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**Information technology — Security  
techniques — Information security  
management systems — Overview and  
vocabulary**

*Technologies de l'information — Techniques de sécurité — Systèmes  
de gestion de la sécurité des informations — Vue d'ensemble et  
vocabulaire*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 27000 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *IT Security techniques*.

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## 0 Introduction

### 0.1 Overview

International Standards for management systems provide a model to follow in setting up and operating a management system. This model incorporates the features on which experts in the field have reached a consensus as being the international state of the art. ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC 27 maintains an expert committee dedicated to the development of international management systems standards for information security, otherwise known as the Information Security Management System (ISMS) family of standards.

Through the use of the ISMS family of standards, organizations can develop and implement a framework for managing the security of their information assets and prepare for an independent assessment of their ISMS applied to the protection of information, such as financial information, intellectual property, and employee details, or information entrusted to them by customers or third parties.

### 0.2 ISMS family of standards

The ISMS family of standards<sup>1)</sup> is intended to assist organizations of all types and sizes to implement and operate an ISMS. The ISMS family of standards consists of the following International Standards, under the general title *Information technology — Security techniques*:

- ISO/IEC 27000:2009, *Information security management systems — Overview and vocabulary*
- ISO/IEC 27001:2005, *Information security management systems — Requirements*
- ISO/IEC 27002:2005, *Code of practice for information security management*
- ISO/IEC 27003, *Information security management system implementation guidance*
- ISO/IEC 27004, *Information security management — Measurement*
- ISO/IEC 27005:2008, *Information security risk management*
- ISO/IEC 27006:2007, *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems*
- ISO/IEC 27007, *Guidelines for information security management systems auditing*
- ISO/IEC 27011, *Information security management guidelines for telecommunications organizations based on ISO/IEC 27002*

NOTE The general title “*Information technology — Security techniques*” indicates that these standards were prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *IT Security techniques*.

International Standards not under the same general title that are also part of the ISMS family of standards are as follows:

- ISO 27799:2008, *Health informatics — Information security management in health using ISO/IEC 27002*

1) Standards identified throughout this subclause with no release year indicated are still under development.

### 0.3 Purpose of this International Standard

This International Standard provides an overview of information security management systems, which form the subject of the ISMS family of standards, and defines related terms.

NOTE Annex A provides clarification on how verbal forms are used to express requirements and/or guidance in the ISMS family of standards.

The ISMS family of standards includes standards that:

- a) define requirements for an ISMS and for those certifying such systems;
- b) provide direct support, detailed guidance and/or interpretation for the overall Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) processes and requirements;
- c) address sector-specific guidelines for ISMS; and
- d) address conformity assessment for ISMS.

The terms and definitions provided in this International Standard:

- cover commonly used terms and definitions in the ISMS family of standards;
- will not cover all terms and definitions applied within the ISMS family of standards; and
- do not limit the ISMS family of standards in defining terms for own use.

Standards addressing only the implementation of controls, as opposed to addressing all controls, from ISO/IEC 27002 are excluded from the ISMS family of standards.

To reflect the changing status of the ISMS family of standards, this International Standard is expected to be continually updated on a more frequent basis than would normally be the case for other ISO/IEC standards.

# Information technology — Security techniques — Information security management systems — Overview and vocabulary

## 1 Scope

This International Standard provides:

- a) an overview of the ISMS family of standards;
- b) an introduction to information security management systems (ISMS);
- c) a brief description of the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) process; and
- d) terms and definitions for use in the ISMS family of standards.

This International Standard is applicable to all types of organization (e.g. commercial enterprises, government agencies, non-profit organizations).

## 2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

**NOTE** A term in a definition or note which is defined elsewhere in this clause is indicated by boldface followed by its entry number in parentheses. Such a boldface term can be replaced in the definition by its complete definition.

For example:

**attack** (2.4) is defined as “attempt to destroy, expose, alter, disable, steal or gain unauthorized access to or make unauthorized use of an **asset** (2.3)”;

**asset** is defined as “anything that has value to the organization”.

If the term “**asset**” is replaced by its definition:

**attack** then becomes “attempt to destroy, expose, alter, disable, steal or gain unauthorized access to or make unauthorized use of anything that has value to the organization”.

### 2.1

#### **access control**

means to ensure that access to **assets** (2.3) is authorized and restricted based on business and security requirements

### 2.2

#### **accountability**

responsibility of an entity for its actions and decisions