



SLOVENSKI STANDARD

SIST ENV 12251:2003

01-oktober-2003

Zdravstvena informatika – Varna identifikacija uporabnikov v zdravstvenem varstvu – Upravljanje in varnost avtentikacije z gesli

Health informatics - Secure user identification for health care - Management and security of authentication by passwords

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Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: **ENV 12251:2000**
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ICS:

35.240.80	Uporabniške rešitve IT v zdravstveni tehniki	IT applications in health care technology
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EUROPEAN PRESTANDARD
PRÉNORME EUROPÉENNE
EUROPÄISCHE VORNORM

ENV 12251

August 2000

ICS 35.240.80

English version

Health informatics - Secure user identification for health care - Management and security of authentication by passwords

This European Prestandard (ENV) was approved by CEN on 7 January 2000 as a prospective standard for provisional application.

The period of validity of this ENV is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the ENV can be converted into a European Standard.

CEN members are required to announce the existence of this ENV in the same way as for an EN and to make the ENV available promptly at national level in an appropriate form. It is permissible to keep conflicting national standards in force (in parallel to the ENV) until the final decision about the possible conversion of the ENV into an EN is reached.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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Foreword

This European Prestandard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 251 "Health informatics", the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

This European Prestandard is designed to improve the authentication of individual users of health care IT system, by strengthening the automatic software procedures associated with the management of user identifiers and passwords, without resorting to additional hardware facilities.

Although the use of passwords, and the need for improved security in this respect, is by no means specific for the Health Care field, it is felt strongly that the way in which systems are being used in this field, often in direct support of patient care and handling very sensitive information, urgently call for a good solution in this area. However, the methods specified in this prestandard can possibly be applied in other sectors as well at the discretion of users.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this European Prestandard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

Information Technology (IT) systems in the health care environment are being used in increasingly sensitive and critical circumstances. To facilitate secure access control to an IT system and within an IT system, it is necessary to uniquely establish the identity of all users seeking access. Further, to have confidence that a user really is who he or she claims to be, there is a need for secure means of verifying the claimed identity. The use of passwords, being confidential to each user, and constructed in such a way that others cannot compromise this confidential authentication information easily, is the most common means of authentication in current computer systems, and will be so for some time to come. This European Prestandard can facilitate the wider process of Security Management.

Conventional passwords have several disadvantages. Some of these are:

- They can easily be shared among several users
- The use of unprotected network technology makes them easy targets for eavesdropping
- They can be hard to remember if chosen as to be secure

Other technologies such as chip cards and biometrics, which provide more secure means of authentication, have been introduced and will eventually phase out the use of passwords. However, in the meantime it is important to facilitate the most secure use of passwords in health care IT systems. This is the main objective of this European Prestandard.

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1. SCOPE

This European Prestandard is designed to improve the authentication of individual users of health care IT system, by strengthening the automatic software procedures associated with the management of user identifiers and passwords, without resorting to additional hardware facilities.

This European Prestandard applies to all information systems (hereafter called systems) within the health care environment that handle or store sensitive person identifiable health information, using passwords as the only means of authenticating the entered user identifier, i.e., verifying the claimed identity of a user. Systems that fall within the scope of this European Prestandard include for example electronic patient record systems, patient administrative systems and laboratory systems, containing personal health information.

This European Prestandard does not apply to systems outside the health care environment. Neither does it apply to systems within the health care environment that use other means of identification and authentication, such as smart cards, biometric methods or other technical facilities.

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2. NORMATIVE REFERENCES

This European Prestandard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Prestandard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

ISO 7498-2:1989 Information processing systems – Open systems interconnection – Basic reference model – Part 2: Security architecture.

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