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15026-1**

**Systems and software  
engineering — Systems and  
software assurance —**

**Part 1:  
Vocabulary and concepts**

*Ingénierie des systèmes et du logiciel — Assurance des systèmes  
et du logiciel —*

*Partie 1: Vocabulaire et concepts*

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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-1:2019), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- definitions of terms introduced in other parts of the ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series have been added or modified;
- definitions of terms whose definitions were sourced from ISO/IEC 15288 and ISO/IEC/IEEE 24774 have been updated.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

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Software and systems assurance and closely related fields share concepts but have different vocabularies and perspectives. This document provides an unambiguous use of vocabulary for systems and software assurance and a unifying set of underlying concepts across these various fields. It provides a basis for elaboration, discussion and recording agreement and rationale regarding concepts and the vocabulary used uniformly across the ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series.

[Clause 4](#) covers basic concepts such as assurance, stakeholders, systems and products, property, uncertainty and confidence, conditions and initial events, and consequence. [Clause 5](#) covers some issues of which users of ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-2, ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-3 and ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-4 should be initially aware ([5.2](#)). [Clause 6](#), [Clause 7](#) and [Clause 8](#) cover concepts relevant to users of ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-2, ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-3 and ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-4, respectively; also, users of one of these parts can benefit from the clauses for other parts.

The essential concepts introduced by the ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series are the claims in an assurance case and the support of claims in terms of argument and evidence. These claims are in the context of assurance for properties of systems and software within life cycle processes for the system or software product.

Potential users of the ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series are developers and maintainers of assurance cases and those who wish to develop, sustain, evaluate or acquire a system that possesses requirements for specific properties in such a way as to be more certain of those properties and their requirements. The ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series uses concepts and vocabulary consistent with ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 and ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 and generally consistent with the standards on Systems and software Quality Requirements and Evaluation (SQuaRE) developed by JTC 1/SC 7, but the concepts and vocabulary provided by the ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series can differ from those to which the potential user is accustomed. This document attempts to clarify these differences.

The ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series is made up of the following parts.

- ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-1 explains concepts and terms as a basis for all parts of the ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series.
- ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-2 includes requirements on the structure of the assurance case.
- ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-3 relates integrity levels to the assurance case and includes requirements for their use with and without an assurance case.
- ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-4 provides guidance and recommendations for assurance of a selected claim about the system-of-interest by achieving the claim and showing the achievement. The guidance and recommendations are given in a system assurance process view on top of ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 and a software assurance process view on top of ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207.

The assurance case is relevant to a greater or lesser extent in all parts of the ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 series, although ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-4 discusses achieving the claim and showing the achievement of the claim whether or not such “showing” is contained in an artefact specifically called an “assurance case”.

ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-2 concentrates on the contents and structure of the assurance case. ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-3 relates integrity levels and assurance cases by describing how integrity levels and assurance cases can work together, especially in the definition of specifications for integrity levels or by using integrity levels within a portion of an assurance case. This relationship is governed by the degree of risk and dependencies in the system.

ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026-4 includes assurance-related guidance and recommendations for activities across the life cycle processes including activities that extend beyond those directly related to an assurance case, e.g. project planning for assurance-related considerations.