



ISO/IEC 30141

Edition 2.0 2024-08

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



Internet of things (IoT) – Reference architecture



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**Internet of things (IoT) – Reference architecture**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
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## CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
0.1 General.....	7
0.2 About Internet of Things (IoT) .....	7
0.3 IoT sources of information.....	7
0.4 General principles of a reference architecture.....	8
1 Scope.....	9
2 Normative references .....	9
3 Terms and definitions .....	9
4 Abbreviated terms .....	9
5 IoT RA context.....	10
5.1 Overview.....	10
5.2 Stakeholders and concerns.....	11
6 IoT RA viewpoints and views.....	12
6.1 Overview.....	12
6.2 Foundational IoT viewpoint and views.....	13
6.2.1 Foundational IoT viewpoint.....	13
6.2.2 Foundational IoT view.....	13
6.3 Business viewpoint and view.....	19
6.3.1 Business viewpoint .....	19
6.3.2 Business view.....	19
6.4 Usage viewpoint and view.....	21
6.4.1 Usage viewpoint .....	21
6.4.2 Usage view.....	21
6.5 Functional viewpoint and view.....	22
6.5.1 Functional viewpoint.....	22
6.5.2 Functional view.....	23
6.6 Trustworthiness viewpoint and view .....	25
6.6.1 Trustworthiness viewpoint.....	25
6.6.2 Trustworthiness view .....	26
6.7 Construction viewpoint and views .....	29
6.7.1 Construction viewpoint.....	29
6.7.2 Construction view .....	31
6.7.3 IoT component pattern.....	32
Annex A (normative) Additional IoT construction patterns .....	38
A.1 General.....	38
A.2 Reference Architecture Model Industrie 4.0 (RAMI 4.0) pattern.....	38
A.3 Dynamic IoT system pattern.....	40
A.4 IoT enterprise system pattern.....	43
A.5 IoT enterprise networking pattern.....	45
A.6 IoT enterprise usage pattern .....	47
Annex B (informative) Guidance on the use of ISO/IEC/IEEE 42010:2022.....	53
B.1 Overview.....	53
B.2 Systems and architectures.....	53
B.3 Elements in ISO/IEC/IEEE 42010:2022 used in ISO/IEC 30141 IoT reference architecture description.....	53

B.3.1	Overview .....	53
B.3.2	Stakeholders, perspective, and concerns .....	54
B.4	Viewpoints, model kinds, legends, correspondences, and correspondence methods .....	55
B.5	Views and models .....	55
B.6	Correspondences .....	55
Annex C (informative)	Characteristics for IoT systems in particular contexts .....	56
C.1	Common characteristics .....	56
C.1.1	Legacy support .....	56
C.1.2	Network connectivity .....	56
C.1.3	Unique identification .....	56
C.1.4	Well-defined components .....	57
C.1.5	Auto-configuration .....	57
C.1.6	Content-awareness .....	57
C.1.7	Context-awareness .....	57
C.1.8	Discoverability .....	57
C.1.9	Manageability .....	58
C.1.10	Network management and operation .....	58
C.1.11	Real-time capability .....	58
C.1.12	Self-description .....	59
C.1.13	Service subscription .....	59
C.2	Characteristics related to trustworthiness .....	59
C.2.1	Data characteristics – volume, velocity, veracity, variability, and variety .....	59
C.2.2	Protection of personally identifiable information (PII) .....	60
C.2.3	Flexibility .....	60
Bibliography	.....	61
Figure 1	– Using the IoT RA standard .....	8
Figure 2	– Relationship between IoT component, IoT system and IoT environment .....	14
Figure 3	– Example of IoT environment .....	16
Figure 4	– External facing functions .....	21
Figure 5	– Internal model of abstract function classes .....	23
Figure 6	– Legend used in the trustworthiness view .....	26
Figure 7	– IoT architecture construction view .....	31
Figure 8	– Capabilities of an IoT component .....	32
Figure A.1	– RAMI 4.0 .....	39
Figure A.2	– DSC components .....	41
Figure A.3	– Message flow in DSC .....	42
Figure A.4	– Home smart air cleaning service .....	42
Figure A.5	– Example system deployment model .....	43
Figure A.6	– Networking model .....	45
Figure A.7	– Roles present when the system is in use .....	48
Figure A.8	– IoT service provider subroles and activities .....	48
Figure A.9	– IoT service developer subroles and activities .....	49
Figure A.10	– IoT subroles and activities .....	50
Figure A.11	– Activities of device and application development .....	50

