both an API environment and an API application.

3.20.13.18

server service

«conformance paradigm» implementation that implements the server portion of a client-server protocol specification

EXAMPLE Implementation S, a software program, conforms as a server service because it implements the server portion of the protocol according to the requirements of that protocol standard.

NOTE Typically, server services respond to requests from client services and, possibly, peer services acting as clients.

3.20.13.19

client service

«conformance paradigm» implementation that implements the client portion of a client-server protocol specification

EXAMPLE Implementation C, a software program, conforms as a client service because it implements the client portion of the protocol according to the requirements of that protocol's specification.

NOTE Typically, client services make requests to server services and, possibly, peer services that act as servers.

3.20.13.20

peer service

«conformance paradigm» implementation that implements a peer-to-peer protocol specification

EXAMPLE Implementation P, a software program, conforms as a peer service because it implements the peer-to-peer protocol according to the requirements of that protocol's specification.

NOTE Typically, peers interact with other peers. Peers may interact with clients and servers when they can act in the role of servers and clients, respectively.

3.20.14 Data element obligation

3.20.14.1

obligation

«data element» requirements and permissibility of components of an aggregate datatype that determine the validity of an instance of the datatype

NOTE 1 Obligation attributes are independent of longevity attributes.

NOTE 2 See also: conditional data element; data element longevity; extended data element; mandatory data element; optional data element.

EXAMPLE A data structure **x**, has four elements: **a** and **b** are mandatory, **c** is optional, and **d** is conditional if **b** has the value true. The following are sample valid and invalid data structures:

```
( A=123 )           // invalid: missing mandatory element B
( A=123, B=false )  // valid
( A=123, B=true )   // invalid: missing conditional element D
( A=123, B=true, D=17 ) // valid
( A=123, B=false, D=17 ) // valid: allowable because the example
                        // "conditional" wording above only
                        // makes requirements and makes no
                        // prohibitions
( A=123, B=nil, C=345 ) // valid
```

3.20.14.2

mandatory data element

component of an aggregate datatype that is defined and is required to exist within an instance of that datatype

NOTE The "mandatory" nature of a data element is an obligation attribute.

3.20.14.3

optional data element

component of an aggregate datatype that is defined and is permitted, but not required, to exist within an instance of that datatype

NOTE 1 The "optional" nature of a data element is an obligation attribute

NOTE 2 The "optional" nature of data element is independent of its longevity, e.g., there may be obsolete optional data elements, provisional optional data elements, reserved optional data elements, and obsolete optional data elements.

3.20.14.4

conditional data element

component of an aggregate datatype that is defined and is required to exist within an instance of that datatype only under certain conditions

NOTE 1 The "conditional" nature of a data element is an obligation attribute.

NOTE 2 See also: extended data element; mandatory data element; obligation; optional data element.

3.20.14.5

extended data element

component of an aggregate datatype that is defined outside the base normative document that specifies the datatype

NOTE 1 The "extended" nature of a data element is an obligation attribute. Depending upon the data interchange agreements, the inclusion of an extended data element in the data instance may be required, permitted, prohibited, or have some other obligation.

NOTE 2 Strictly conforming implementations of a normative document for a data instance are prohibited from including extended data elements, i.e., the inclusion of an extended data element implies that the data instance is conforming at best (there may be other factors that cause the data instance to be non-conforming).

3.20.15 Data element longevity

3.20.15.1

longevity

«data element» attribute of a data element in a data structure that indicates intention for incorporation into past, present, or future editions of the normative document that specifies the data structure

NOTE 1 Longevity attributes are independent of obligation attributes.

NOTE 2 Longevity may be tied to registration status for registry-based data elements.

3.20.15.2

reserved data element

component of an aggregate datatype that is not defined and is required not to exist within an instance of that datatype

NOTE 1 The "reserved" nature of a data element is a longevity attribute.

NOTE 2 A reserved data element may be overridden by the specification of an extended data element. A data element that is intended to preclude use and to preclude being overridden may be accomplished by the use of an optional data element of datatype `void`, i.e., a `void` datatype cannot be overridden by an extended data element.

NOTE 3 Because "reserved" implies that a data element is not defined, it is not possible to have reserved mandatory data elements, reserved optional data elements, reserved conditional data elements, and reserved extended data elements.

