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**Information technology — User interface  
icons —**

**Part 10:  
Framework and general guidance**

*Technologies de l'information — Icônes d'interface utilisateur —  
Partie 10: Cadre et conduite générale*

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Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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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 11581-10 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 35, *User interfaces*.

ISO/IEC 11581 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — User interface icons*:

— *Part 1: Introduction to and overview of icon standards*

— *Part 2: Object icons*

— *Part 3: Pointer icons*

— *Part 5: Tool icons*

— *Part 6: Action icons*

— *Part 10: Framework and general guidance*

— *Part 40: Management of icon registration*

The following part is under preparation:

— *Part 41: Data structure to be used by the ISO/IEC JTC1/SC35 icon database*

## Introduction

Icons are used on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) products to facilitate interaction with their users. Icons can provide a language-independent means of communicating information to the user.

This part of ISO/IEC 11581 recognizes that icons are more than just symbols used on computer screens. Icons are interaction objects used by computer interfaces to accomplish various purposes. Icons can be rendered in various forms, including using graphics, gesture, audio, tactile/haptics, or any combination thereof. This versatility in rendition can provide greater accessibility to their underlying functionalities.

This part of ISO/IEC 11581 provides a framework as a basis for organizing information related to the creation and use of user interface icons.

# Information technology — User interface icons —

## Part 10:

## Framework and general guidance

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 11581 provides guidance for developers and designers creating and/or using icons and provides a basis for the standardization of icons. It also provides a framework for creating future parts of ISO/IEC 11581 and for identifying icon-related information to be used in any accompanying icon registries.

It is important that icons are viewed not only as individual renditions with their associated functionality, but also that the context in which they are used is considered. This part of ISO/IEC 11581 gives requirements and recommendations for icons as they relate to other rendered elements, to sets of icons and to consistency among these symbols.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 11581-3 *Information technology — User system interfaces and symbols — Icon symbols and functions — Part 3: Pointer icons*

### 3 Terms and definitions

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

#### 3.1

##### **activation**

initiation of the icon function of a selected icon

**EXAMPLE** When a mouse is used, the activation function is performed by double clicking on a mouse button.

**NOTE** Adapted from ISO/IEC TR 11580:2007, definition 2.12.

#### 3.2

##### **function description**

language-dependent set of words used to clarify the object and/or function represented by the icon to the user

**NOTE 1** The function description is used to elaborate on the meaning presented by the icon label.

**NOTE 2** Adapted from the definition of “description” (2.9) in ISO/IEC TR 11580:2007.