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# Information technology — Big data reference architecture —

## Part 3: Reference architecture

*Technologies de l'information — Architecture de référence des  
mégadonnées —*

*Partie 3: Architecture de référence*



Reference number  
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## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Abbreviated terms</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Conventions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Big data reference architecture concepts</b> .....	<b>5</b>
6.1 General.....	5
6.2 Views.....	6
6.3 Overview of user view.....	6
6.4 Overview of functional view.....	7
6.5 Relationship between the user view and the functional view.....	8
6.6 Relationship of the user view and functional view to cross-cutting aspects.....	8
<b>7 User view</b> .....	<b>9</b>
7.1 Big data roles, sub-roles, and activities.....	9
7.2 Role: Big data application provider (BDAP).....	10
7.2.1 General.....	10
7.2.2 Sub-role: big data collection provider (BDCP).....	11
7.2.3 Sub-role: big data preparation provider (BDPreP).....	11
7.2.4 Sub-role: big data analytics provider (BDAnP).....	12
7.2.5 Sub-role: big data visualization provider (BDVP).....	12
7.2.6 Sub-role: big data access provider (BDAcP).....	12
7.3 Role: big data framework provider (BDFP).....	12
7.3.1 General.....	12
7.3.2 Sub-role: big data infrastructure provider (BDIP).....	13
7.3.3 Sub-role: big data platform provider (BDPlaP).....	13
7.3.4 Sub-role: big data processing provider (BDProP).....	13
7.4 Role: big data service partner (BDSP).....	14
7.4.1 General.....	14
7.4.2 Sub-role: big data service developer (BDSd).....	15
7.4.3 Sub-role: big data auditor (BDA).....	15
7.4.4 Sub-role: big data system orchestrator (BDSO).....	15
7.5 Role: big data provider (BDP).....	16
7.6 Role: big data consumer (BDC).....	16
<b>8 Cross-cutting aspects</b> .....	<b>17</b>
8.1 General.....	17
8.2 Security and privacy.....	17
8.3 Management.....	17
8.4 Data governance.....	18
<b>9 Functional view</b> .....	<b>18</b>
9.1 Functional architecture.....	18
9.1.1 General.....	18
9.1.2 Layering architecture.....	19
9.1.3 Multi-layer functions.....	20
9.2 Functional components.....	20
9.2.1 General.....	20
9.2.2 Big data application layer functional components.....	21
9.2.3 Big data processing layer functional components.....	23
9.2.4 Big data platform layer functional components.....	25
9.2.5 Resource layer functional components.....	28

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9.2.6	Multi-layer functional components .....	29
<b>Annex A</b>	<b>(informative) Mapping big data RA functional view to other system integration RA.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Annex B</b>	<b>(informative) Examples of the relationship of roles in big data ecosystem.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Annex C</b>	<b>(informative) .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>37</b>

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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)).

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For an explanation of 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 [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 42, *Artificial intelligence*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 20547 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The ISO/IEC 20547 series is intended to provide users with a standardized approach to developing and implementing big data architectures and provide references for approaches. ISO/IEC TR 20547-1 provides users with an overview of the reference architecture framework described in this document and a process for applying that framework in developing an architecture. ISO/IEC TR 20547-2 provides a collection of big data use cases and decomposes those use cases into technical considerations that big data architects and system implementers can consider. This document describes the reference architecture in terms of User and Functional views. Those views can be used by the big data architect to describe their specific system. ISO/IEC 20547-4 describes the security and privacy aspects unique to big data. ISO/IEC TR 20547-5 provides a list of standards and their relationship to the reference architecture that architects and implementers can consider as part of the design and implementation of their system.

Each of these parts is built on the common vocabulary and concepts described in ISO/IEC 20546.

In general terms, reference architecture provides an authoritative source of information about a specific subject area that guides and constrains the instantiations of multiple architectures and solutions (see [3.2](#)). Reference architectures generally serve as a reference foundation for solution architectures and can also be used for comparison and alignment purposes.

The key goal of this reference architecture is to facilitate a shared understanding across multiple products, organizations, and disciplines about current architectures and future direction.

The reference architecture presented in this document provides an architecture framework for describing the big data components, processes, and systems to establish a common language for the various stakeholders named as big data reference architecture (BDRA). It does not represent the system architecture of a specific big data system. Instead, it is a tool for describing, discussing, and developing system-specific architectures using an architecture framework of reference. It provides generic high-level architectural views that are an effective tool for discussing the requirements, structures, and operations inherent to big data. The model is not tied to any specific vendor products, services or reference implementation, nor does it define prescriptive solutions that inhibit innovation.