3.20.15.3

provisional data element

component of an aggregate datatype that is defined but is for trial use

ISO/IEC CD1 20944-002 [Release Sequence #6]

NOTE 1 The "provisional" nature of a data element is a longevity attribute.

NOTE 2 A prestandard may include provisional data elements.

NOTE 3 Implementers may use provisional data elements with same caution that they use and apply prestandards: provisions may change based upon experience gained by usage.

NOTE 4 The "provisional" nature of data element is independent of its obligation, e.g., there may be provisional mandatory data elements, provisional optional data elements, provisional conditional data elements, and provisional extended data elements.

3.20.15.4

obsolete data element

component of an aggregate datatype that is defined but is no longer in use

NOTE 1 The "obsolete" nature of a data element is a longevity attribute.

NOTE 2 The term "obsolete" differs from the term "deprecated" in that the former concerns the lack of use while the latter is a recommendation against usage regardless reason (e.g., certain features may be deprecated not because of obsolescence, but because of incompatibility, imprecision, or specification error). Typically, the use of obsolete features is deprecated in standards because standards are continually revised to reflect current usage. Thus, obsolete features may be removed from future versions of standards, which might cause interoperability and compatibility problems for implementations that continue to use obsolete features.

NOTE 3 The "obsolete" nature of data element is independent of its obligation, e.g., there may be obsolete mandatory data elements, obsolete optional data elements, obsolete conditional data elements, and obsolete extended data elements.

3.20.16 Relationships among normative documents

3.20.16.1

base normative document

normative document used for creating derived normative documents

3.20.16.2

derived normative document

normative document that has one or more provisions in common with another normative document

3.20.16.3

base technical specification

normative document used for creating derived technical specifications

3.20.16.4

derived technical specification

technical specification that has one or more provisions in common with another normative document

3.20.16.5

derived standard

standard that has one or more provisions in common with another normative document

3.20.17 Extensions and their normative documents

3.20.17.1

extension

«data interchange» additional provisions with respect to a base normative document

NOTE Extensions may produce a more expansive normative document, a more restrictive normative document, or both.

3.20.17.2

subset normative document
subset technical specification
subset standard

«data interchange» derived normative document whose set of conforming data instances is a subset of the set of conforming data instances of a base normative document that concerns data interchange

3.20.17.3

superset normative document
superset technical specification
superset standard

«data interchange» derived normative document whose set of conforming data instances is a superset of the set of conforming data instances of a base normative document that concerns data interchange

3.20.18 Relations among value spaces and value domains

3.20.18.1

extended value space

value space with addition elements, yet retains the same characterizing operations and datatype properties

3.20.18.2

isomorphic value domains

value domains such that there is a one-to-one and onto equivalence mapping of corresponding value meanings [adapted from ISO/IEC TR 20943-3]

EXAMPLE Using the 2-letter, 3-letter, and 3-digit country codes from ISO 3166-1, the three value domains whose values are { **CN, FR, US** }, { **CHN, FRA, USA** }, { **156, 250, 840** } isomorphic to each other because their corresponding value meanings are the same { "China", "France", "United States" }.

3.20.18.3

overlapping value domains

value domains such that for all values in common, their corresponding meanings are the same

EXAMPLE The value domains { **red, orange, yellow, green** } and { **red, yellow, green, blue** } are overlapping because the values **red, yellow,** and **blue** and their corresponding value meanings are the same.

3.20.19 Relationships among value domains

3.20.19.1

base value domain

value domain used for creating derived normative documents

3.20.19.2

derived value domain

value domain that has one or more values in common with another value domain

NOTE The values may or may not retain same meaning in the derived value domain. For example, if { **single, married** } is used to derive { **single, married, widowed, divorced** }, then the meaning of **single** changes in the derived value domain; if { **male, female** } is used to derive { **not known, male, female, not specified** }, then the meanings of **male** and **female** are unchanged in the derived value domain.

3.20.19.3

extended value domain

value domain that is a superset of a base value domain and whose permissible values are retained

NOTE The values and their value meanings of the base value domain are retained in the extended value domain.

