

ISO/IEC 38505-1**Information technology —
Governance of data —****Part 1:
Application of ISO/IEC 38500 to the
governance of data**

Technologies de l'information — Gouvernance des données —

Partie 1: Application de l'ISO/IEC 38500 à la gouvernance des données

**Second edition
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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC/JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 40, *IT service management and IT governance*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 38505-1:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— alignment with ISO/IEC 38500:2024, which is itself aligned to ISO 37000.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 38505 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

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The objective of this document is to provide principles, definitions and a model for governing bodies to use when evaluating, directing and monitoring the handling and use of data in their organizations.

This document is high-level, principles-based and advisory. In addition to providing broad guidance on the role of a governing body, it encourages organizations to use appropriate standards to underpin their governance of data.

All organizations use data; and the major proportion of the data is stored electronically across IT systems. With the advent of cloud computing, the realization of the potential of the “internet of things” and the increasing use of “big data” analytics and artificial intelligence (AI), data have become easier to generate, gather, store and mine for useful information. This flood of data brings with it an urgent requirement and responsibility for governing bodies to ensure that valuable opportunities are leveraged, and sensitive data are protected and secured.

Governance of data plays a critical role in ensuring the responsible, innovative, sustainable, and ethical use of data.

Governance of data is an ongoing practice, adapting to the evolving data landscape.

This document has been prepared to provide guidance to the members of governing bodies to apply a principles-based approach to the governance of data to increase the value of the data while preventing the risks associated with the data. ISO/IEC 38500 provides principles, model, and framework for the governing bodies of organizations to guide their current use and to plan for their future use of Information technology (IT), and this document concerns the application of ISO/IEC 38500. While this document describes the governance of data and its use within an organization, guidance on the implementation arrangement for the effective governance of IT in general is found in ISO/IEC/TS 38501. The constructs in ISO/IEC/TS 38501 can help to identify internal and external factors relating to the governance of IT and help to define beneficial outcomes and identify evidence of success.

The use of AI and the growth of data have created extensive opportunities for the analysis and use of data in decision making. Because legal regulations sometimes lag behind or are not developed, it is up to an organization to ensure the ethical use of data.

As with ISO/IEC 38500, this document is addressed primarily to the governing body of an organization and applies equally regardless of the size of the organization or its industry or sector. The principles of this document can be relevant for the governing bodies of data exchange networks, platforms, spaces and for other inter-organizational data governance contexts. However, the inter-organizational aspects of data governance are outside the scope of this document.

Governance is distinct from management and concerns evaluating, directing and monitoring the use of data, rather than the mechanics of storing, retrieving or managing the data. This document outlines an understanding of various data management and techniques to enunciate the strategies and policies that can be directed by the governing body.