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# Information technology — Multimedia content description interface —

## Part 1: Systems

*Technologies de l'information — Interface de description du contenu  
multimédia —*

*Partie 1: Systèmes*

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Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
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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. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

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

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. 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.

ISO/IEC 15938-1 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 29, *Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information*.

ISO/IEC 15938 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Multimedia content description interface*:

- *Part 1: Systems*
- *Part 2: Description definition language*
- *Part 3: Visual*
- *Part 4: Audio*
- *Part 5: Multimedia description schemes*
- *Part 6: Reference software*
- *Part 7: Conformance testing*
- *Part 8: Extraction and use of MPEG-7 descriptions*

Annexes A to C of this part of ISO/IEC 15938 are for information only.

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## Introduction

This standard, also known as "Multimedia Content Description Interface," provides a standardized set of technologies for describing multimedia content. The standard addresses a broad spectrum of multimedia applications and requirements by providing a metadata system for describing the features of multimedia content.

The following are specified in this standard:

- **Description Schemes (DS)** describe entities or relationships pertaining to multimedia content. Description Schemes specify the structure and semantics of their components, which may be Description Schemes, Descriptors, or datatypes.
- **Descriptors (D)** describe features, attributes, or groups of attributes of multimedia content.
- **Datatypes** are the basic reusable datatypes employed by Description Schemes and Descriptors.
- **Description Definition Language (DDL)** defines Description Schemes, Descriptors, and Datatypes by specifying their syntax, and allows their extension.
- **Systems tools** support delivery of descriptions, multiplexing of descriptions with multimedia content, synchronization, file format, and so forth.

This standard is subdivided into eight parts:

**Part 1 – Systems:** specifies the tools for preparing descriptions for efficient transport and storage, compressing descriptions, and allowing synchronization between content and descriptions.

**Part 2 – Description definition language:** specifies the language for defining the standard set of description tools (DSs, Ds, and datatypes) and for defining new description tools.

**Part 3 – Visual:** specifies the description tools pertaining to visual content.

**Part 4 – Audio:** specifies the description tools pertaining to audio content.

**Part 5 – Multimedia description schemes:** specifies the generic description tools pertaining to multimedia including audio and visual content.

**Part 6 – Reference software:** provides a software implementation of the standard.

**Part 7 – Conformance testing:** specifies the guidelines and procedures for testing conformance of implementations of the standard.

**Part 8 – Extraction and use of MPEG-7 descriptions:** provides guidelines and examples of the extraction and use of descriptions.