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# Software and systems engineering — Capabilities of software safety and security verification tools

*Ingénierie du logiciel et des systèmes — Capacités des outils de vérification de la sûreté et de la sécurité des logiciels*



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# Contents

Page

# Foreword

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and systems engineering*.

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.



 

# Introduction

Since a few decades, the importance of software safety and security verification tools has increased for several reasons: 1) rapidly increasing complexity of software applications and systems, 2) increasing number of safety-critical systems through growing integration between software applications and systems (e.g. in critical infrastructures), 3) the rapid increase of the number of cyber threats, and 4) the urgent needs of safety in high and medium critical software-driven systems (e.g. transportation, energy production, Internet of Things (IoT), and general purpose Operating Systems and middleware). Additionally, the number of products and system development cases, where the origin of all software components to be used is not exactly known, even for open-source applications, is increasing and thus making safety and security verification and validation (V&V) essential.

This document restricts its point of view to software and excludes computing and any other hardware from the context. In these other domains, other V&V methods and tools are used.

It is important to realize that verification of safety and security of software does not necessarily verify the system safety and system security of a system using the software as a component. However, if a system consists of software components which are not verified, the safety and security of the system cannot be guaranteed at any level.

"Continuous everything", including continuous software development and thus versioning delivery, requires continuous software safety and security verification. At every new version, V&V needs to be redone. The popular "agile development processes" permit shorter development iterations and more frequent product delivery, and consequently this requires more frequent verification than traditional development approaches. Verification is needed during software development as well as during software maintenance, whenever safety or security of software can be endangered.

Validation answers the question "are we building the right product?"

Verification answers the question "are we building the product right?"

Software validation checks if the software product satisfies the intended use, such as defined in requirements and specifications. In other words (ISO/IEC 17029): "purpose of validation is to find out, whether a declared information (claim) is plausible". Software verification checks if the specifications and requirements are met either by running the software (testing) or by reviewing its artefacts (specification, model, or pseudo code). The latter can consist of animating or analyzing statically one of its artefacts. ISO/IEC 17029 defines that the "purpose of verification is to find out, whether a declared information (claim) is truthful". This document does not concern testing but animating and analyzing the artefacts, because "testing tools" is already well covered by and is the subject of ISO/IEC 30130.

This document is prepared as one of the series of single tool capabilities which are used with ISO/IEC 20741.

This document defines capabilities of and requirements for software safety and security verification tools.

This document is independent of the target application domains, as the languages, methods and associated tools are of general purpose, and can fit into different kinds of problems (e.g. functional specification languages can be used for any functional program).

# Software and systems engineering — Capabilities of software safety and security verification tools



## 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the vendors and gives guidelines for both the users and the developers of software safety and security verification tools. The users of such tools include, but are not limited to, bodies performing verification and software developers who need to be aware and pay attention to safety and/or security of software. This document guides the verification tool vendors to provide as high-quality products as possible and helps the users to understand the capabilities and characteristics of verification tools.

This document introduces use cases for software safety and security verification tools and entity relationship model related to them. This document also introduces tool categories for software safety and security verification tools and gives category specific guidance and requirements for the tool vendors and developers.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 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:

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

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

**3.1**
**application domain**
well-defined set of applications

**3.2**
**capability**
quality of being able to perform a given activity

[SOURCE: ISO 19439:2006, 3.5]

**3.3**
**certificate**
attestation document issued by an independent third-party certification body

[SOURCE: ISO 22222:2005, 3.2]

**3.4**
**defect**
fault, or deviation from the intended level of performance of a system or *software* (3.19)