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Australian Standard®

Information processing systems—Open Systems Interconnection—Basic reference model

Part 2: Security architecture

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Information Systems — Interconnection. It is identical with and has been reproduced from International Standard ISO 7498-2: 1988, *Information processing systems — Open Systems Interconnection — Basic Reference Model* — Part 2: *Security Architecture.*

The Standard is one of a series of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Standards which are currently under development. Since OSI Standards are developmental, there may be some minor difficulties encountered in their implementation. For this reason, Standards Australia will be providing a limited interpretation service to coordinate and disseminate information concerning difficulties which are identified in using this Standard.

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For the purpose of this Australian Standard, the text of the ISO Standard given herein should be modified as follows:

(i) *Terminology* The words 'Australian Standard' should replace the words 'International Standard' wherever they appear.

(ii) *References* The references to International Standards should be replaced by references to Australian Standards as follows:

Reference to International Standard		*Australian Standard*	
ISO		AS	
7498	Information processing systems—Open Systems Interconnection — Basic Reference Model	2777	Information processing systems—Open Systems Interconnection — Basic reference model
7498-4	Information processing systems—Open Systems Interconnection — Basic Reference Model — Part 4: Management framework	2777.4	Information processing systems—Open Systems Interconnection—Basic reference model — Part 4: Management framework
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0 Introduction

ISO 7498 describes the Basic Reference Model for Open Systems Interconnection (OSI). That part of ISO 7498 establishes a framework for coordinating the development of existing and future standards for the interconnection of systems.

The objective of OSI is to permit the interconnection of heterogeneous computer systems so that useful communication between application processes may be achieved. At various times, security controls must be established in order to protect the information exchanged between the application processes. Such controls should make the cost of obtaining or modifying data greater than the potential value of so doing, or make the time required to obtain the data so great that the value of the data is lost.

This part of ISO 7498 defines the general security-related architectural elements which can be applied appropriately in the circumstances for which protection of communication between open systems is required. It establishes, within the framework of the Reference Model, guidelines and constraints to improve existing standards or to develop new standards in the context of OSI in order to allow secure communications and thus provide a consistent approach to security in OSI.

A background in security will be helpful in understanding this document. The reader who is not well versed in security is advised to read annex A first.

This part of ISO 7498 extends the Basic Reference Model to cover security aspects which are general architectural elements of communications protocols, but which are not discussed in the Basic Reference Model.

1 Scope and field of application

This part of ISO 7498:

a) provides a general description of security services and related mechanisms, which may be provided by the Reference Model; and

b) defines the positions within the Reference Model where the services and mechanisms may be provided.

This part of ISO 7498 extends the field of application of ISO 7498, to cover secure communications between open systems.

Basic security services and mechanisms and their appropriate placement have been identified for all layers of the Basic Reference Model. In addition, the architectural relationships of the security services and mechanisms to the Basic Reference Model have been identified. Additional security measures may be needed in end-systems, installations and organizations. These measures apply in various application contexts. The definition of security services needed to support such additional security measures is outside the scope of this standard.

OSI security functions are concerned only with those visible aspects of a communications path which permit end systems to achieve the secure transfer of information between them. OSI Security is not concerned with security measures needed in end systems, installations, and organizations, except where these have implications on the choice and position of security services visible in OSI. These latter aspects of security may be standardized but not within the scope of OSI standards.

This part of ISO 7498 adds to the concepts and principles defined in ISO 7498; it does not modify them. It is not an implementation specification, nor is it a basis for appraising the conformance of actual implementations.

2 References

ISO 7498 *Information processing systems — Open Systems Interconnection — Basic Reference Model.*