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Systems and software engineering — Life cycle processes — Risk management

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Systems and software engineering — Life cycle processes — Risk management

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Abstract: A process for the management of risk in the life cycle is defined. It can be added to the existing set of software life cycle processes defined by the ISO/IEC 12207 or ISO/IEC 15288 series of standards, or it can be used independently.

Keywords: integrity, risk, risk acceptance, risk analysis, risk management, risk treatment

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This introduction is not part of ISO/IEC/IEEE 16085:2006, Systems and software engineering — Life cycle processes — Risk management.

Risk management is a key discipline for making effective decisions and communicating the results within organizations. The purpose of risk management is to identify potential managerial and technical problems before they occur so that actions can be taken that reduce or eliminate the probability and/or impact of these problems should they occur. It is a critical tool for continuously determining the feasibility of project plans, for improving the search for and identification of potential problems that can affect life cycle activities and the quality and performance of products, and for improving the active management of projects.

This standard can be applied equally to systems and software. Annex D is specific to software and the ISO/IEC 12207 series of life cycle standards, in order to summarize where risk management is mentioned, in lieu of a specific risk management process.

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1. Overview

This standard prescribes a continuous process for risk management. Clause 1 provides an overview and describes the purpose, scope, and field of application, as well as prescribing the conformance criteria. Clause 2 lists the normative references; informative references are provided in Annex E. Clause 3 provides definitions. Clause 4 describes how risk management is applied to the life cycle. Clause 5 prescribes the requirements for a risk management process.

There are several informative annexes. Annex A, Annex B, and Annex C recommend content of three documents: Risk Management Plan, Risk Action Request, and Risk Treatment Plan. Annex D summarizes where risk management is mentioned in the ISO/IEC 12207 series of software life cycle process standards. An equivalent annex is not included for ISO/IEC 15288, the system life cycle process standard, since it includes a risk management process. Annex E, as previously mentioned, is an annotated bibliography of standards and other documents related to the material covered in this standard.

1.1 Scope

This standard describes a process for the management of risk during systems or software acquisition, supply, development, operations, and maintenance.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide suppliers, acquirers, developers, and managers with a single set of process requirements suitable for the management of a broad variety of risks. This standard does not provide detailed risk management techniques, but instead focuses on defining a process for risk management in which any of several techniques may be applied.

1.3 Field of application

This standard defines a process for the management of risk throughout the life cycle. This standard is suitable for adoption by an organization for application to all appropriate projects. This standard is useful for managing the risks associated with organizations dealing with system or software issues.