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**Information technology — Vocabulary —  
Part 37:  
Biometrics**

*Technologies de l'information — Vocabulaire —  
Partie 37: Biométrie*

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Published in Switzerland

# Contents

Page

Foreword .....	iv
Introduction.....	v
1     Scope .....	1
2     Normative references .....	1
3     Biometric vocabulary .....	1
3.1   General concept terms.....	1
3.2   Biometric system terms.....	2
3.3   Terms for data in biometric systems.....	3
3.4   Device terms .....	8
3.5   Functioning terms .....	8
3.6   Interacting terms .....	11
3.7   Personnel terms .....	13
3.8   Application terms .....	15
3.9   Performance terms.....	16
Bibliography.....	19
Alphabetical Index.....	20

## 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 2382-37 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 37, *Biometrics*.

ISO/IEC 2382 consists of a total of 37 parts, under the general title *Information technology — Vocabulary*.

## Introduction

The main purpose of this part of ISO/IEC 2382 is to provide a systematic description of the concepts in the subject field of biometrics and to clarify the use of the terms in this subject field. The subject field of biometrics is broken down into sub-fields.

This part of ISO/IEC 2382 is addressed to biometrics standardizers, and to users of these standards.

Terms defined in this document are to be understood in the subject field of biometrics. When terms exist in various subject fields, the current subject field may be indicated in angle brackets.

Words in **bold** are defined in this document. Words that are not in bold are to be understood in their natural language sense. The authority for natural language use of terms in this document is the Concise Oxford English Dictionary (COD), Thumb Index Edition (tenth edition, revised, 2002). Words used in their natural language sense are considered out-of-scope for further definition in this document.

### EXAMPLE

#### **candidate**

<biometrics> **biometric reference identifier** of a **biometric reference** in the **biometric reference database** determined to be similar to the **biometric probe**

#### **candidate**

<politics> a person who applies for a job or is nominated for election

Note: When using terms defined with a qualifier (for example, “biometric xxx”), it should be normal to include the qualifier on the first occurrence of the term in every paragraph, but to omit it on subsequent occurrences of that term within the same paragraph. In broader contexts, where the qualifier (in this case, ‘biometric’) is clearly understood, then the qualifier might be omitted completely.

The terms in this part of ISO/IEC 2382 are listed in a systematic order under a number of general headings.

The layout follows the directions given in ISO 10241. Thus, the elements of an entry appear in the following order:

- Entry number (mandatory)
- Preferred term(s) (mandatory)
- Admitted term(s) (mandatory)
- Deprecated term(s)
- Definition
- Example(s)
- Note(s)

To clarify in which grammatical context a term is defined the following indicators are used: (n) for a noun, (v) for a verb and (adj) for an adjective.

The alphabetical index includes preferred and admitted terms.



# Information technology — Vocabulary —

## Part 37: Biometrics

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 2382 establishes a systematic description of the concepts in the field of biometrics pertaining to recognition of human beings and reconciles variant terms in use in pre-existing biometric standards against the preferred terms, thereby clarifying the use of terms in this field.

Excluded from the scope of this document are concepts (represented by terms) from information technology, pattern recognition, biology, mathematics, etc. Biometrics uses such fields of knowledge as a basis.

In principle, mode specific terms are outside the scope of this part of ISO/IEC 2382.

Words in **bold** are defined in this document. Words that are not in bold are to be understood in their natural language sense. The authority for natural language use of terms in this document is the Concise Oxford English Dictionary (COD), Thumb Index Edition (tenth edition, revised, 2002). Words used in their natural language sense are considered out-of-scope for further definition in this document.

### 2 Normative references

There are no normative references.

### 3 Biometric vocabulary

#### 3.1 General concept terms

##### 37.01.01

##### **biometric (adj)**

of or having to do with **biometrics**

NOTE The use of **biometric** as a noun, to mean for example, **biometric characteristic**, is deprecated.

- EXAMPLE 1 Incorrect usage #1: ICAO resolved that face is the **biometric** most suited to the practicalities of travel documents.
- EXAMPLE 2 Correct usage #1: ICAO resolved that face recognition is the **biometric mode** most suited to the practicalities of travel documents.
- EXAMPLE 3 Incorrect usage #2: The **biometric** recorded in my passport is a facial image.
- EXAMPLE 4 Correct usage #2: The **biometric characteristic** recorded in my passport is a facial image.