3.20.20 Roles of organizations, entities, and individuals

3.20.20.1

administrator

person responsible for certain business operations in an organization

3.20.20.2

role-based access control

RBAC

security technique for authentication that authorizes operations or allows access to resources based upon the user's identity and his/her relationship to other users and entities

EXAMPLE 1 A teacher has read/write access to the grades for his/her students (role: "the teacher of the student"), but no access to other students' grades.

EXAMPLE 2 A principal has read-only access to the grades of all of his/her teachers' students (role: "the principal of the teachers of the students"), but the principal is not permitted to change any grades.

3.20.21 Miscellaneous

3.20.22.1

asynchronous

property of a process that lacks of specification of timing relationships

NOTE A data communication protocol may be modelled as a process.

3.20.22.2

application area

industry, market segment, or stakeholder class for which a set of related applications are developed

3.20.22.2

child element

«XML» non-root element C in an XML document for which there is one other element P in the document such that C is in the content of P, but C is not in the content of any other element that is in the content of P

NOTE C is referred to as a child of P.

3.20.22.3

file updating

activity of adding, deleting, or changing data in a file

3.20.22.4

parent element

«XML» element P in relationship to element C such that C is a child element of P

NOTE P is referred to as the parent of C.

3.20.22.5**root element**

«XML» element such that no part of it appears in the content of any other element within an XML document [adapted from W3C reference ???]

NOTE For all other elements, if the start tag is in the content of another element, then the end tag is in the content of the same element. More simply stated, the elements, each delimited by a start tag and end tag, nest properly within each other.

3.20.22.6**software package**

complete and documented set of programs supplied to several users for a generic application or function

NOTE Some software packages are alterable for a specific application.

NOTE Although operating systems are predominantly software, partial hardware implementations are possible.

3.20.22.7**wildcard pattern**

technique of describing selection criteria by means of a pattern

NOTE A wildcard pattern may be an Extended Backus Naur Form (EBNF) production rule definitions list (i.e., the right-hand side of the production rule) that contains no non-terminals, no defining operators, no comments, and no rule terminators.

EXAMPLE The following wildcard pattern, as described in ISO/IEC 14977 EBNF:

```
"ab", { ? any ISO/IEC 10646 character ? }
```

matches any string beginning with "ab", such as "ab", "abc", "abd", "ababab", but not "a" or "ba". The pattern is decomposed into (1) the terminal string "ab", (2) the concatenation character ",", (3) the special sequence "? any ISO/IEC 10646 character ?", and (4) the repeat-zero-or-more-times "{ ... }" grouping.

3.20.22 Acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations**3.20.22.1****11179****ISO/IEC 11179, Information technology — Metadata Registries (MDR)****3.20.22.2****20944****ISO/IEC 20944, Information technology — Metadata Interoperability and Bindings (MDIB)****3.20.22.3****ASN.1****abstract syntax notation one**

NOTE See ISO/IEC 8824, *Information technology — Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1)* and ISO/IEC 8825, *Information technology — ASN.1 encoding rules*

3.20.22.4**C****C programming language**

NOTE See ISO/IEC 9899, *Programming Languages — C*

3.20.22.5

C++

C++ programming language

NOTE See ISO/IEC 14882, *Programming Languages — C++*

3.20.22.6

DCTP

data and control transfer protocol

NOTE See ISO/IEC CD 15067-1, *Information technology — Home electronic system — Data and Control Transfer Protocol (DCTP)*

3.20.22.7

ECMAScript

ECMAScript programming language

NOTE See ISO/IEC 16262, *Information technology — ECMAScript language specification*

3.20.22.8

Java

Java programming language

3.20.22.9

JMS

Java messaging services

3.20.22.10

LDAP

lightweight directory access protocol

3.20.22.11

LISP

LISP programming language

NOTE See ISO/IEC 13816, *Information technology — Programming languages, their environments and system software interfaces — Programming language ISLISP*

3.20.22.13

MDIB

metadata interoperability and bindings

3.20.22.14

MDR

metadata registry(ies)

3.20.22.15

ODBC

open database connectivity

3.20.22.16

Perl

Perl programming language

3.20.22.17

PHP

PHP programming language

3.20.22.18

SOAP

simple object access protocol

3.20.22.19

WSDL

web services description language

3.20.22.20

XML

extensible markup language

Annex A (informative) Index of terms

[Editor's Note: An index will be supplied.]

A

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