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Information technology — Security techniques — Random bit generation

Technologies de l'information — Techniques de sécurité — Génération de bits aléatoires

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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 2.

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.

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.

ISO/IEC 18031 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *IT Security techniques*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 18031:2005), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO/IEC 18031:2005/Cor.1:2009.

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Introduction

This International Standard sets out specific requirements that when met will result in the development of a random bit generator that may be applicable to cryptographic applications.

Numerous cryptographic applications require the use of random bits. These cryptographic applications include the following:

- random keys and initialisation values (IVs) for encryption;
- random keys for keyed MAC algorithms;
- random private keys for digital signature algorithms;
- random values to be used in entity authentication mechanisms;
- random values to be used in key establishment protocols;
- random PIN and password generation;
- nonces.

The purpose of this International Standard is to establish a conceptual model, terminology, and requirements related to the building blocks and properties of systems used for random bit generation in or for cryptographic applications.

It is possible to categorize random bit generators into two types. This International Standard identifies the two types as non-deterministic and deterministic random bit generators.

A non-deterministic random bit generator can be defined as a random bit generating mechanism that uses a source of entropy to generate a random bit stream.

A deterministic random bit generator can be defined as a bit generating mechanism that uses deterministic mechanisms, such as cryptographic algorithms, to generate a random bit stream. In this type of bit stream generation, there is a specific input (normally called a seed) and perhaps some optional input, which, depending on its application, may or may not be publicly available. The seed is processed by a function which provides an output.

NOTE This International Standard also recognizes and discusses the existence of Hybrid Random Bit Generators.