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## Software and systems engineering — Methods and tools for variability traceability in software and systems product line

*Ingénierie des systèmes et du logiciel — Méthodes et outils pour  
modéliser la traçabilité dans les gammes de produits des logiciels et  
systèmes*





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# Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Abbreviated terms</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Reference model for variability traceability in software and systems product line</b> .....	<b>2</b>
5.1 Overview.....	2
5.2 Reference model for variability traceability in software and systems product line.....	4
<b>6 Variability tracing management</b> .....	<b>7</b>
6.1 General.....	7
6.2 Variability tracing planning.....	7
6.2.1 Purpose of variability tracing planning.....	7
6.2.2 Design variability tracing strategy.....	8
6.2.3 Define quality assurance measures for variability tracing.....	8
6.2.4 Assign responsibility for variability tracing.....	9
6.2.5 Record variability tracing plan.....	9
6.3 Variability tracing enabling.....	10
6.3.1 Purpose of variability tracing enabling.....	10
6.3.2 Provide guidance for variability tracing.....	10
6.3.3 Mobilize roles and responsibilities for variability tracing.....	11
6.3.4 Enable variability tracing management.....	11
6.3.5 Enable variability tracing operations.....	11
6.3.6 Enable quality assurance measurement for variability tracing.....	12
6.4 Variability tracing managing.....	12
6.4.1 Purpose of variability tracing managing.....	12
6.4.2 Review the plan versus actual result of variability tracing.....	13
6.4.3 Control issues on domain/application variability tracing.....	13
6.4.4 Control issues on variability traceability management.....	13
6.4.5 Control issues on variability tracing support.....	14
6.4.6 Support corrective actions for variability tracing.....	14
6.4.7 Make improvement actions for variability tracing.....	15
<b>7 Variability tracing</b> .....	<b>15</b>
7.1 General.....	15
7.2 Traceability between domain variability model and domain artefacts.....	15
7.2.1 Purpose of traceability between domain variability model and domain artefacts.....	15
7.2.2 Identify relations between variation point and domain artefact.....	16
7.2.3 Identify relations between variant and domain artefact.....	16
7.2.4 Define the trace links between domain variability model and domain artefacts.....	17
7.3 Traceability between application variability model and application artefacts.....	17
7.3.1 Purpose of traceability between application variability model and application artefacts.....	17
7.3.2 Identify relations between variation point and application artefact.....	18
7.3.3 Identify relations between variant and application artefact.....	18
7.3.4 Define the trace links between application variability model and application artefacts.....	19
7.4 Traceability between domain and application variability model.....	19
7.4.1 Purpose of traceability between domain and application variability model.....	19
7.4.2 Identify relations between domain and application variability model.....	20
7.4.3 Define trace links in accordance with binding results.....	20
7.5 Traceability among variability related artefacts within a stage.....	20

7.5.1	Purpose of traceability between variability related artefacts within a stage.....	20
7.5.2	Identify relations among domain artefacts within the same stage.....	21
7.5.3	Define trace links among domain artefacts within the same stage.....	21
7.5.4	Instantiate trace links in line with binding results.....	22
7.6	Traceability between variability related artefacts in adjacent stages.....	22
7.6.1	Purpose of traceability between variability related artefacts in different adjacent stages.....	22
7.6.2	Identify relations between domain artefacts in adjacent stages.....	23
7.6.3	Define trace links between domain artefacts in adjacent stages.....	23
7.6.4	Instantiate trace links in line with binding results.....	24
<b>8</b>	<b>Variability tracing support.....</b>	<b>24</b>
8.1	General.....	24
8.2	Relating tracing to variability model.....	24
8.2.1	Purpose of relating tracing to variability model.....	24
8.2.2	Identify variability tracing conflicts.....	25
8.2.3	Harmonize variability traceability with product line traceability.....	25
8.3	Quality assurance for variability tracing.....	26
8.3.1	Purpose of quality assurance for variability tracing.....	26
8.3.2	Objectively evaluate variability tracing activities.....	26
8.3.3	Objectively evaluate variability tracing work products.....	27
8.3.4	Communicate and resolve noncompliance issues.....	27
8.3.5	Establish records of tracing quality assurance activities.....	28
8.4	Variability tracing algorithm.....	28
8.4.1	Purpose of variability tracing algorithm.....	28
8.4.2	Identify algorithms for variability tracing.....	29
8.4.3	Evaluate defined variability tracing algorithms.....	29
8.4.4	Measure the performance of algorithms.....	30
8.4.5	Optimize traceability algorithms.....	30
<b>Annex A (informative) Variability traceability dimension.....</b>		<b>31</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Types of variability traceability relations.....</b>		<b>32</b>
<b>Annex C (informative) Variability traceability attributes.....</b>		<b>34</b>
<b>Bibliography.....</b>		<b>35</b>