Figure A.12 – Using device data for security-related analytics and operations. ....	51
Figure B.1 – Conceptual model of an architecture description .....	54
Table 1 – List of viewpoints, stakeholders, and concerns .....	11
Table 2 – Foundational IoT viewpoint.....	13
Table 3 – Business viewpoint.....	19
Table 4 – Usage viewpoint.....	21
Table 5 – Functional viewpoint.....	23
Table 6 – Trustworthiness viewpoint .....	26
Table 7 – Construction viewpoint .....	30
Table 8 – Construction pattern legend .....	30
Table 9 – IoT component pattern .....	32
Table 10 – Additional information on IoT component capabilities .....	33
Table 11 – Key capability transformations.....	35
Table 12 – IoT system pattern.....	36
Table A.1 – RAMI 4.0 pattern.....	38
Table A.2 – Dynamic IoT system pattern.....	40
Table A.3 – IoT enterprise system pattern.....	43
Table A.4 – IoT enterprise networking system.....	45
Table A.5 – IoT enterprise usage pattern .....	47
Table A.6 – Overview of activities and roles.....	51
Table A.7 – Overview of enterprise activities and roles .....	52

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## INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT) – REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE

### FOREWORD

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ISO/IEC 30141 has been prepared by subcommittee 41: Internet of Things and Digital Twin, of ISO/IEC joint technical committee 1: Information technology. It is an International Standard.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2018. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) conformance with ISO/IEC/IEEE 42010:2022;
- b) improved usability;
- c) implementation pattern support.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
JTC1-SC41/417/FDIS	JTC1-SC41/431/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, and the ISO/IEC Directives, JTC 1 Supplement available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs) and [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives).

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## INTRODUCTION

### 0.1 General

This document is the second edition of the Internet of Things reference architecture (IoT RA). This document is in conformance with ISO/IEC/IEEE 42010:2022 requirements on architecture descriptions that are described in Annex B except for aspects, perspectives, decisions and rationale.

The IoT RA addresses systems that:

- use technology for sensing and operating on physical world entities;
- have components that interact through a digital network.

The IoT RA deals with related issues, like trustworthiness functions regarding both the physical and digital worlds.

This document can be used as a generic normative part of IoT domain-specific reference architectures (DSRAs). IoT DSRAs are in conformance with ISO/IEC/IEEE 42010:2022 requirements on architecture descriptions and enable consistency and alignment with other reference architectures within ISO/IEC JTC 1.

### 0.2 About Internet of Things (IoT)

IoT has broad implications in industry and society today and is likely to continue to have an impact on many aspects of our lives for many years to come. Various IoT applications and services have adopted IoT techniques to provide capabilities that were not possible earlier. IoT is one of the most dynamic areas of information and communication technologies.

Fundamental to IoT are devices that interact with the physical world. Sensors collect the information about the physical world, while actuators can act upon the physical world. These field devices are connected to the digital world through network connections. Both sensors and actuators can be in many forms such as thermometers, accelerometers, video cameras, microphones, relays, heaters or industrial equipment for manufacturing or process control.

IoT is the base for new business models or offerings and new working methods in industry and in the public sector. IoT is an essential enabler for other computing areas such as digital twins, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, big data, data analysis and more. Many application areas called "smart xxx" such as smart grid, smart cities, and even smart cars use IoT as an important technology capability.

IoT can be combined with other technologies to address complex requirements. For example, IoT can leverage cloud computing, including private cloud, public cloud, hybrid cloud, and multi-cloud, for resource provisioning and management. IoT can benefit from machine learning and big data for the analysis of sensor data to enable rapid decisions for improved control and efficiency. IoT with distributed ledger technology can ensure traceability in applications. IoT can take advantage of edge computing to distribute computing resources near the convergence of information technology and operational technology, where they are needed most. The IoT area continues to grow rapidly, and new IoT application areas continue to be found and invented. This document can serve these new technology and application areas.

### 0.3 IoT sources of information

For a given application field and purpose, the many IoT standards, guidelines, and initiatives in existence today work well on their own and are used by various IoT stakeholders. As a result, heterogeneity is a prominent aspect of IoT. However, support for the combination and interaction of these heterogeneous resources to enable interoperability and convergence between IoT standards and guidelines is necessary.

