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Systems and software engineering — Vocabulary

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Withdrawal



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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.

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Introduction

The systems and software engineering disciplines are continuing to mature while information technology advances. New terms are being generated and new meanings are being adopted for existing terms. This International Standard was prepared to collect and standardize terminology. Its purpose is to identify terms currently in use in the field and standard definitions for these terms. It is intended to serve as a useful reference for those in the Information Technology field, and to encourage the use of systems and software engineering standards prepared by ISO and liaison organizations IEEE Computer Society and Project Management Institute (PMI). It provides definitions that are rigorous, uncomplicated, and understandable by all concerned.

While it is useful to find the meaning of a term, no word stands in isolation. This International Standard makes it possible to search for related concepts and to view how a term is used in definitions of other terms.

Every effort has been made to use definitions from established systems and software engineering standards of ISO JTC 1/SC 7 and its liaison organizations IEEE Computer Society and the PMI. When existing standards were found to be incomplete, unclear or inconsistent with other entries in the vocabulary, however, new, revised, or composite definitions have been developed. Some definitions have been recast in a systems, rather than software, context.

This International Standard replaces IEEE Std 610.12-1990, IEEE Standard Glossary of Software Engineering Terminology, which was contributed by the IEEE as a source document. The approach and lexical exactitude of IEEE Std 610.12-1990 served as a model for this International Standard. Nevertheless, approximately two-thirds of the definitions in this International Standard are new since IEEE Std 610.12 was last updated in 1990, a reflection of the continued evolution in the field.

The vocabulary is offered in both print and internet-accessible versions for ease of reference.

Systems and software engineering — Vocabulary

1 Scope

Consistent with ISO vocabulary standards, each technical committee is responsible for standard terminology in its area of specialization. This International Standard provides a common vocabulary applicable to all systems and software engineering work falling within the scope of ISO JTC 1/SC 7.

The scope of each concept defined has been chosen to provide a definition that is suitable for general application. In those circumstances where a restricted application is concerned, a more specific definition might be needed.

Terms have been excluded if they were

- considered to be parochial to one group or organization;
- company proprietary or trademarked;
- multi-word terms whose meaning could be inferred from the definitions of the component words;
- terms whose meaning in the information technology (IT) field could be directly inferred from their common English meaning.