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Information technology — Biometric application programming interface —

Part 1: BioAPI specification

Technologies de l'information — Interface de programmation d'applications biométriques —

Partie 1: Spécifications BioAPI

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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.

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. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, SC 37, *Biometrics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 19784-1:2006). It also incorporates the Amendments ISO/IEC 19784-1:2006/Amd 1:2007, ISO/IEC 19784-1:2006/Amd 2:2009 and ISO/IEC 19784-1:2006/Amd 3:2010.

A list of all the parts in the ISO 19784 series, can be found on the ISO website.

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Introduction

This document provides a high-level generic biometric authentication model suited to most forms of biometric technology. An architectural model is described which enables components of a biometric system to be provided by different vendors, and to interwork through fully-defined Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

A key feature of the architecture is the BioAPI Framework, which supports calls by one or more application components (provided by different vendors, and potentially running concurrently) using the BioAPI API specification. The BioAPI Framework provides this support by invoking (through a Service Provider Interface, SPI) one or more Biometric Service Provider (BSP) components (provided by different vendors, and potentially running concurrently) which can be dynamically loaded and invoked as required by an application component.

However, this document can also be applied where a system is to be built from conforming BSP components (without a BioAPI Framework module), using platform-specific system-integration mechanisms - see Clause 6.

This document specifies the behaviour of the BioAPI Framework when applications and BSPs are in the same system. Other interworking standards (see 4.29) specify modifications of that behaviour that enable both BSPs and Graphical User Interfaces to be remote from the system containing an application.

NOTE 1 ISO/IEC 24708 BioAPI Interworking Protocol (BIP)[6] is an example of an interworking standard.

At the lowest level there is hardware or software that performs biometric functions such as capture, matching, or archiving. These parts of the architecture are called BioAPI Units, and can be integral to a BSP or can be supplied as part of a separate BioAPI Function Provider (BFP) component.

Interactions (through the BioAPI Framework) can occur between BSPs from different vendors provided data structures used to record information from the BioAPI Units they access conform to other International Standards, and in particular to ISO/IEC 19794[5].

The final component of the BioAPI architecture is the recognition that a BSP can provide its biometric services either:

a) by the use of BioAPI Units that are integral to (that is, directly managed by) the BSP, or

b) by invoking, through the BioAPI Function Provider Interface (FPI), one or more BFP components (provided by different vendors) that manage BioAPI Units that are integral to the BFP.

NOTE 2 A BioAPI Unit may consist of software only, or a combination of software and hardware (e.g., a biometric sensor, archive, or algorithm).

For each type of BioAPI Unit supported by a BSP (or BFP) there may be one or more BioAPI Units of that type which can be dynamically inserted and removed from the system. Insertion and removal generates events that can be signalled (through the BSP and the BioAPI Framework) to an application.

The BioAPI specification covers the basic biometric functions of Enrollment, Verification, and Identification (see Annex C), and includes a database interface to allow an application to manage the storage of biometric records through an archive BioAPI Unit managed by a BSP or BFP. This provides for optimum performance (e.g., when performing the biometric Identification function within a large population) of the archiving and biometric search processes.

The interface to the application provides primitives that allow it to manage the capture of biometric samples from a biometric sensor by accessing the corresponding BioAPI Unit, and the use of those biometric samples for Enrollment (storage in an application-controlled or BSP-controlled BIR database), and subsequent Verification or Identification against those stored records.

This document also specifies the content of a biometric component registry (information about the biometric components that have been installed on the biometric system). It also provides a component registry interface for the management and inspection of that registry.

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This documnet uses the C programming language (see ISO/IEC 9899) to specify the data structures and function calls that form the BioAPI interfaces.

Clause 6 describes the BioAPI architectural model and its components, and the interfaces that are specified between these components.

Clause 7 defines the data structures used in the BioAPI.

Clause 8 defines the function calls initiated by an application and supported by a conforming BioAPI Framework that are either handled internally by the BioAPI Framework (for example enumeration of installed BioAPI components) or mapped to a function provided by a BSP.

Clause 9 defines the function calls supported by a conforming BSP (and invoked by the BioAPI Framework in response to a call from a biometric application).

Clause 10 specifies the form of the biometric component registry and the component registry interface.

Clause 11 defines the handling of events and error returns.

Annex A is normative, and specifies details of conformance requirements and proformas that can be used by the vendor of a BioAPI Biometric Application, Framework, or BSP component to identify those functions and biometric record formats that shall be supported.

NOTE 3 A separate IS, ISO/IEC 24709, addresses conformance testing for this BioAPI specification[9].

Annex B is normative, and specifies the BioAPI Biometric Information Record (BIR) as a CBEFF Patron Format in accordance with ISO/IEC 19785-1. It provides a description of the biometric record specified in this part of ISO/IEC 19784, together with the (platform-independent) bit-pattern representation of such a record for storage and transfer.

