

Australian Standard[®]

Data processing—Vocabulary

Part 1: Fundamental terms

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT/9, Information Systems—Vocabulary and Software. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 12 December 1990 and published on 28 March 1991.

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Information Systems — Vocabulary and Software. It is identical with and has been reproduced from ISO 2382/1—1984—*Data processing—Vocabulary—Part 1: Fundamental terms*.

The complete Standard comprises the following parts:

- Part 0: Consolidated index
- Part 1: Fundamental terms
- Part 2: Arithmetic and logic operations
- Part 3: Equipment technology
- Part 4: Organization of data
- Part 5: Representation of data
- Part 6: Preparation and handling of data
- Part 7: Digital computer programming
- Part 9: Data communication
- Part 10: Operating techniques and facilities
- Part 11: Control, input-output and arithmetic equipment
- Part 12: Data media, storage and related equipment
- Part 13: Computer graphics
- Part 14: Reliability, maintenance and availability
- Part 15: Programming languages
- Part 16: Information theory
- Part 19: Analog computing
- Part 21: Interfaces between process computer systems and technical processes
- Part 22: Calculators
- Part 24: Numerical control of machines

Other parts of this Standard will be published when completed.

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Data processing—Vocabulary

Part 1: Fundamental terms

Section one: General

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard is intended to facilitate international communication in information processing. It presents terms and definitions of selected concepts relevant to the field of information processing and identifies relationships between the entries.

In order to facilitate their translation into other languages, the definitions are drafted so as to avoid, as far as possible, any peculiarity attached to a language.

This International Standard deals with the main areas of data processing, including the principal processes and types of equipment used, the representation, organization and presentation of data, the programming and operation of computers, peripheral equipment and data communication as well as particular applications.

This part of ISO 2382 (which will comprise some twenty parts) deals with the most basic concepts on which are based the further specialized parts in various fields as well as the essential terms that are most commonly used in the data processing community.

In the revision of part 01, a number of entries have been removed. Some of these were found to be self-explanatory and thus unnecessary, such as “self organizing computer program”. Others were found to be common language words, such as “setup” and others were deleted as obsolete being only of historical interest, such as “Electronic Data Processing, EDP”.

Further terms were taken out in order to be incorporated in other parts of this International Standard, such as “differential analyzer” which is intended to be incorporated in part 19 “Analog computing”. With this reorganization of this International Standard, part 01 will be more homogeneous.

2 Principles and rules followed

2.1 Definition of an entry

Section two comprises a number of entries. Each entry consists of a set of essential elements that includes an index number, one term or several synonymous terms, and a phrase defining one concept. In addition, an entry may include examples, notes or illustrations to facilitate understanding of the concept.

Occasionally, the same term may be defined in different entries, or two or more concepts may be covered by one entry, as described in 2.5 and 2.8 respectively.

Other terms such as **vocabulary**, **concept**, **term** and **definition**, are used in this International Standard with the meaning defined in ISO/R 1087, *Vocabulary of Terminology*.

2.2 Organization of an entry

Each entry contains the essential elements defined in 2.1 and, if necessary, additional elements. The entry may contain the following elements in the following order:

- a) an index number (common for all languages in which this International Standard is published);
- b) the term or the generally preferred term in the language. The absence of a generally accepted term for the concept in the language is indicated by a symbol consisting of five points (.....); a row of dots may be used to indicate, in a term, a word to be chosen in each particular case;
- c) the preferred term in a particular country (identified according to the rules of ISO/R 639, *Symbols for languages, countries and authorities*);
- d) the abbreviation for the term;
- e) permitted synonymous term(s);
- f) the text of the definition (see 2.4);
- g) one or more examples with the heading “Example(s)”;
- h) one or more notes specifying particular cases in the field of application of the concepts, with the heading “NOTE(S)”;
- j) a picture, a diagram, or a table.

2.3 Classification of entries

A two-digit serial number is assigned to each part of this International Standard, beginning with **01** for “**fundamental terms**”.

The entries are classified in groups to each of which is assigned a four-digit serial number. The first two digits being those of the part of this international Standard.

Each entry is assigned a six-digit index number. The first four digits being those of the part of this International Standard and the group.

In order that versions of this International Standard in various languages are related, the numbers assigned to parts, groups and entries are the same for all languages.

2.4 Selection of terms and wording of definitions

The selection of terms and the wording of definitions have, as far as possible, followed established usage. When there were contradictions, solutions agreeable to the majority have been sought.