Stakeholder decisions about both a foundation for long-term investments and durable protection of current cornerstones is more difficult because of uncertainty about resource compatibility.

This document serves as a foundation for creating interoperability and alignment between IoT initiatives. The aim of this document is to bring different views together.

**0.4 General principles of a reference architecture**

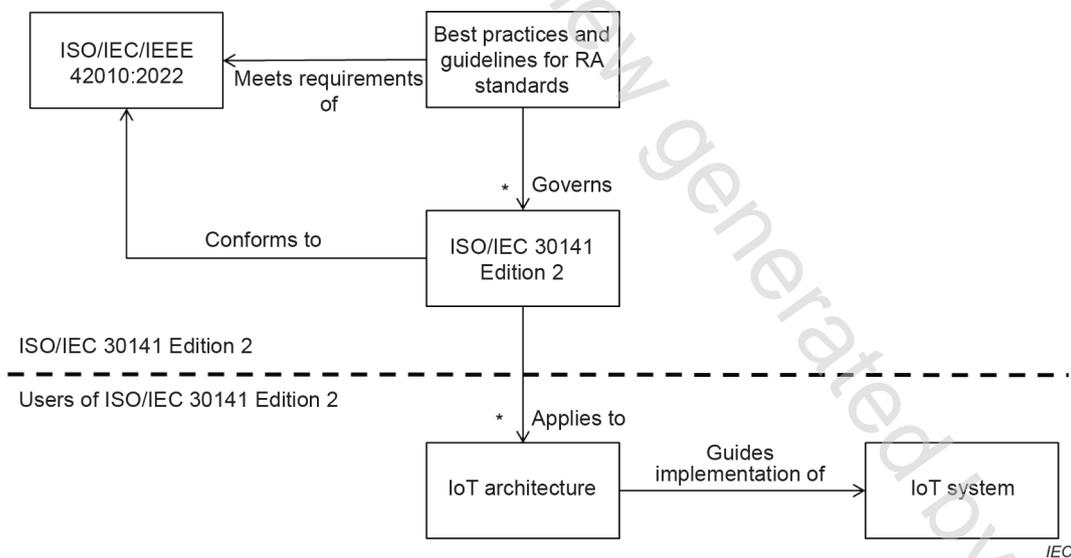
This document is positioned as a reference architecture for IoT systems. It utilizes the terms, definitions, and relationships for best practices in architecture descriptions as outlined in ISO/IEC/IEEE 42010:2022 to:

- establish vocabulary, principles, guidance; and
- provide a description of IoT principles, capabilities, and interactions with the physical and digital worlds.

One of the primary purposes of the IoT RA is to support architects that want to design architectures or reference architectures for IoT systems. Normative parts of the IoT RA can then be included in an architecture closer to the realization of IoT systems.

Figure 1 shows how this document has been specified and how it will be used.

- This document conforms to ISO/IEC/IEEE 42010:2022 requirements for architecture descriptions [1]<sup>1</sup> and uses guidelines from the "Best practices and guidelines for RA standards" standing document [2].
- Users of this document apply it to specify an IoT architecture that guides the implementation of an IoT system.



**Figure 1 – Using the IoT RA standard**

<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

# INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT) – REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE

## 1 Scope

This document specifies an Internet of Things (IoT) reference architecture (IoT RA). The IoT RA is a generalization of existing practice including the distinguishing characteristics of IoT systems and other fundamental characteristics exhibited by IoT systems. The IoT RA addresses stakeholder concerns related to the business value of IoT systems. The IoT RA also addresses the interactions between the IoT system, the users, and the physical environment. Implementation of IoT systems is also addressed in this document. Among the characteristics specified in the IoT RA are abstract functions within IoT systems and a variety of structures that are used to construct IoT systems.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 20924, *Internet of Things (IoT) and digital twin – Vocabulary*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 20924 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>

## 4 Abbreviated terms

AI	artificial intelligence
API	application programming interface
ASD	application and service domain
BSS	business support systems
CM	conceptual model
CPS	cyber physical system
CPO	chief privacy officer
DPO	data protection officer
DSC	dynamic service composition
DSRA	domain specific reference architecture
ETL	extract, transform, load
HMI	human machine interface
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
ICT	information and communication technologies