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ISO/IEC 18477-8

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Information technology — Scalable compression and coding of continuous-tone still images —

Part 8: Lossless and near-lossless coding

Technologies de l'information — Compression échelonnable et codage d'images plates en ton continu —

Partie 8: Codage sans perte et quasi sans perte

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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.

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) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see http://patents.iec.ch).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 29, *Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 18477-8:2016), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— Annex F.2 has been revised to adopt centred upsampling by default;

— minor editorial changes throughout.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 18477 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 document specifies a coded codestream format for storage of continuous-tone high and low dynamic range photographic content. This is a scalable lossy to lossless image coding system supporting multiple component images consisting of integer samples between 8- and 16-bit resolution, or floating point samples of 16-bit resolution. It is by itself an extension of ISO/IEC 18477-6 and ISO/IEC 18477-7, which specify intermediate range and high-dynamic range image decoding algorithms. Both of these are based on the box-based file format specified in ISO/IEC 18477-3, which is again an extension of ISO/IEC 18477-1; the codestream is composed in such a way that legacy applications conforming to Rec. ITU-T T.81 | ISO/IEC 10918-1 are able to reconstruct a lossy, low dynamic range, 8 bits per sample version of the image.

Today, the most widely used digital photography format, a minimal implementation of JPEG (specified in Rec. ITU-T T.81 | ISO/IEC 10918-1), uses a bit depth of 8; each of the three channels that together compose an image pixel is represented by 8 bits, providing 256 representable values per channel. For more demanding applications, it is not uncommon to use a bit depth of 16, providing 65 536 representable values to describe each channel within a pixel, resulting in over 2.8×10^{14} representable colour values. In some less common scenarios, even greater bit depths are used, requiring a floating-point sample representation.

Most common photo and image formats use an 8-bit or 16-bit unsigned integer value to represent some function of the intensity of each colour channel. While it might be theoretically possible to agree on one method for assigning specific numerical values to real world colours, doing so is not practical. Since any specific device has its own limited range for colour reproduction, the device's range may be a small portion of the agreed-upon universal colour range. As a result, such an approach is an extremely inefficient use of the available numerical values, especially when using only 8 bits (or 256 unique values) per channel. To represent pixel values as efficiently as possible, devices use a numeric encoding optimized for their own range of possible colours or gamut.

This document is primarily designed to encode intermediate or high dynamic image sample values **without loss**, or with a precisely controllable bounded loss using the tools defined in ISO/IEC 18477-1 and some minimal extensions of those tools. The goal is to provide a backwards-compatible coding specification that allows legacy applications and existing toolchains to continue to operate on codestreams conforming to this document.

JPEG XT has been designed to be backwards compatible to legacy applications while at the same time having a small coding complexity; JPEG XT uses, whenever possible, functional blocks of Rec. ITU-T T.81 | ISO/IEC 10918-1 to extend the functionality of the legacy JPEG coding system. It is optimized for storage and transmission of intermediate and high dynamic range and wide colour gamut 8- to 16-bit integer or 16-bit floating point images while also enabling low-complexity encoder and decoder implementations.

This document is an extension of ISO/IEC 18477-1, a compression system for continuous tone digital still images which is backwards compatible with Rec. ITU-T T.81 | ISO/IEC 10918-1. That is, legacy applications conforming to Rec. ITU-T T.81 | ISO/IEC 10918-1 will be able to reconstruct streams generated by an encoder conforming to this document, though will possibly not be able to reconstruct such streams in full dynamic range, full quality or without loss.

This document is itself based on ISO/IEC 18477-3 that defines a box-based file format similar to other JPEG standards. It also contains elements of ISO/IEC 18477-6 and ISO/IEC 18477-7. The aim of this document is to provide a migration path for legacy applications to support lossless coding of intermediate and high dynamic range images, that is images that are either represented by sample values requiring 8- to 16-bit precision, or even using 16-bit floating point sample resolution. While Rec. ITU-T T.81 | ISO/IEC 10918-1 already defines a lossless mode for integer samples, images encoded in this mode cannot be decoded by applications only supporting the lossy 8-bit-mode; the coding engine for lossless coding in Rec. ITU-T T.81 | ISO/IEC 10918-1 is completely different from the lossy coding mode. Unlike the legacy standard, this document defines a lossless scalable coding engine supporting all bit depths between 8 and 16 bits per sample, including 16-bit floating point samples, while also staying compatible with legacy applications. Such applications will continue to work, but will only able

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to reconstruct a lossy 8-bit standard low dynamic range (LDR) version of the full image contained in the codestream. The ISO/IEC 18477 series specifies a coded file format, referred to as JPEG XT, which is designed primarily for storage and interchange of continuous-tone photographic content.

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Information technology — Scalable compression and coding of continuous-tone still images —

Part 8: Lossless and near-lossless coding

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1 Scope

This document specifies a coding format, referred to as JPEG XT, which is designed primarily for continuous-tone photographic content. This document defines extensions that allow lossless coding of such content while staying compatible with the core coding system specified in ISO/IEC 18477-1.

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 18477-1:2020, *Information technology — Scalable compression and coding of continuous-tone still images — Part 1: Scalable compression and coding of continuous-tone still images*

ISO/IEC 18477-3:2015, *Information technology — Scalable compression and coding of continuous-tone still images — Part 3: Box file format*

ISO/IEC 18477-6:2016, *Information technology — Scalable compression and coding of continuous-tone still images — Part 6: IDR Integer Coding*

ISO/IEC 18477-7:2017, *Information technology — Scalable compression and coding of continuous-tone still images — Part 7: HDR Floating-Point Coding*

ITU-T T.81 | ISO/IEC 10918-1, *Information technology — Digital compression and coding of continuous tone still images — Requirements and guidelines*

ITU-T BT.601, *Studio encoding parameters of digital television for standard 4:3 and wide screen 16:9 aspect ratios*

3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms

3.1 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 http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1.1
AC coefficient
any DCT coefficient for which the frequency is not zero in at least one dimension

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