Annex C is informative, and provides a general tutorial on a number of aspects of the BioAPI specification.

Annex D is informative, and provides example code to illustrate calling sequences and to provide implementation guidance.

Annex E provides an ASN.1 specification of the BioAPI Biometric Information Record (BIR).

This revision is a merged document of ISO/IEC 19784-1: 2006, ISO/IEC 19784-1: 2006/Amd 1: 2007, ISO/IEC 19784-1: 2006/Amd 2:2009, and ISO/IEC 19784-1: 2006/Amd 3 2010. But in this document, the defects in ISO/IEC 19784-1: 2006/Amd 3 are corrected. BioAPI 2.0 means specification from ISO/IEC 19784-1: 2006/Amd 2:2009, BioAPI 2.1 from ISO/IEC 19784-1: 2006/Amd 1: 2007, and BioAPI 2.2 from ISO/IEC 19784-1: 2006/Amd 3 2010.

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Information technology — Biometric application programming interface —

Part 1: BioAPI specification

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1 Scope

This document defines the Application Programming Interface (API) and Service Provider Interface (SPI) for standard interfaces within a biometric system that support the provision of that biometric system using components from multiple vendors. It provides interworking between such components through adherence to this and to other International Standards.

For use in a system that does not include a BioAPI Framework (called a framework-free BioAPI system), only the SPI interface is applicable, with applications interfacing directly to that in a platform-specific manner.

NOTE 1 Many clauses and/or sub-clauses of this document are not applicable for implementation of a framework-free BioAPI system. These are identified at the head of the clause of sub-clause.

The BioAPI specification is applicable to a broad range of biometric technology types. It is also applicable to a wide variety of biometrically enabled applications, from personal devices, through network security applications, to large complex identification systems.

This document supports an architecture in which a BioAPI Framework supports multiple simultaneous biometric applications (provided by different vendors), using multiple dynamically installed and loaded (or unloaded) Biometric Service Provider (BSP) components and BioAPI Units (provided by other different vendors), possibly using one of an alternative set of BioAPI Function Provider (BFP) components (provided by other vendors) or by direct management of BioAPI Units.

NOTE 2 Where BioAPI Units are provided by a different vendor fom a BSP, a standardised BioAPI Function Provider Interface (FPI) may be needed. This is outside the scope of this document, but is specified by later parts for the different categories of FPI.

NOTE 3 Where a BioAPI Framework is not used in a system, the ability to support multiple applications and multiple BSPs is platform-dependent and depends on the nature of the system-integration techniques employed.

This document is not required (and should normally not be referenced) when a complete biometric system is being procured from a single vendor, particularly if the addition or interchange of biometric hardware, services, or applications is not a feature of that biometric system. (Such systems are sometimes referred to as "embedded systems".) Standardisation of such systems is not in the scope of this document.

This document does not define security requirements for biometric applications and biometric service providers.

NOTE 4 ISO 19092 provides guidelines on security aspects of biometric systems[3].

The performance of biometric systems (particularly in relation to searches of a large population to provide the biometric identification capability) is not in the scope of this document. Trade-offs between interoperability and performance are not in the scope of this document.

This document specifies a version of the BioAPI specification that is defined to have a version number described as Major 2, Minor 0, or version 2.0. It also specifies a version number described as Major 2, Minor 1, or version 2.1 that provides an enhanced Graphical User Interface. It also specifies a version

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number described as Major 2, Minor 2, or version 2.2 that provides features supporting fusion and security. Some clauses and sub-clauses apply only to one of these versions, some to two or more. This is identified at the head of the relevant clauses and sub-clauses.

NOTE 5 Earlier versions of the BioAPI specification were not International Standards.

NOTE 6 The differences between the requirements of the 2.0 specification and the 2.1 specification for framework-free operation relate only to the biometric type values and encodings.

Conformance requirements are specified in Clause 5.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 10646:2017, *Information technology — Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

ISO/IEC 19785-1, *Information technology — Common Biometric Exchange Formats Framework — Part 1: Data element specification*

ISO/IEC 19785-4:2010, *Information technology — Common Biometric Exchange Formats Framework — Part 4: Security block format specifications*

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

NOTE 1 Function names and data element names are not included here, but are defined within the body of this document.

NOTE 2 Many of these terms and definitions are not relevant for the use of this document for framework-free BioAPI systems.

4.1
ACBio instance
report generated by a biometric processing unit (BPU) compliant to ISO/IEC 24761 to show the validity of the result of one or more subprocesses executed in the BPU

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 24761]

4.2
adaptation
template adaptation
use of a BIR produced from a newly captured and verified biometric sample to automatically update or refresh a reference template

Note 1 to entry: This procedure is used to minimize the effects of template aging.

4.3
attach session
temporary association between an application, a single BSP, and a set of BioAPI Units that are managed either directly or indirectly by that BSP

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