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Information technology — Software asset management —

Part 2: Software identification tag

Technologies de l'information — Gestion de biens de logiciel —
Partie 2: Étiquette d'identification du logiciel

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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.

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 document 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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and systems engineering*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 19770-2:2009), which has been technically revised.

This corrected version of ISO/IEC 19770-2 incorporates the following corrections plus other minor editorial modifications:

— two subclauses have been added to 8.4; and

— the schema for the BaseElement type has been replaced in Annex B.

ISO/IEC 19770 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Software asset management*:

— *Part 1: Processes and tiered assessment of conformance*

— *Part 2: Software identification tag*

— *Part 5: Overview and vocabulary*

The following parts are under preparation:

— *Part 3: Software entitlement schema*

— *Part 4: Resource Utilization Measurement (RUM)*

— *Part 7: Tag management*

The following part is planned:

— *Part 22: Guidance for the use of* ISO/IEC 19770-2 *Software Identification Tag information in Cyber Security*

Introduction

Overview

International Standards in the ISO/IEC 19770 family of standards for Information Technology (IT) asset management (ITAM) address both the processes and technology for managing software, hardware, and related IT assets. Because IT is an essential enabler for almost all activity in today's world, these standards must integrate tightly into all of IT. For example, software identification (SWID) tags have the capacity to assist in other management functions outside the scope of financial-focused or compliance-focused ITAM processes. From a technology perspective, ITAM standards for information structures provide not only the data interoperability of software management data, but also provide the basis for many related benefits such as more effective security in the management of software. ITAM standards for information structures also facilitate significant automation of IT functionality, such as improved authentication of software and automated linking to identify vulnerability information for more automated exposure identification and mitigation.

Purpose of this part of ISO/IEC 19770

This part of ISO/IEC 19770 provides an International Standard for software identification tags. The software identification tag is a standardized data structure containing software identification information about a software product that supports new and automated management functions. Product information provided in the software identification tag structure will often be provided in an XML data file, but the same SWID tag product information may be accessible through other means depending on the computing device being managed.

SWID tags are created by a SWID tag producer, for example a software creator who develops and distributes software or a tool and/or service provider. SWID tag data is utilized by SWID tag consumers, for example a discovery tool or service that collects information from a computing device for a variety of purposes such as license compliance, software security, or logistics operations. Providing authoritative and detailed software identification information makes the management of software less expensive and provides support for significantly more automation for IT processes in the security, compliance, and logistics areas.

This part of ISO/IEC 19770 has been developed to facilitate automation of IT processes through the use of software identification tags and for applications which use those tags, for the purposes of security, compliance, and logistics automation. This part of ISO/IEC 19770 includes information which facilitates human intelligibility (such as edition and colloquial version name), but it is unrealistic to expect to create, manage, and use software identification tags without the use of automated capabilities built into specialist or generalist tools. The extent to which such capabilities are provided by specialist commercial products, open-source-type products, or platforms themselves, will depend on market developments over time.

This part of ISO/IEC 19770 supports software asset management processes as defined in ISO/IEC 19770-1. This part of ISO/IEC 19770 is also designed to work together with ISO/IEC 19770-3 which will provide an International Standard for software entitlement schema.

Software identification tags will benefit all stakeholders involved in the creation, licensing, distribution, releasing, installation, and on-going management of software. Key benefits associated with software identification tags include the following.

a) The ability to consistently and authoritatively identify software products that need to be managed for any purpose, such as for licensing, security, logistics, or for the specification of dependencies. Software identification tags provide the meta-data necessary to support more accurate identification than other software identification techniques.

b) The ability to identify groups or suites of software products in the same way as individual software products, enabling entire groups or suites of software products to be managed with the same flexibility as individual products.

c) The ability to automatically relate installed software with other information such as patch installations, configuration issues, or other vulnerabilities.

d) Facilitate interoperability of software information between different software creators, different software platforms, different IT management tools, and within software creator organizations, as well as between SWID tag producers and SWID tag consumers.

e) Facilitate automated approaches to license compliance, using information both from the software identification tag and from the software entitlement schema as specified in ISO/IEC 19770-3.

f) Provide a comprehensive information structure of the structural footprint of products, for example the list of software components of files and system settings associated with a product to identify if files have been modified.

g) Provide a comprehensive information structure that identifies different entities, including software creators, software licensors, packagers, distributors external to the software consumer, as well as various entities within the software consumer, associated with the installation and management of the product on an on-going basis.

h) Through the optional use of digital signatures by organizations creating software identification tags, the ability to validate that information is authoritative and has not been maliciously tampered with.

i) The opportunity for entities other than original software creators (e.g. independent providers or in-house personnel) to create software identification tags for legacy software, and for software from software creators who do not provide software identification tags themselves.

This part of ISO/IEC 19770 is divided into the following clauses and annexes:

— Clause 1 defines the scope;

— Clause 2 describes the normative references;

— Clause 3 describes the terms, definitions, and abbreviated terms used in this part of ISO/IEC 19770;

— Clause 4 defines conformance;

— Clause 5 provides interoperability guidance;

— Clause 6 describes the implementation of software identification tagging processes;

— Clause 7 contains platform implementation requirements and guidance;

— Clause 8 describes the elements of the tag;

— Annex A contains information on why the changes to the SWID tag schema are necessary;

— Annex B contains the XML schema document for the tag;

— Annex C provides a UML diagram of the SWID tag schema;

— Annex D provides sample tags.