

Second edition
2010-12-01

Information technology — Security techniques — Entity authentication —

Part 6:

Mechanisms using manual data transfer

*Technologies de l'information — Techniques de sécurité —
Authentification d'entité —*

Partie 6: Mécanismes utilisant un transfert manuel de données

Reference number
ISO/IEC 9798-6:2010(E)



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Published in Switzerland

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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.

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ISO/IEC 9798-6 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 9798-6:2005), to which a new Clause 7 has been added to provide four new mechanisms. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO/IEC 9798-6:2005/Cor.1:2009. Implementations conformant to the first edition will be conformant to the second edition.

ISO/IEC 9798 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Security techniques — Entity authentication*:

- *Part 1: General*
- *Part 2: Mechanisms using symmetric encipherment algorithms*
- *Part 3: Mechanisms using digital signature techniques*
- *Part 4: Mechanisms using a cryptographic check function*
- *Part 5: Mechanisms using zero-knowledge techniques*
- *Part 6: Mechanisms using manual data transfer*

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Introduction

Within networks of communicating devices it is often necessary for two devices to perform an entity authentication procedure using a channel which may be subject to both passive and active attacks, where an active attack can include a malicious third party introducing data into the channel and/or modifying, deleting or repeating data legitimately sent on the channel. Other parts of ISO/IEC 9798 specify entity authentication mechanisms applicable when the two devices share a secret key, or where one device has an authenticated copy of a public key for the other device.

In this part of ISO/IEC 9798, entity authentication mechanisms where there is no such assumption of pre-established keying relationships, referred to as manual authentication mechanisms, are specified. Instead entity authentication is achieved by manually transferring short data strings from one device to the other, or by manually comparing short data strings output by the two devices.

For the purposes of this part of ISO/IEC 9798, the meaning of the term entity authentication is different from the meaning applied in other parts of ISO/IEC 9798. Instead of one device verifying that the other device has a claimed identity (and vice versa), both devices in the possession of a user verify that they correctly share a data string with the other device at the time of execution of the mechanism. Of course, this data string could contain identifiers for one or both of the devices.

As described in informative Annexes B and C, a manual authentication mechanism can be used as the basis for secret key establishment or the reliable exchange of public keys. A manual authentication mechanism could also be used for the reliable exchange of other secret or public security parameters, including security policy statements or timestamps.