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# Information technology — Interoperability with assistive technology (AT) —

## Part 4: Linux/UNIX graphical environments accessibility API

*Technologies de l'information — Interopérabilité avec les  
technologies d'assistance —*

*Partie 4: Accessibilité API des environnements graphiques Linux/UNIX*



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## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Overview</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.1 General description.....	4
3.2 Architecture.....	5
3.2.1 ATK Aware Toolkits.....	6
3.2.2 AT-SPI Aware Assistive Technologies.....	11
3.3 Support apart from AT-SPI/ATK.....	12
<b>4 Using the API</b> .....	<b>12</b>
4.1 Overview.....	12
4.2 User Interface elements.....	12
4.3 Getting and setting focus.....	13
4.4 Communication mechanisms.....	14
4.5 How GNOME uses the ATK/AT-SPI accessibility Application Programming Interface.....	14
<b>5 Exposing User Interface Element Information</b> .....	<b>15</b>
5.1 Role, state(s), boundary, name, and description of the user interface element.....	15
5.2 Current value and any minimum or maximum values, if the user interface element represents one of a range of values.....	16
5.3 Text contents, text attributes, and the boundary of text rendered to the screen.....	17
5.4 The location of the user interface element in relation to other user interface elements.....	17
<b>6 Exposing User Interface Element Actions</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>7 Keyboard focus</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>8 Events</b> .....	<b>19</b>
8.1 Changes in the user interface element value.....	19
8.2 Changes in the name of the user interface element.....	20
8.3 Changes in the description of the user interface element.....	20
8.4 Changes in the boundary of the user interface element.....	20
<b>9 Programmatic modifications of states, properties, values, and text</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>10 Design considerations</b> .....	<b>21</b>
10.1 Using AT-SPI/ATK.....	21
<b>11 Further information</b> .....	<b>21</b>
11.1 Testing Accessibility with Accerciser.....	22
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>23</b>

## 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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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 35, *User interfaces*.

ISO/IEC 13066 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Interoperability with Assistive Technology (AT)*:

- *Part 1: Requirements and recommendations for interoperability*
- *Part 2: Windows accessibility application programming interface (API)* [Technical Report]
- *Part 3: IAccessible2 accessibility application programming interface (API)* [Technical Report]
- *Part 4: Linux/UNIX graphical environments accessibility API* [Technical Report]
- *Part 6: Java accessibility application programming interface (API)* [Technical Report]

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## Introduction

Assistive technology (AT) is specialized information technology (IT) hardware or software that is added to or incorporated within a system that increases accessibility for an individual. In other words, it is special purpose IT that interoperates with another IT product enabling a person with a disability to use the IT product.

Interoperability involves the ability to add or replace Assistive Technology (AT) to existing components of Information Technology (IT) systems. Interoperability between AT and IT is best facilitated via the use of standardized, public interfaces for all IT components.

This part of ISO/IEC 13066 describes the following.

### AT-SPI

The Assistive Technology Service Provider Interface (AT-SPI) API, which can be used as a toolkit agnostic framework to support software to software IT-AT interoperability on Linux and UNIX graphical desktop environments.

### ATK

The Accessibility Toolkit (ATK) library provides a set of interfaces in support of AT-SPI on the GUI application side. The interfaces are toolkit-independent implementations could be written for any widget set, such as GTK, Motif, or Qt.