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Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Information security controls

Sécurité de l'information, cybersécurité et protection de la vie privée — Mesures de sécurité de l'information

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see patents.iec.ch).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

'This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/IEC 27002:2013), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigenda ISO/IEC 27002:2013/Cor. 1:2014 and ISO/IEC 27002:2013/Cor. 2:2015.

The main changes are as follows:

— the title has been modified;

— the structure of the document has been changed, presenting the controls using a simple taxonomy and associated attributes;

— some controls have been merged, some deleted and several new controls have been introduced. The complete correspondence can be found in Annex B.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Introduction

0.1 Background and context

This document is designed for organizations of all types and sizes. It is to be used as a reference for determining and implementing controls for information security risk treatment in an information security management system (ISMS) based on ISO/IEC 27001. It can also be used as a guidance document for organizations determining and implementing commonly accepted information security controls. Furthermore, this document is intended for use in developing industry and organization-specific information security management guidelines, taking into consideration their specific information security risk environment(s). Organizational or environment-specific controls other than those included in this document can be determined through risk assessment as necessary.

Organizations of all types and sizes (including public and private sector, commercial and non-profit) create, collect, process, store, transmit and dispose of information in many forms, including electronic, physical and verbal (e.g. conversations and presentations).

The value of information goes beyond written words, numbers and images: knowledge, concepts, ideas and brands are examples of intangible forms of information. In an interconnected world, information and other associated assets deserve or require protection against various risk sources, whether natural, accidental or deliberate.

Information security is achieved by implementing a suitable set of controls, including policies, rules, processes, procedures, organizational structures and software and hardware functions. To meet its specific security and business objectives, the organization should define, implement, monitor, review and improve these controls where necessary. An ISMS such as that specified in ISO/IEC 27001 takes a holistic, coordinated view of the organization's information security risks in order to determine and implement a comprehensive suite of information security controls within the overall framework of a coherent management system.

Many information systems, including their management and operations, have not been designed to be secure in terms of an ISMS as specified in ISO/IEC 27001 and this document. The level of security that can be achieved only through technological measures is limited and should be supported by appropriate management activities and organizational processes. Identifying which controls should be in place requires careful planning and attention to detail while carrying out risk treatment.

A successful ISMS requires support from all personnel in the organization. It can also require participation from other interested parties, such as shareholders or suppliers. Advice from subject matter experts can also be needed.

A suitable, adequate and effective information security management system provides assurance to the organization's management and other interested parties that their information and other associated assets are kept reasonably secure and protected against threats and harm, thereby enabling the organization to achieve the stated business objectives.

0.2 Information security requirements

It is essential that an organization determines its information security requirements. There are three main sources of information security requirements:

a) the assessment of risks to the organization, taking into account the organization's overall business strategy and objectives. This can be facilitated or supported through an information security-specific risk assessment. This should result in the determination of the controls necessary to ensure that the residual risk to the organization meets its risk acceptance criteria;

b) the legal, statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements that an organization and its interested parties (trading partners, service providers, etc.) have to comply with and their socio-cultural environment;

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c) the set of principles, objectives and business requirements for all the steps of the life cycle of information that an organization has developed to support its operations.

0.3 Controls

A control is defined as a measure that modifies or maintains risk. Some of the controls in this document are controls that modify risk, while others maintain risk. An information security policy, for example, can only maintain risk, whereas compliance with the information security policy can modify risk. Moreover, some controls describe the same generic measure in different risk contexts. This document provides a generic mixture of organizational, people, physical and technological information security controls derived from internationally recognized best practices.

0.4 Determining controls

Determining controls is dependent on the organization's decisions following a risk assessment, with a clearly defined scope. Decisions related to identified risks should be based on the criteria for risk acceptance, risk treatment options and the risk management approach applied by the organization. The determination of controls should also take into consideration all relevant national and international legislation and regulations. Control determination also depends on the manner in which controls interact with one another to provide defence in depth.

The organization can design controls as required or identify them from any source. In specifying such controls, the organization should consider the resources and investment needed to implement and operate a control against the business value realized. See ISO/IEC TR 27016 for guidance on decisions regarding the investment in an ISMS and the economic consequences of these decisions in the context of competing requirements for resources.

There should be a balance between the resources deployed for implementing controls and the potential resulting business impact from security incidents in the absence of those controls. The results of a risk assessment should help guide and determine the appropriate management action, priorities for managing information security risks and for implementing controls determined necessary to protect against these risks.

Some of the controls in this document can be considered as guiding principles for information security management and as being applicable for most organizations. More information about determining controls and other risk treatment options can be found in ISO/IEC 27005.

0.5 Developing organization-specific guidelines

This document can be regarded as a starting point for developing organization-specific guidelines. Not all of the controls and guidance in this document can be applicable to all organizations. Additional controls and guidelines not included in this document can also be required to address the specific needs of the organization and the risks that have been identified. When documents are developed containing additional guidelines or controls, it can be useful to include cross-references to clauses in this document for future reference.

0.6 Life cycle considerations

Information has a life cycle, from creation to disposal. The value of, and risks to, information can vary throughout this life cycle (e.g. unauthorized disclosure or theft of a company's financial accounts is not significant after they have been published, but integrity remains critical) therefore, information security remains important to some extent at all stages.

Information systems and other assets relevant to information security have life cycles within which they are conceived, specified, designed, developed, tested, implemented, used, maintained and eventually retired from service and disposed of. Information security should be considered at every stage. New system development projects and changes to existing systems provide opportunities to improve security controls while taking into account the organization's risks and lessons learned from incidents.

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0.7 Related International Standards

While this document offers guidance on a broad range of information security controls that are commonly applied in many different organizations, other documents in the ISO/IEC 27000 family provide complementary advice or requirements on other aspects of the overall process of managing information security.

Refer to ISO/IEC 27000 for a general introduction to both ISMS and the family of documents. ISO/IEC 27000 provides a glossary, defining most of the terms used throughout the ISO/IEC 27000 family of documents, and describes the scope and objectives for each member of the family.

There are sector-specific standards that have additional controls which aim at addressing specific areas (e.g. ISO/IEC 27017 for cloud services, ISO/IEC 27701 for privacy, ISO/IEC 27019 for energy, ISO/IEC 27011 for telecommunications organizations and ISO 27799 for health). Such standards are included in the Bibliography and some of them are referenced in the guidance and other information sections in Clauses 5-8.

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Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Information security controls

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1 Scope

This document provides a reference set of generic information security controls including implementation guidance. This document is designed to be used by organizations:

a) within the context of an information security management system (ISMS) based on ISO/IEC 27001;

b) for implementing information security controls based on internationally recognized best practices;

c) for developing organization-specific information security management guidelines.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1.1
access control
means to ensure that physical and logical access to *assets* (3.1.2) is authorized and restricted based on business and information security requirements

3.1.2
asset
anything that has value to the organization

Note 1 to entry: In the context of information security, two kinds of assets can be distinguished:

— the primary assets:

  — information;

  — business *processes* (3.1.27) and activities;

— the supporting assets (on which the primary assets rely) of all types, for example:

  — hardware;

  — software;

  — network;

  — *personnel* (3.1.20);

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