# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO
8790

First edition
1987-09-01

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ

## Information processing systems — Computer system configuration diagram symbols and conventions

*Systèmes de traitement de l'information — Symboles et conventions s'appliquant aux schémas des configurations de systèmes informatiques*

Reference number
ISO 8790 : 1987 (E)

## 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 8790 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 97, *Information processing systems.*

Users should note that all International Standards undergo revision from time to time and that any reference made herein to any other International Standard implies its latest edition, unless otherwise stated.





Printed in Switzerland

## Contents

This page intentionally left blank

# Information processing systems — Computer system configuration diagram symbols and conventions



## 1 Scope

This International Standard establishes graphical symbols and their conventions for use in configuration diagrams for computer systems, including automatic data processing systems.

## 2 Field of application

The graphical symbols included in this International Standard are intended to represent major hardware units of a computer system configuration. This International Standard does not cover:

— detailed representation of hardware, such as logical or electronic circuit diagrams;

or pictorial type diagrams that utilize pictures or drawings to depict a system;

nor does it include any abbreviations or mnemonics used to identify a specific kind of unit.

The configuration diagram is used to represent the physical structure of computer systems such as the physical equipment and the connection cables.

A configuration diagram can represent

— the maximum configuration in which all hardware units are included;

— the configuration resulting from reallocation of hardware units and temporary withdrawal of service;

— the minimum configuration necessary for the solution of a given problem;

— alternative configurations of the same equipment, etc.

The configuration diagram has many uses, namely:

— in commercial brochures of computer manufacturers;

— in selection and evaluation of computer configurations;

— in the technical clauses of computer contracts for purchase or lease;

— in the representation of a computer centre;

— in magazine articles describing data processing applications;

— in specifications of data processing applications;

— in education.

A configuration diagram consists of

a) hardware symbols where each symbol represents a physical unit by its essential function;

b) connection lines representing a local or distant (transmission line) physical connection;

c) special conventions to facilitate the reading and the writing of the diagram.

## 3 Configuration diagram symbols

This clause defines the symbols for describing physical units and the means used to connect them. Additional methods used to facilitate the reading and writing of the diagram are defined in clause 4.

Four levels of symbols are presented to permit various levels of detail to be shown in the diagram. The highest level represents only physical units and their connections. The second level represents the principal functional units of computer systems, such as processors, storage, input-output units, communications units, and means of connection. The third level represents the basic types of media or means of input-output used for storage and input-output. The lowest level provides the most detailed distinction between the various kinds of units. (See consolidated table of symbols in clause 5.)

The same symbol is used at several different levels where there is no necessity for further details. Identification in such cases is supplied by the use of symbol identification (see 4.3).

### 3.1 Physical unit or its enclosure

These symbols are basic symbols representing any kind of physical unit or set of physical units. These symbols also represent an enclosure of a unit or set of units (see 4.4).