## 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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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## Introduction

Software and Systems Product Line (SSPL) engineering and management creates, exploits and manages a common platform to develop a family of products (e.g. software products, systems architectures) at lower cost, reduced time to market and with better quality. As a result, it has gained increasing global attention since the 1990s.

Variability, which differentiates a member product from other products within a product line, plays an important role in SSPL; and hundreds of variabilities are introduced throughout the whole SSPL domain engineering stages. Those variabilities are defined, refined, newly added as domain engineering stages go forward. Variabilities thus are modelled carefully so as to manage and control them in a systematic way. This document deals with methods and tools capability for supporting variability modelling using consistent notations and for managing and/or utilizing variability models in domain and application engineering lifecycle processes.

This document can be used in the following modes:

- by the users of this document: to benefit people who want to adopt SSPL for producing their products by guiding how to model variabilities among member products;
- by a product line organization: to provide guidance in the evaluation and selection for methods and tools for variability modelling;
- by providers of tools and methods: to provide guidance in implementing or developing methods and tools by providing a comprehensive set of methods and tools capabilities for supporting variability modelling.

The ISO/IEC 26550 family of standards addresses both engineering and management processes and capabilities of methods and tools in terms of the key characteristics of product line development. This document provides processes and capabilities of methods and tools for variability modelling in product lines. Other ISO/IEC 26550 family of standards are as follows:

- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for domain requirements engineering and application requirements engineering are provided in ISO/IEC 26551;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for domain design and application design are provided in ISO/IEC 26552;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for domain realization and application realization are provided in ISO/IEC 26553;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for domain testing and application testing are provided in ISO/IEC 26554;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for technical management are provided in ISO/IEC 26555;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for organizational management are provided in ISO/IEC 26556;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for variability mechanisms are provided in ISO/IEC 26557;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for variability traceability are provided in ISO/IEC 26559;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for product management are provided in ISO/IEC 26560;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for technical probe are provided in ISO/IEC 26561;

- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for transition management are provided in ISO/IEC 26562;
- processes and capabilities of methods and tools for configuration management of asset are provided in ISO/IEC 26563;
- others (ISO/IEC 26564 to ISO/IEC 26599): to be developed.

ISO/IEC 26550, ISO/IEC 26551 and ISO/IEC 26555 are published. ISO/IEC 26557 and ISO/IEC 26559 are to be published. ISO/IEC 26552, ISO/IEC 26553, ISO/IEC 26554, ISO/IEC 26556, ISO/IEC 26560, ISO/IEC 26561, ISO/IEC 26562, ISO/IEC 26563 are planned International Standards.

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# Software and systems engineering — Methods and tools for variability traceability in software and systems product line

## 1 Scope

This document, within the context of the tools and methods of variability traceability for software and system product lines:

- provides the terms and definitions specific to variability traceability for software and systems product lines;
- defines process groups and their processes for establishing and managing variability traceability at product line lifecycle processes. Those processes are described in terms of purpose, inputs, tasks, and outcomes;
- defines method capabilities to support the defined tasks of each process;
- defines tool capabilities to automate/semi-automate tasks or defined method capabilities.

This document does not concern processes and capabilities of tools and methods for a single system but rather deals with those for a family of products.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.