INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC 8825-3

Third edition
2015-11-15

Information technology — ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Encoding Control Notation (ECN)

Technologies de l'information — Règles de codage ASN.1: Spécification de la notation de contrôle de codage (ECN)

Reference number
ISO/IEC 8825-3:2015(E)

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Published in Switzerland

Foreword

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

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. 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.

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

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition of ISO/IEC 8825-3:2008 which has been technically revised. It also incorporates ISO/IEC 8825-3:2008/Cor.1:2012.

ISO/IEC 8825-3 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology* Subcommittee SC 6, *Telecommunications and information exchange between systems*, in collaboration with ITU-T. The identical text is published as ITU-T X.692 (08/2015).

International Telecommunication Union

ITU-T X.692

(08/2015)

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

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Information technology – ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Encoding Control Notation (ECN)

Recommendation ITU-T X.692

ITU-T

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For further details, please refer to the list of ITU-T Recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO/IEC 8825-3
RECOMMENDATION ITU-T X.692

Information technology – ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Encoding Control Notation (ECN)

Summary

Recommendation ITU-T X.692 | ISO/IEC 8825-3 defines the Encoding Control Notation (ECN) used to specify encodings (of ASN.1 types) that differ from those provided by standardized encoding rules such as the Basic Encoding Rules (BER) and the Packed Encoding Rules (PER).

History

Edition	Recommendation	Approval	Study Group	Unique ID*
1.0	ITU-T X.692	2002-03-08	17	11.1002/1000/5647
1.1	ITU-T X.692 (2002) Annex E	2002-03-08	17	11.1002/1000/6361
1.2	ITU-T X.692 (2002) Amd. 1	2004-08-29	17	11.1002/1000/7292
1.3	ITU-T X.692 (2002) Technical Cor. 1	2005-05-14	17	11.1002/1000/8514
1.4	ITU-T X.692 (2002) Amd. 2	2006-06-13	17	11.1002/1000/8840
2.0	ITU-T X.692	2008-11-13	17	11.1002/1000/9610
2.1	ITU-T X.692 (2008) Cor. 1	2011-10-14	17	11.1002/1000/11380
3.0	ITU-T X.692	2015-08-13	17	11.1002/1000/12485

* To access the Recommendation, type the URL http://handle.itu.int/ in the address field of your web browser, followed by the Recommendation's unique ID. For example, http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11830-en.

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

Compliance with this Recommendation is voluntary. However, the Recommendation may contain certain mandatory provisions (to ensure, e.g., interoperability or applicability) and compliance with the Recommendation is achieved when all of these mandatory provisions are met. The words "shall" or some other obligatory language such as "must" and the negative equivalents are used to express requirements. The use of such words does not suggest that compliance with the Recommendation is required of any party.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

ITU draws attention to the possibility that the practice or implementation of this Recommendation may involve the use of a claimed Intellectual Property Right. ITU takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of claimed Intellectual Property Rights, whether asserted by ITU members or others outside of the Recommendation development process.

As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, ITU had not received notice of intellectual property, protected by patents, which may be required to implement this Recommendation. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the TSB patent database at http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/ipr/.

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Introduction

The Encoding Control Notation (ECN) is a notation for specifying encodings of ASN.1 types that differ from those provided by standardized encoding rules. ECN can be used to encode all types of an ASN.1 specification, but can also be used with standardized encoding rules such as BER or PER (Rec. ITU-T X.690 | ISO/IEC 8825-1 and Rec. ITU-T X.691 | ISO/IEC 8825-2) to specify only the encoding of types that have special requirements.

An ASN.1 type specifies a set of abstract values. Encoding rules specify the representation of these abstract values as a series of bits. ECN is designed to meet the following encoding needs:

a) The need to write ASN.1 types (and get the support of ASN.1 tools in implementations) for established ("legacy") protocols where the encoding is already determined and differs from all standardized encoding rules.

b) The need to produce encodings that are minor variations on standardized rules.

The linkage provided in an ECN specification to an ASN.1 specification is well-defined and machine processable, so encoders and decoders can be automatically generated from the combined specifications. This is a significant factor in reducing both the amount of work and the possibility of errors in making interoperable systems. Another significant advantage is the ability to provide automatic tool support for testing.

These advantages are available with ASN.1 alone when standardized encoding rules suffice, but the ECN work provides these advantages in circumstances where the standardized encoding rules are not sufficient.

NOTE 1 – Currently ECN support only binary-based encodings, but could be extended in the future to cover character-based encodings.

Annex A forms an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, and details modifications to be made to Rec. ITU-T X.680 | ISO/IEC 8824-1 to support the notation used in this Recommendation | International Standard.

Annex B forms an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, and details modifications to be made to Rec. ITU-T X.681 | ISO/IEC 8824-2 to support the notation used in this Recommendation | International Standard.

Annex C forms an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, and details modifications to be made to Rec. ITU-T X.683 | ISO/IEC 8824-4 to support the notation used in this Recommendation | International Standard.

NOTE 2 – It is not intended that Annexes A, B and C be progressed as amendments to the referenced Recommendations | International Standards. The modifications are solely for the purpose of ECN definition (see clause 5 and 9.28).

Annex D does not form an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, and contains examples of the use of ECN.

Annex E does not form an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard and provides more detail on the support for Huffman encodings in ECN.

Annex F does not form an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, and identifies a Web site providing access to further information and links relevant to ECN.

Annex G does not form an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, and provides a summary of ECN using the notation of clause 5.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
ITU-T RECOMMENDATION

Information technology – ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Encoding Control Notation (ECN)

1 Scope

This Recommendation | International Standard defines a notation for specifying encodings of ASN.1 types or of parts of types.

It provides several mechanisms for such specification, including:

- direct specification of the encoding using standardized notation;
- specification of the encoding by reference to standardized encoding rules;
- specification of the encoding of an ASN.1 type by reference to an encoding structure;
- specification of the encoding using non-ECN notation.

It also provides the means to link the specification of encodings to the type definitions to which they are to be applied.

ECN does not currently provide any support for specifications using the OID internationalized resource identifier type or the relative OID internationalized resource identifier type (see Rec. ITU-T X.680 | ISO/IEC 8824-1), and these are not referred to further in this Standard.

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 International 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.

NOTE – This Recommendation | International Standard is based on ISO/IEC 10646:2003. It cannot be applied using later versions of this standard.

2.1 Identical Recommendations | International Standards

- Recommendation ITU-T X.660 (2011) | ISO/IEC 9834-1:2012, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Procedures for the operation of OSI Registration Authorities: General procedures and top arcs of the international object identifier tree*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.680 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-1:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Specification of basic notation*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.681 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-2:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Information object specification.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.682 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-3:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Constraint specification.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.683 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-4:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Parameterization of ASN.1 specifications.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.690 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8825-1:2015, *Information technology – ASN.1 encoding Rules: Specification of Basic Encoding Rules (BER), Canonical Encoding Rules (CER), and Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER).*

– Recommendation ITU-T X.691 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8825-2:2015, *Information technology – ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Packed Encoding Rules (PER).*

NOTE 1 – Notwithstanding the ISO publication date, the above specifications are normally referred to as "ASN.1:2015".

NOTE 2 – The above references shall be interpreted as references to the identified Recommendations | International Standards together with all their published amendments and technical corrigenda.

2.2 Additional references

– ISO/IEC 10646:2003, *Information technology – Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS)*.

NOTE – The above reference shall be interpreted as a reference to ISO/IEC 10646 together with all its published amendments and technical corrigenda.