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**Information technology — Open  
systems interconnection —**

Part 6:

**The Directory: Selected attribute types**



Reference number  
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## Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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This document was prepared by ITU-T as ITU-T X.520 (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 9594-6:2017), 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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).



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## Introduction

This Recommendation | International Standard, together with other Recommendations | International Standards, 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, 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 defines a number of attribute types which may be found useful across a range of applications of the Directory, as well as a number of standard attribute syntaxes and matching rules. One particular use for many of the attributes defined herein is in the formation of names, particularly for the classes of objects defined in Rec. ITU-T X.521 | ISO/IEC 9594-7.

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.

This ninth edition specifies versions 1 and 2 of the Directory protocols.

Annex A, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 notation for the complete module which defines the attributes, attribute syntaxes and matching rules.

Annex C, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides a table of attribute types, for easy reference.

Annex D, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides an example of upper bounds value constraints. These constraints are not reflected in these Directory Specifications, but are provided as a reference for those implementations applying these constraints.

Annex E, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, lists alphabetically the attributes and matching rules defined in this Directory Specification.

Annex F, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, gives examples relevant to the definition of zonal matching.

Annex G, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, describes how a directory distinguished name may be based on object identifiers and on Uniform Resource Names (URNs).

Annex H, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, describes an alternative way of generating directory distinguished based on object identifiers. It contains information retrieved from Rec. ITU-T X.660 | ISO/IEC 9834-1.

Annex I, 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  
RECOMMENDATION ITU-T**

**Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection –  
The Directory: Selected attribute types**

**SECTION 1 – GENERAL**

**1 Scope**

This Recommendation | International Standard defines a number of attribute types and matching rules which may be found useful across a range of applications of the Directory.

Attribute types and matching rules fall into three categories, as described below.

Some attribute types and matching rules are used by a wide variety of applications or are understood and/or used by the Directory itself.

NOTE 1 – It is recommended that an attribute type or matching rule defined in this Recommendation | International Standard be used, in preference to the generation of a new one, whenever it is appropriate for the application.

NOTE 2 – The attribute and context types definitions by this Recommendation | International Standard have some associated semantics. Such specifications should not be used in situations where these semantics do not apply.

Some attribute types and matching rules are internationally standardized, but are application-specific. These are defined in the standards associated with the application concerned.

Any administrative authority can define its own attribute types and matching rules for any purpose. These are not internationally standardized, and are available to others beyond the administrative authority which created them only through bilateral agreement.

**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 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.

**2.1 Identical Recommendations | International Standards**

- Recommendation ITU-T X.500 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-1:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Overview of concepts, models and services.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.501 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-2:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Models.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.509 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-8:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.511 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-3:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Abstract service definition.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.518 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-4:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Procedures for distributed operation.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.519 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-5:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Protocol specifications.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.521 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-7:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Selected object classes.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.525 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-9:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Replication.*