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BSI Standards Publication

Systems and software engineering — Life cycle management — Specification for process description

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO/IEC/IEEE 24774:2021. It supersedes PD ISO/IEC TR 24774:2010, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IST/15/-/3, Life cycle management.

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

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2021

ISBN 978 0 539 14522 9

ICS 35.080

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 May 2021.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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24774

First edition
2021-05

Systems and software engineering — Life cycle management — Specification for process description

*Ingénierie du logiciel et des systèmes — Gestion du cycle de vie —
Spécification pour la description des processus*



Reference number
ISO/IEC/IEEE 24774:2021(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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 ISO/IEC documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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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 <https://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.

ISO/IEC/IEEE 24774 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and systems engineering*, in cooperation with the Systems and Software Engineering Standards Committee of the IEEE Computer Society, under the Partner Standards Development Organization cooperation agreement between ISO and IEEE.

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO/IEC TR 24774:2010, which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to ISO/IEC TR 24774:2010 are as follows:

- process definition and examples have been updated to reflect SC 7 latest standards;
- the former ISO/IEC Technical Report has been jointly revised with IEEE as an International Standard.

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

For an organization to function effectively, the organization has to determine and manage numerous interrelated activities and tasks to achieve its goals. An activity or a set of activities using resources and managed in order to enable the achievement of outcomes through the transformation of inputs into outputs can be considered a process. Often the output from one process forms the input to other processes. When processes are explicitly described and performed in a systematic manner, the likelihood of consistent quality in the results is improved. Thus, process descriptions and process models (frameworks of related processes) enable consistent performance and delivery of expected results.

A number of international, national and industry standards describe processes and process reference models. The process descriptions vary in format, content and level of prescription. The purpose of this document is to encourage uniformity in the description of processes. Uniform description of processes facilitates adoption, adaptation and improvement of standardized processes, as well as process assessment. The combination of processes and the development of process views from different reference models eases the development of new models and facilitates comparison of processes.

In order for users of standards to select the appropriate forms of process description and apply them in a consistent fashion, it is desirable to develop a common characterization of all of these forms of process description. This document presents requirements for the description of processes in terms of their format, content and level of prescription. The requirements of this document can be applied to any process model developed for any purpose.

This document is intended for use by all parties that define process models, for example systems and software engineers, sector or special interest groups, professional standards groups, researchers, and process assessors.

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Systems and software engineering — Life cycle management — Specification for process description

1 Scope

This document provides an explanation of considerations involved in defining a process. This document gives requirements and recommendations for the description of processes by identifying elements and rules for their formulation.

This document also describes the use of process views.

This document explains how conformance to a process can be defined, when the process is described in accordance with this document.

This document does not describe how processes are composed or otherwise aggregated into larger frameworks or life cycle models. Nor does the document cover how to assess or evaluate the performance of a process, or the output (products) of a process.

NOTE Two prominent International Standards in process description for software and system engineering are ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 and ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288. These two standards have very similar process models. The information items associated with their process definitions are given in ISO/IEC/IEEE 15289. Other International Standards provide further characterization of a single life cycle process by elaborating the process elements and levying specific requirements on the execution of the process.

This document is applicable when processes are described for various process definitions in any party, organization or standard relating to systems and software engineering processes.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO, IEC, and IEEE 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 <http://www.electropedia.org>
- IEEE Standards Dictionary Online: available at <http://dictionary.ieee.org>

NOTE 1 For additional terms and definitions in the field of systems and software engineering, see ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765, which is published periodically as a “snapshot” of the SEVOCAB (Systems and software Engineering Vocabulary) database and is publicly accessible at computer.org/sevocab.

3.1 activity

set of cohesive *tasks* (3.20) of a *process* (3.8)

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207:2017, 3.1.3]