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Part 2:
The Directory: Models

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by ITU-T as ITU-T X.501 (10/2019) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules, in collaboration with Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Telecommunications and information exchange between systems*.

This ninth edition cancels and replaces the eighth edition (ISO/IEC 9594-2:2017), which has been technically revised.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 9594 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This Recommendation | International Standard, together with other Recommendations in the ITU-T X.500-series | parts of ISO/IEC 9594, has been produced to facilitate the interconnection of information processing systems to provide directory services. A set of such systems, together with the directory information that they hold, can be viewed as an integrated whole, called the *Directory*. The information held by the Directory, collectively known as the Directory Information Base (DIB), is typically used to facilitate communication between, with or about objects such as application entities, people, terminals and distribution lists.

The Directory plays a significant role in Open Systems Interconnection (OSI), whose aim is to allow, with a minimum of technical agreement outside of the interconnection standards themselves, the interconnection of information processing systems:

– from different manufacturers;

– under different managements;

– of different levels of complexity; and

– of different ages.

This Recommendation | International Standard provides a number of different models for the Directory as a framework for the other Recommendations in the ITU-T X.500 series | parts of ISO/IEC 9594. The models are the overall (functional) model; the administrative authority model, generic Directory Information Models providing Directory User and Administrative User views on Directory information, generic DSA and DSA information models, an Operational Framework and a security model.

The generic Directory Information Models describe, for example, how information about objects is grouped to form Directory entries for those objects and how that information provides names for objects.

The generic DSA and DSA information models and the Operational Framework provide support for Directory distribution.

This Recommendation | International Standard provides a specialization of the generic Directory Information Models to support Directory Schema administration.

This Recommendation | International Standard provides the foundation frameworks upon which industry profiles can be defined by other standards groups and industry forums. Many of the features defined as optional in these frameworks may be mandated for use in certain environments through profiles. This ninth edition technically revises and enhances the eighth edition of this Recommendation | International Standard.

Annex A, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, summarizes the usage of ASN.1 object identifiers in the ITU-T X.500-series Recommendations | parts of ISO/IEC 9594.

Annex B, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 module which contains all of the definitions associated with the information framework.

Annex C, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the subschema administration schema in ASN.1.

Annex D, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 module for Service Administration.

Annex E, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 module for Basic Access Control.

Annex F, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 module which contains all the definitions associated with DSA operational attribute types.

Annex G, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 module which contains all the definitions associated with operational binding management operations.

Annex H, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 module which contains all the definitions associated with enhanced security.

Annex I, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 module which contains the definitions for LDAP system schema using the ASN.1 ATTRIBUTE information object.

Annex J, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, summarizes the mathematical terminology associated with tree structures.

Annex K, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, describes some criteria that can be considered in designing names.

Annex L, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides some examples of various aspects of Schema.

Annex M, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides an overview of the semantics associated with Basic Access Control permissions.

Annex N, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides an extended example of the use of Basic Access Control.

Annex O, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, describes some DSA specific entry combinations.

Annex P, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides a framework for the modelling of knowledge.

Annex Q, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, describes the concept of subfilters.

Annex R, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, describes recommendations and examples on how family members can be named.

Annex S, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, gives an introduction to naming concepts and considerations.

Annex T, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, lists alphabetically the terms defined in this Recommendation | International Standard.

Annex U, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, lists the amendments and defect reports that have been incorporated to form this edition of this Recommendation | International Standard.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
ITU-T RECOMMENDATION

Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Models

SECTION 1 – GENERAL

1 Scope

The models defined in this Recommendation | International Standard provide a conceptual and terminological framework for the other ITU-T X.500-series Recommendations | parts of ISO/IEC 9594 which define various aspects of the Directory.

The functional and administrative authority models define ways in which the Directory can be distributed, both functionally and administratively. Generic Directory System Agent (DSA) and DSA information models and an Operational Framework are also provided to support Directory distribution.

The generic Directory Information Models describe the logical structure of the Directory Information Base (DIB) from the perspective of Directory and Administrative Users. In these models, the fact that the Directory is distributed, rather than centralized, is not visible.

This Recommendation | International Standard provides a specialization of the generic Directory Information Models to support Directory Schema administration.

The other ITU-T Recommendations in the X.500 series | parts of ISO/IEC 9594 make use of the concepts defined in this Recommendation | International Standard to define specializations of the generic information and DSA models to provide specific information, DSA and operational models supporting particular directory capabilities (e.g., Replication):

a) the service provided by the Directory is described (in Rec. ITU-T X.511 | ISO/IEC 9594-3) in terms of the concepts of the information framework: this allows the service provided to be somewhat independent of the physical distribution of the DIB;

b) the distributed operation of the Directory is specified (in Rec. ITU-T X.518 | ISO/IEC 9594-4) so as to provide that service, and therefore maintain that logical information structure, given that the DIB is in fact highly distributed;

c) replication capabilities offered by the component parts of the Directory to improve overall Directory performance are specified (in Rec. ITU-T X.525 | ISO/IEC 9594-9).

The security model establishes a framework for the specification of access control mechanisms. It provides a mechanism for identifying the access control scheme in effect in a particular portion of the Directory Information Tree (DIT), and it defines three flexible, specific access control schemes which are suitable for a wide variety of applications and styles of use. The security model also provides a framework for protecting the confidentiality and integrity of directory operations using mechanisms such as encryption and digital signatures. This makes use of the framework for authentication defined in Rec. ITU-T X.509 | ISO/IEC 9594-8 as well as generic upper layers security tools defined in Rec. ITU-T X.830 | ISO/IEC 11586-1.

DSA models establish a framework for the specification of the operation of the components of the Directory. Specifically:

a) the Directory functional model describes how the Directory is manifested as a set of one or more components, each being a DSA;

b) the Directory distribution model describes the principals according to which the DIB entries and entry-copies may be distributed among DSAs;

c) the DSA information model describes the structure of the Directory user and operational information held in a DSA;

d) the DSA operational framework describes the means by which the definition of specific forms of cooperation between DSAs to achieve particular objectives (e.g., shadowing) is structured.