



BSI Standards Publication

**Information technology – Security techniques –  
Information security management  
systems – Overview and vocabulary**

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## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO/IEC 27000:2020. It is identical to ISO/IEC 27000:2018. It supersedes BS EN ISO/IEC 27000:2017, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IST/33/1, Information Security Management Systems.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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## Information technology - Security techniques - Information security management systems - Overview and vocabulary (ISO/IEC 27000:2018)

Technologies de l'information - Techniques  
de sécurité - Systèmes de management de la  
sécurité de l'information - Vue d'ensemble  
et vocabulaire (ISO/IEC 27000:2018)

Informationstechnik - Sicherheitsverfahren -  
Informationssicherheits-Managementsysteme -  
Überblick und Terminologie (ISO/IEC 27000:2018)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 20 October 2019.

CEN and CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN and CENELEC member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN and CENELEC member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN and CENELEC members are the national standards bodies and national electrotechnical committees of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.



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Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

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## European foreword

The text of ISO/IEC 27000:2018 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1 "Information technology" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO/IEC 27000:2020 by Technical Committee CEN/CLC/JTC 13 "Cybersecurity and Data Protection" the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2020, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2020.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO/IEC 27000:2017.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

### Endorsement notice

The text of ISO/IEC 27000:2018 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO/IEC 27000:2020 without any modification.

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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. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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 ISO documents 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO 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](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

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

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology, SC 27, IT Security techniques*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO/IEC 27000:2016), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the Introduction has been reworded;
- some terms and definitions have been removed;
- [Clause 3](#) has been aligned on the high-level structure for MSS;
- [Clause 5](#) has been updated to reflect the changes in the standards concerned;
- Annexes A and B have been deleted.

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## Introduction

### 0.1 Overview

International Standards for management systems provide a model to follow in setting up and operating a management system. This model incorporates the features on which experts in the field have reached a consensus as being the international state of the art. ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 maintains an expert committee dedicated to the development of international management systems standards for information security, otherwise known as the Information Security Management system (ISMS) family of standards.

Through the use of the ISMS family of standards, organizations can develop and implement a framework for managing the security of their information assets, including financial information, intellectual property, and employee details, or information entrusted to them by customers or third parties. These standards can also be used to prepare for an independent assessment of their ISMS applied to the protection of information.

### 0.2 Purpose of this document

The ISMS family of standards includes standards that:

- a) define requirements for an ISMS and for those certifying such systems;
- b) provide direct support, detailed guidance and/or interpretation for the overall process to establish, implement, maintain, and improve an ISMS;
- c) address sector-specific guidelines for ISMS; and
- d) address conformity assessment for ISMS.

### 0.3 Content of this document

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

Information marked as "NOTE" is for guidance in understanding or clarifying the associated requirement. “Notes to entry” used in Clause 3 provide additional information that supplements the terminological data and can contain provisions relating to the use of a term.

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# Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems – Overview and vocabulary

## 1 Scope

This document provides the overview of information security management systems (ISMS). It also provides terms and definitions commonly used in the ISMS family of standards. This document is applicable to all types and sizes of organization (e.g. commercial enterprises, government agencies, not-for-profit organizations).

The terms and definitions provided in this document

- cover commonly used terms and definitions in the ISMS family of standards;
- do not cover all terms and definitions applied within the ISMS family of standards; and
- do not limit the ISMS family of standards in defining new terms for use.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminological 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

#### **access control**

means to ensure that access to assets is authorized and restricted based on business and security requirements (3.56)

### 3.2

#### **attack**

attempt to destroy, expose, alter, disable, steal or gain unauthorized access to or make unauthorized use of an asset

### 3.3

#### **audit**

systematic, independent and documented *process* (3.54) for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the audit criteria are fulfilled

Note 1 to entry: An audit can be an internal audit (first party) or an external audit (second party or third party), and it can be a combined audit (combining two or more disciplines).

Note 2 to entry: An internal audit is conducted by the organization itself, or by an external party on its behalf.

Note 3 to entry: "Audit evidence" and "audit criteria" are defined in ISO 19011.