INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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Information technology — Open Systems Interconnection — Security frameworks for open systems: Confidentiality framework

Technologies de l'information — Interconnexion de systèmes ouverts (OSI) — Cadres généraux pour la sécurité des systèmes ouverts: Cadre général de confidentialité

Reference number
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO/IEC 10181-5 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 21, *Open Systems Interconnection, data management and open distributed processing*, in collaboration with ITU-T. The identical text is published as ITU-T Recommendation X.814.

ISO/IEC 10181 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Open Systems Interconnection — Security frameworks for open systems*:

— *Part 1: Overview*

— *Part 2: Authentication framework*

— *Part 3: Access control framework*

— *Part 4: Non-repudiation framework*

— *Part 5: Confidentiality framework*

— *Part 6: Integrity framework*

— *Part 7: Security audit framework*

Annexes A to E of this part of ISO/IEC 10181 are for information only.

Introduction

Many Open Systems applications have security requirements which depend upon the prevention of disclosure of information. Such requirements may include the protection of information used in the provision of other security services such as authentication, access controls or integrity, that, if known by an attacker, could reduce or nullify the effectiveness of those services.

Confidentiality is the property that information is not made available or disclosed to unauthorized individuals, entities, or processes.

This Recommendation | International Standard defines a general framework for the provision of confidentiality services.

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ITU-T RECOMMENDATION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – OPEN SYSTEMS INTERCONNECTION – SECURITY FRAMEWORKS FOR OPEN SYSTEMS: CONFIDENTIALITY FRAMEWORK

1 Scope

This Recommendation | International Standard on Security Frameworks for Open Systems addresses the application of security services in an Open Systems environment, where the term "Open System" is taken to include areas such as Database, Distributed Applications, Open Distributed Processing and OSI. The Security Frameworks are concerned with defining the means of providing protection for systems and objects within systems, and with the interactions between systems. The Security Frameworks are not concerned with the methodology for constructing systems or mechanisms.

The Security Frameworks address both data elements and sequences of operations (but not protocol elements) which may be used to obtain specific security services. These security services may apply to the communicating entities of systems as well as to data exchanged between systems, and to data managed by systems.

This Recommendation | International Standard addresses the confidentiality of information in retrieval, transfer and management. It:

1) defines the basic concepts of confidentiality;
2) identifies possible classes of confidentiality mechanisms;
3) classifies and identifies facilities for each class of confidentiality mechanisms;
4) identifies management required to support the classes of confidentiality mechanism; and
5) addresses the interaction of confidentiality mechanism and the supporting services with other security services and mechanisms.

A number of different types of standards can use this framework, including:

1) standards that incorporate the concept of confidentiality;
2) standards that specify abstract services that include confidentiality;
3) standards that specify uses of a confidentiality service;
4) standards that specify means of providing confidentiality within an open system architecture; and
5) standards that specify confidentiality mechanisms.

Such standards can use this framework as follows:

- standards of type 1), 2), 3), 4) and 5) can use the terminology of this framework;
- standards of type 2), 3), 4) and 5) can use the facilities defined in clause 7 of this framework;
- standards of type 5) can be based upon the classes of mechanism defined in clause 8 of this framework.

As with other security services, confidentiality can only be provided within the context of a defined security policy for a particular application. The definitions of specific security policies are outside the scope of this Recommendation | International Standard.

It is not a matter for this Recommendation | International Standard to specify details of the protocol exchanges which need to be performed in order to achieve confidentiality.

This Recommendation | International Standard does not specify particular mechanisms to support these confidentiality services nor the full details of security management services and protocols. Generic mechanisms to support confidentiality are described in clause 8.

Some of the procedures described in this security framework achieve confidentiality by the application of cryptographic techniques. This framework is not dependent on the use of particular cryptographic or other algorithms, although certain classes of confidentiality mechanisms may depend on particular algorithm properties.

NOTE – Although ISO does not standardize cryptographic algorithms, it does standardize the procedures used to register them in ISO/IEC 9979:1991, Procedures for the registration of criptographic algorithms.

This framework addresses the provision of confidentiality when the information is represented by data that are read-accessible to potential attackers. Its scope includes traffic flow confidentiality.

2 Normative references

The following Recommendations and International Standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation | International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and Standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this Recommendation | International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and Standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards. The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau of the ITU maintains a list of currently valid ITU-T Recommendations.

2.1 Identical Recommendations | International Standards

- ITU-T Recommendation X.200 (1994) | ISO/IEC 7498-1:1994, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model: The Basic Model.*
- ITU-T Recommendation X.233 (1993) | ISO/IEC 8473-1:1994, *Information technology – Protocol for providing the connectionless-mode Network service: Protocol specification.*
- ITU-T Recommendation X.273 (1994) | ISO/IEC 11577:1995, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Network layer security protocol.*
- ITU-T Recommendation X.274 (1994) | ISO/IEC 10736:1995, *Information technology – Telecommunication and information exchange between systems – Transport layer security protocol.*
- ITU-T Recommendation X.810 (1995) | ISO/IEC 10181-1:1996, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Security frameworks for open systems: Overview.*
- ITU-T Recommendation X.812 (1995) | ISO/IEC 10181-3:1996, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Security frameworks for open systems: Access control framework.*

2.2 Paired Recommendations | International Standards equivalent in technical content

- CCITT Recommendation X.800 (1991), *Security architecture for Open Systems Interconnection for CCITT applications.*

  ISO 7498-2:1989, *Information processing systems – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model – Part 2: Security Architecture.*