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**Information technology —  
Metadata Registries Interoperability and Bindings (MDRIB) —  
Part 02: 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 20944-02 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 Registries Interoperability and Bindings (MDRIB)*:

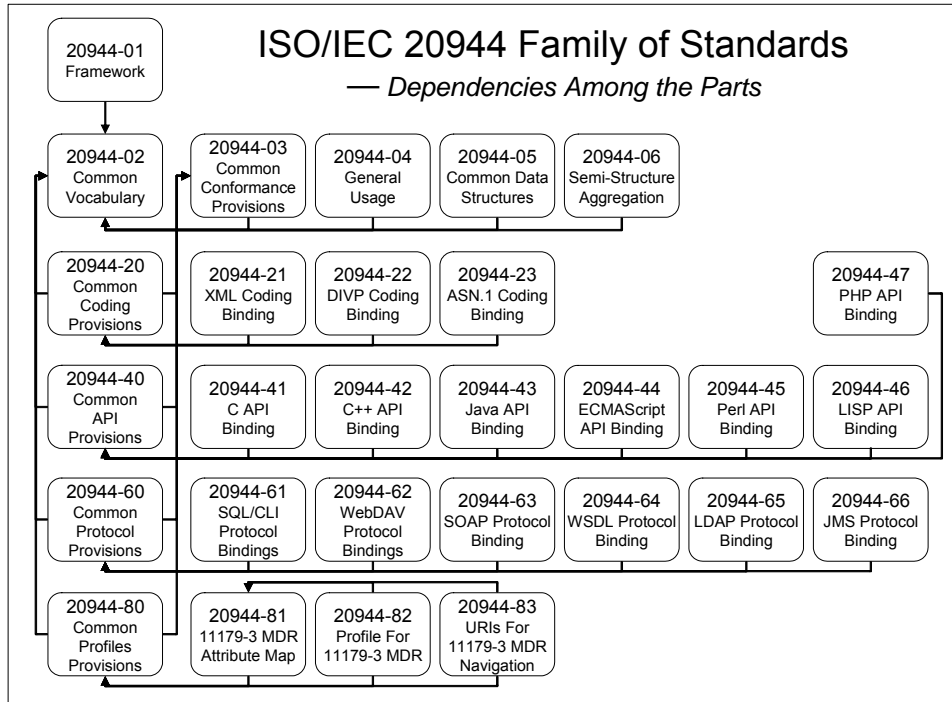
- *Part 01: Framework*
- *Part 02: Common vocabulary*
- *Part 03: Common provisions for conformance*
- *Part 04: Generic usage*
- *Part 05: Common data structures and services*
- *Part 06: Semi-structured aggregation*
- *Part 20: Common provisions for coding bindings*
- *Part 21: XML coding binding*
- *Part 22: DIVP coding binding*
- *Part 23: ASN.1 coding binding*
- *Part 40: Common provisions for application programming interface (API) bindings*
- *Part 41: C API binding*

- *Part 42: C++ API binding*
- *Part 43: Java API binding*
- *Part 44: ECMAScript API binding*
- *Part 45: Perl API binding*
- *Part 46: LISP API binding*
- *Part 47: PHP API binding*
- *Part 60: Common provisions for protocol bindings*
- *Part 61: SQL/CLI protocol binding*
- *Part 62: WebDAV protocol binding*
- *Part 63: SOAP protocol binding*
- *Part 64: WSDL protocol binding*
- *Part 65: LDAP protocol binding*
- *Part 66: JMS protocol binding*
- *Part 80: Common provisions for profiles*
- *Part 81: Attribute mapping for 11179-3 MDR metamodel*
- *Part 82: Profile for 11179-3 MDR metamodel*
- *Part 83: URI suffixes for 11179-3 MDR 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.



**Organization of ISO/IEC 20944 family of standards.**

# Information technology — Metadata Registries Interoperability and Bindings (MDRIB) — Part 02: 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

The ISO/IEC 20944 family of standards describe codings, APIs, and protocols for interacting with an ISO/IEC 11179 metadata registry (MDR).

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 Directives — Part 2: *Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*

ISO/IEC JTC1 Directives, *5th edition*

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 TR 10000-1, *Information technology — Framework and taxonomy of International Standardized Profiles — Part 1: General principles and documentation framework*

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

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

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

ISO/IEC 11404:—<sup>3</sup>, *Information technology — General Purpose Datatypes (GPD)*

ISO/IEC 13886:1995<sup>4</sup>, *Information technology — Language-Independent Procedure Calling (LIPC)*

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

ISO/IEC DIS 19501-1, *Information technology — Unified Modeling Language (UML) — Part 1: Specification*

### **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

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<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> To be published. Currently under revision, for current status, see "<http://www.open-std.org/JTC1/SC22/WG11/>".

