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## Information technology — Cloud computing — Cloud services and devices: Data flow, data categories and data use

*Technologies de l'information — Informatique en nuage — Services et dispositifs en nuage : Débits, catégories et utilisation des données*



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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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 38, *Cloud computing and distributed platforms*.

## Introduction

### Objective and target audience

This document provides a description of the ecosystem of devices and cloud services and the related flows of data between cloud services, cloud service customers, cloud service users and their devices. These are necessary to provide guidance about how data is used on the devices in the context of the cloud computing ecosystem and the associated location and identity issues that emerge from such use.

This document proposes a scheme for the structure of data use statements that can be used by cloud service providers to help cloud service customers understand and protect the privacy and confidentiality of their data and their users' data through increased transparency of policies and practices.

This document can be used in several ways including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) by cloud service providers and application developers to guide them in describing what they intend to do with data in their designs, so as to simplify privacy and data use reviews and to communicate this information to non-technical departments such as internal compliance, marketing and legal teams;
- b) by organizations drawing up data use statements as part of drafting cloud service agreements and application contracts, privacy statements, etc., which could apply to documents internal to an organization, in addition to public or legal documents;
- c) by government regulators and agencies to advise on suitable ways of describing data flow and use;
- d) by those preparing information on data flow and data use for communication to the press and the public.

This document is descriptive and not prescriptive. It cannot be used for compliance directly. Instead, it provides a set of concepts and definitions, including a data taxonomy and data use statement structure, that can be used for transparency about how data is used in an ecosystem of devices and cloud services.

### Providing a clear description of data flows

This document aims to improve the understanding of the data flows that take place in an ecosystem consisting of devices accessing cloud services. It does this through an extended cloud computing reference architecture (CCRA) (based on the architecture described in ISO/IEC 17789) that describes the impact of devices on cloud service ecosystems and the impact of cloud services on devices. It also describes the data flows that take place within the extended reference architecture.

### Providing transparency to all stakeholders

To maintain a relationship of trust between the stakeholders of the ecosystem of devices and cloud services and also to meet the demands of laws and regulations, it is necessary for the device platform providers and the cloud service providers to be transparent about how they make use of the various data types that flow within the ecosystem.

There is a particular need to provide simple and clear statements to end users about what is done with data that relates to them. The data may be personally identifiable information (PII) and may be sensitive, in other words, this can be a privacy issue. Cloud service customers are likely to be concerned about how their data is used, even when the customer is an organization rather than an individual. The cloud service customer may be a data controller, holding personal data about their employees or their customers; in such a role, the cloud service customer has obligations relating to the processing of that data.

To assist cloud service providers and device platform providers in being transparent about their use of data, this document defines a simple language for making statements about data use, which can be used to create clear notification to end users and other interested parties.