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# **INTERNATIONAL STANDARD**

**IEEE Std 1232™**

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**Artificial Intelligence Exchange and Service Tie to All Test Environments  
(AI-ESTATE)**





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IEEE Std	FDIS	Report on voting
IEEE Std 1232-2010	93/320/FDIS	93/327/RVD

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# **IEEE Standard for Artificial Intelligence Exchange and Service Tie to All Test Environments (AI-ESTATE)**

Sponsor

**IEEE Standards Coordinating Committee 20 on  
Test and Diagnosis for Electronic Systems**

Approved 8 December 2010

**IEEE-SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** Data interchange and standard software services for test and diagnostic environments are defined by Artificial Intelligence Exchange and Service Tie to All Test Environments (AI-ESTATE). The purpose of AI-ESTATE is to standardize interfaces for functional elements of an intelligent diagnostic reasoner and representations of diagnostic knowledge and data for use by such diagnostic reasoners. Formal information models are defined to form the basis for a format to facilitate exchange of persistent diagnostic information between two reasoners and also to provide a formal typing system for diagnostic services. The services to control a diagnostic reasoned are defined by this standard.

**Keywords:** AI-ESTATE, Bayesian Network, diagnosis, diagnostic inference, diagnostic model, diagnostic services, D-matrix, fault tree, IEEE 1232, knowledge exchange, system test

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## IEEE Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 1232-2010, IEEE Standard for Artificial Intelligence Exchange and Service Tie to All Test Environments (AI-ESTATE).

The AI-ESTATE standard provides a formal framework for exchanging diagnostic knowledge and communicating with diagnostic reasoners. The intent is to provide a standard framework for identifying required information for diagnosis and defining the diagnostic information in a machine-processable way. In addition, software interfaces are defined whereby applications can be developed to communicate with diagnostic reasoners in a consistent and reliable way.

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# Artificial Intelligence Exchange and Service Tie to All Test Environments (AI-ESTATE)

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## 1. Overview

The Artificial Intelligence Exchange and Service Tie to All Test Environments (AI-ESTATE) standard was developed by the Diagnostic and Maintenance Control Subcommittee of the IEEE Standards Coordinating Committee 20 (SCC20) on Test and Diagnosis for Electronic Systems to serve as a standard for defining interfaces among diagnostic reasoners and users, test information knowledge bases, and more conventional databases. In addition to interface standards, the AI-ESTATE standard includes a set of formal data specifications to facilitate the exchange of system under test related diagnostic information.

One approach to defining the interfaces for a component of a larger system is to model, formally, the information being passed across the system’s interfaces. Such a model is known as an “information model.” The purpose of an information model is to identify clearly the objects in a domain of discourse (e.g., diagnostics) to enable precise communication about that domain. Such a model comprises objects or entities, relationships between those objects, and constraints on the objects and their relationships. When taken together, elements provide a complete, unambiguous, formal representation of the domain of discourse. In other words, they provide a formal language for communicating about the domain.

Using information models, information exchange can be facilitated in two ways. The first is through a set of exchange files. Specifically, information can be stored by one application in a file and read by a second application. The file format is derived directly from the information model and defines the syntax of the message contained within it. The semantics of the message (i.e., the legal content of the file) is defined by the semantics of the model. The second means of information exchange is through a set of services defined for a system component as accessed via the communications backbone. The interface definition for the component is derived from the information model and defines the syntax of the message. Once again, the legal content of the message is defined by the semantics of the model.

The semantics of information models are provided in two ways. First, the model itself defines a machine-readable semantic structure and associated constraints that ensure consistent exchange and processing of the concepts and relationships of the model elements. Second, human-readable definitions specify the correct interpretation of the model elements.

This standard describes a set of formal data and knowledge specifications consisting of the logical representation of devices, their constituents, the failure modes of those constituents, and tests of those constituents. The data and knowledge specification provides a standard representation of the common data elements required for system test and diagnosis. This will facilitate portability of test related knowledge bases for intelligent system test and diagnosis.

The goals of this standard are summarized as follows:

- Incorporate domain specific terminology
- Facilitate portability of diagnostic knowledge
- Enable the consistent exchange and integration of diagnostic capabilities

AI-ESTATE defines key data and knowledge specification formats. No host computer dependence is contained in the AI-ESTATE standard. Systems that use only these specification formats will be portable. This does not preclude use of AI-ESTATE interfaces with nonconformant specification formats; however, such systems may not be portable. A diagnostic model can be moved from one AI-ESTATE implementation to another by translating it into one of two interchange formats described in the specification. Another AI-ESTATE implementation can then utilize this information as a complete package by translating the data and knowledge from the interchange format to its own internal form. The translation step is not a requirement; an AI-ESTATE implementation may use the interchange format or its own internal form.

Software specifications defined in this standard provide a consistent means of communicating with diagnostic reasoners through a well-defined set of services. This supports interoperability of diagnostic reasoner with other elements of a test environment with no effect on the other elements of the system.

This standard also provides an extension mechanism to allow the inclusion of new diagnostic technology outside the scope of the AI-ESTATE specification.

An overview of EXPRESS can be found in Annex B. Overviews of the ISO 10303-28:2007<sup>1</sup> and ISO 10303-21:1994 exchange formats can be found in Annex C and Annex D, respectively.

## 1.1 Scope

The AI-ESTATE standard defines formal specifications for supporting system diagnosis. These specifications support the exchange and processing of diagnostic information and the control of diagnostic processes. Diagnostic processes include, but are not limited to, testability analysis, diagnosability assessment, diagnostic reasoning, maintenance support, and diagnostic maturation.

## 1.2 Purpose

The AI-ESTATE standard provides formal models of diagnostic information to ensure unambiguous access to an understanding of the information supporting system testing and diagnosis. The standard defines formal information models and software services specific to several different types of diagnostic reasoners.

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<sup>1</sup>Information on references can be found in Clause 2.