<sup>4</sup> ISO/IEC 13886 is freely available, see "<http://www.jtc1.org>" under .

### 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 [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 [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 [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 [JTC1 Directives, 5th 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 [ISO 704]

##### 3.4.1.2

##### symbol

designation that is non-linguistic [adapted<sup>5</sup> from ISO 704]

##### 3.4.1.3

##### sign

term, appellation, or symbol [adapted<sup>6</sup> 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)

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<sup>5</sup> The definition is adapted from the text in ISO 704, subclause 7.5.

<sup>6</sup> The definition is adapted from ISO 704, subclause 7.5 on the definition of *symbol*, and from the definitions of *designation*, *term*, and *appellation* in ISO 1087-1

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 [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 [ISO/IEC 2382-01]

**3.6.1.25**

**to upload**

transfer programs or data from a connected computer to a computer with greater resources [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [ISO/IEC 2382-07]



**3.10.3.14**

**operation exception**

exception that occurs when a program or process encounters an invalid operation part [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [ISO/IEC 2382-08]

**3.11.5.2**

**risk**

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

**3.11.5.5**

**loss**

quantitative measure of harm or deprivation resulting from a compromise [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 [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 [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 [ISO/IEC 2382-09]

**3.12.5.2**

**data circuit**

pair of associated transmission channels that provide a means of two-way data transmission [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 facilities**

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 [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 [ISO/IEC 2382-15]

**3.13.1.3****predefined identifier**

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

**3.13.2.7****global**

pertaining to a language construct that is within the scope of all modules [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 [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 [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 [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 [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 [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<sup>7</sup> 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 [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*.<sup>8</sup>

**3.15.1.4****IT system**

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

<sup>7</sup> The source definition in ISO/IEC 10001-1 is particular to JTC1 and ITU-T; the JTC1 and ITU-T references were removed.

<sup>8</sup> Editor's note: Need to check updated JTC1 Directives for incorporation of N4047.

### 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.

**3.18.1 Parameters**

**3.18.1.1**

**client interface binding**

possession by the client procedure of an interface reference

**3.18.1.2**

**parameter**

used to communicate a value from a client to a server procedure; the value supplied by the client is the actual parameter, the formal parameter is used to identify the received value in the server procedure

**3.18.1.3**

**formal parameter**

name symbol of a parameter used in the definition of a procedure to which a value will be bound during execution

**3.18.1.4****actual parameter**

value that is bound to a formal parameter during the execution of a procedure

**3.18.1.5****input parameter**

formal parameter with an attribute indicating that the corresponding actual parameter is to be made available to the server procedure on entry from the client procedure

**3.18.1.6****output parameter**

formal parameter with an attribute indicating that the corresponding actual parameter is to be made available to the client procedure on return from the server procedure

**3.18.1.7****input/output parameter**

formal parameter with an attribute indicating that the corresponding actual parameters are made available to the server procedure on entry from the client procedure and to the client procedure on return from the server procedure

**3.18.2 Procedures and interfaces****3.18.2.1****interface reference**

identifier that denotes a particular interface instance

**3.18.2.2****marshalling**

process of collecting actual parameters, possibly converting them, and assembling them for transfer

**3.18.2.3****unmarshalling**

process of disassembling the transferred parameters, possibly converting them, for use by the server procedure on invocation or by the client procedure upon procedure return

**3.18.2.4****procedure**

procedure value

**3.18.2.5****procedure value**

closed sequence of instructions that is entered from, and returns control to, an external source

**3.18.2.6****procedure type**

family of datatypes each of whose members is a collection of operations on values of other datatypes

**3.18.3 Invocation****3.18.3.1****procedure call**

act of invoking a procedure



**3.18.3.2**

**termination**

predefined status related to the completion of a procedure call

**3.18.3.3**

**procedure return**

act of returning from the server procedure with a specific termination

**3.18.3.4**

**client procedure**

sequence of instructions which invokes another procedure

**3.18.3.5**

**server procedure**

procedure which is invoked by a procedure call

**3.18.3.6**

**invocation context**

for a particular procedure call, instance of the objects referenced by the procedure, where the lifetime of the objects is bounded by the lifetime of the call

**3.18.3.7**

**procedure execution context**

for a particular procedure, an instance of the objects satisfying the external references necessary to allow the procedure to operate, where these objects have a lifetime longer than a single call of that procedure

**3.18.3.8**

**procedure image**

representation of a value of a particular procedure type, which embodies a particular sequence of instructions to be performed when the procedure is called

**3.18.3.9**

**procedure invocation**

object which represents the triple: procedure image, execution context, and invocation context

**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

## ISO/IEC CD2 20944-02 [Release Sequence #8]

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

#### multivalued

#### 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 multivalued 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)

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

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



## ISO/IEC CD2 20944-02 [Release Sequence #8]

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

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.]

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