

First edition
2000-04-01

Information technology — User system interfaces and symbols — Icon symbols and functions —

Part 2: Object icons

*Technologies de l'information — Interfaces pour système utilisateur et
symboles — Symboles et fonctions d'icônes —*

Partie 2: Icônes d'objet

Reference number
ISO/IEC 11581-2:2000(E)



This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 11581-2:2000". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

PDF disclaimer

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. The ISO Central Secretariat accepts no liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the Central Secretariat at the address given below.

© ISO/IEC 2000

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 734 10 79
E-mail copyright@iso.ch
Web www.iso.ch

Printed in Switzerland

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 11581-2:2000". Click [here](#) to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

Contents

	Page
Foreword.....	iv
Introduction.....	v
1 Scope	1
2 Conformance.....	1
3 Normative reference	1
4 Terms and definitions	1
5 Conceptual construction of object icons.....	1
5.1 Metaphor.....	2
5.2 Function.....	2
5.3 Abstract object.....	2
5.4 Generic object.....	3
5.5 Specific object.....	3
5.6 Basic units.....	3
5.7 Components.....	3
5.8 Graphic	3
5.9 Presented icon	3
6 Object icon requirements and recommendations.....	4
6.1 Requirements.....	4
6.1.1 Graphic and function.....	4
6.1.2 Orientation.....	4
6.1.3 Opacity.....	4
6.1.4 Opening an object icon	4
6.1.5 State change.....	4
6.1.6 Sensitive region	4
6.2 Recommendations.....	5
6.2.1 Function and graphic	5
6.2.2 Consistent behaviour	5
6.2.3 Metaphor.....	5
6.2.4 Typeface	5
6.2.5 Visibility	5
6.2.6 Layered object icons	5
7 Icon specifications.....	5
7.1 Core object icons.....	6
7.1.1 Document	6
7.1.2 Folder	7
7.1.3 Filing cabinet.....	8
7.1.4 Mail	9
7.1.5 Printer	12
7.1.6 Telephone.....	13
7.1.7 Facsimile.....	14
7.1.8 Diskette	15
7.1.9 Waste paper can	16
7.2 Secondary object icons	17
7.2.1 Accessory object icons.....	17
7.2.2 System environment object icons	19
Annex A (informative) Minimum information to be given when submitting an icon.....	25

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO/IEC 11581 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO/IEC 11581-2 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 35, *User Interfaces*.

ISO/IEC 11581 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — User system interfaces and symbols — Icon symbols and functions*:

- *Part 1: Icons — General*
- *Part 2: Object icons*
- *Part 3: Pointer icons*
- *Part 4: Control icons*
- *Part 5: Tool icons*
- *Part 6: Action icons*

Annex A of this part of ISO/IEC 11581 is for information only.

This is a preview of "ISO/IEC 11581-2:2000". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Introduction

Object icons are a subset of icons that represent the objects making up the domain of a system or application and that users manipulate in doing their jobs. They are distinguished from other icons by the fact that they mediate user interactions with software applications, and they may be moved and opened. Object icons are images that represent functions by using associations with similar physical objects.

Besides representing a function an object icons can sometimes represent a similar physical object. For example a printer icon image can represent a specific printer, rather than the generic concept of printing.

Figure 1 shows a model relating an icon on the screen, the way it is interpreted by the user, and the application concept that it represents.

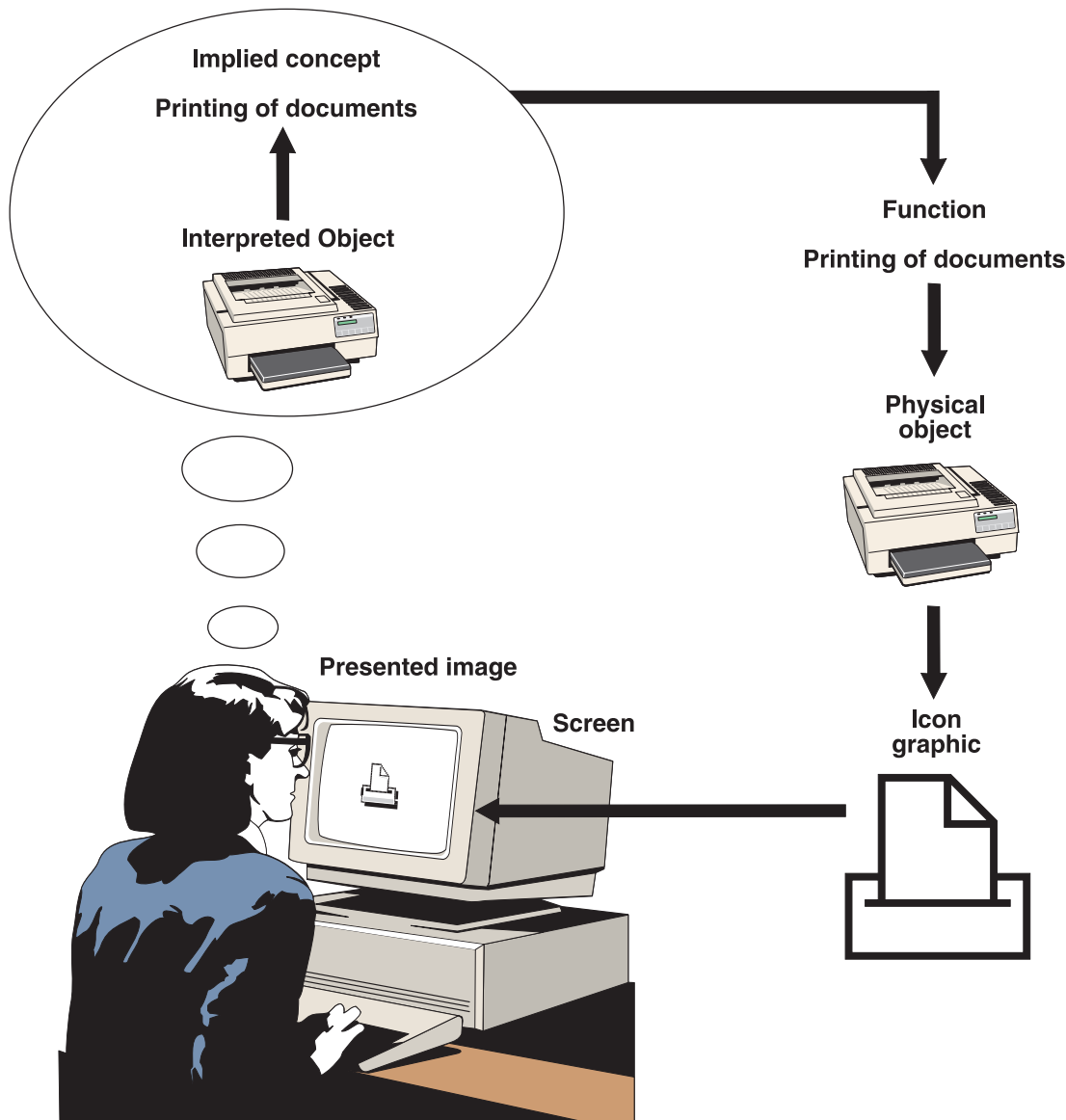


Figure 1 — User interpretation of object icons