International Standard

ISO 5807

Information processing — Documentation symbols and conventions for data, program and system flowcharts, program network charts and system resources charts

Traitement de l'information — Symboles de documentation et conventions applicables aux données, aux organigrammes de programmation et d'analyse, aux schémas des réseaux de programmes et des ressources de système

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 5807 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 97, *Information processing systems*.

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0 Introduction

This International Standard consolidates the information given in ISO 1028 and ISO 2636, and in so doing, supersedes them.

Charts are widely used to depict various types of information processing problems and their means of solution. This International Standard does not restrict their use to the particular applications exemplified herein.

In-house rules may have to be devised to suit the process or data specification being considered. However, there are guiding principles which, if followed, will enhance readability and expedite cross-reference to the text.

Charts consist of symbols having a given signification, brief explanatory text, and connecting lines. This International Standard does not deal with the wording of the text. Nevertheless, each symbol relates to an unambiguous and meaningful name (unabbreviated if possible) which is consistent throughout the documentation.

Charts may be used at various levels of detail; the number of levels depending on the size and complexity of the information processing problem. The level of detail should be such that the various parts and the interrelationship between the parts are comprehensible as a whole.

Typically there will be a chart of the whole system showing the main constituent parts and this will form the top of a hierarchy of charts; each lower level providing a more detailed description of one or more parts shown on the next higher level chart.

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies symbols to be used in information processing documentation and gives guidance on the conventions for their use in

  a) data flowcharts;

  b) program flowcharts;

  c) system flowcharts;

  d) program network charts;

  e) system resources charts.

2 Reference

ISO 2382/1, *Data processing — Vocabulary — Part 01: Fundamental terms.*[1]

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this International Standard the definitions in ISO 2382/1 and the following apply.

3.1 basic symbol: Symbol used when the precise nature or form of, for example, the process or data media is not known or when it is not necessary to depict the actual medium.

3.2 specific symbol: Symbol used when the precise nature or form of, for example, the process or data media is known and when it is necessary to depict the actual medium.

3.3 flowchart: Graphical representation of the definition, analysis, or method of solution of a problem in which symbols are used to represent operations, data, flow, equipment, etc.

4 Data flowchart

Data flowcharts represent the path of data in the solving of a problem and define processing steps as well as the various data media used.

A data flowchart consists of

  a) data symbols to indicate the existence of data; they may also indicate the medium used for this data;

  b) process symbols to indicate the process to be executed on data; they may also indicate the machine function which is used for this process;

  c) line symbols to indicate the data flow between processes and/or data media;

  d) special symbols to facilitate the reading and the writing of the flowchart.

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1) At present at the stage of draft. (Revision of ISO 2382/1-1974.)