
**Information technology — Business
agreement semantic descriptive
techniques —**

**Part 1:
Operational aspects of Open-edi for
implementation**

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*Technologies de l'information — Techniques descriptives sémantiques des
accords d'affaires —*

Partie 1: Aspects opérationnels de l'Edi ouvert pour application

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Contents

Page

Foreword	v
0 Introduction	vi
0.1 Purpose and overview	vi
0.2 Requirements on the business operational view aspects of Open-edi	viii
0.3 Business operational view (BOV), Open-edi and E-commerce, E-business, etc.	xi
0.4 Use of "Person", "person", and "party" in the context of business transactions and commitment exchange	xii
0.5 Organization and description of the document	xii
0.6 Registration aspects of Open-edi scenarios, scenario attributes and scenario components.....	xiii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references.....	2
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Symbols and abbreviated terms	12
5 Characteristics of Open-edi	12
5.1 Actions based upon following clear, predefined rules	13
5.2 Commitment of the parties involved	13
5.3 Communications among parties are automated.....	13
5.4 Parties control and maintain their states.....	13
5.5 Parties act autonomously.....	14
5.6 Multiple simultaneous transactions can be supported.....	14
6 Components of a business transaction.....	14
6.1 Introduction	14
6.2 Rules governing person	26
6.3 Rules governing the process component	42
6.4 Rules governing the data component.....	46
6.5 Business requirements on the FSV (Business demands on Open-Edi Support Infrastructure)	51
6.6 Primitive classification and identification of Open-edi scenarios	54
7 Guidelines for scoping open-edi scenarios	64
7.1 Introduction and basic principles.....	64
7.2 Rules for scoping Open-edi scenarios	65
7.3 Template for specifying scope of an Open-edi scenario	68
8 Rules for specification of Open-edi scenarios and their components.....	73
8.1 Introduction and basic principles.....	73
8.2 OES demands on interoperability	76
8.3 Rules for specification of Open-edi scenarios and scenario attributes	76
8.4 Rules for specification of Open-edi roles and role attributes	81
8.5 Rules for specification of Open-edi Information Bundles (IBs) and IB attributes	90
8.6 Business requirements on FSV (business demands on Open-edi Support Infrastructure)	97
9 Primitive Open-edi scenario template.....	98
9.1 Purpose	98
9.2 Template Structure and Content	99
10 Requirements on Open-edi description techniques.....	102
10.1 General requirements on Open-edi description techniques	102
10.2 Requirements on OeDTs for roles	103
10.3 Requirements on OeDTs for Information Bundles	104
11 References	104

Annex A (normative) Consolidated list of terms and definitions with cultural adaptability: ISO English and ISO French language equivalency	106
Annex B (normative) Codes representing presence-type attributes: mandatory, conditionals, optionals and not applicable	121
Annex C (informative) Unambiguous identification of entities in (electronic) business transactions	124
Annex D (informative) Existing standards for the unambiguous identification of persons in business transactions (organizations and individuals) and some common policy and implementation considerations	132
Annex E (informative) Business transaction model: person component	152
Annex F (informative) Business transaction model: process component	189
Annex G (informative) Business transaction model: data component	207
Annex H (informative) Effect of classification of scenario constructs.....	223
Annex I (informative) Scenario descriptions using the Open-edi scenario template: "Telecommunications Operations Map" example	228
Annex J (informative) Open-edi and E-commerce: areas of activities and participation.....	266

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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 3.

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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO/IEC 15944 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 15944-1 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 32, *Data management and interchange*.

ISO/IEC 15944 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Business agreement semantic descriptive techniques*:

- *Part 1: Operational aspects of Open-edi for implementation*
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- *Part 2: Registration of scenarios and their components*
- *Part 3: Open-edi description techniques*
- *Part 4: Business transaction scenarios — Accounting and economic ontology*

Annexes A and B form a normative part of this part of ISO/IEC 15944. Annexes C to J are for information only.

0 Introduction

0.1 Purpose and overview

ISO/IEC 14462 Open-edi Reference Model¹⁾ described the conceptual architecture necessary for carrying out Open-edi. That architecture described the need to have two separate and related views of the business activities. The first is the Business Operational View (BOV). The second is the Functional Service View (FSV). Figure 1 from ISO/IEC 14662 illustrates the Open-edi environment (for definitions of the terms in Figure 1 use 3.1).

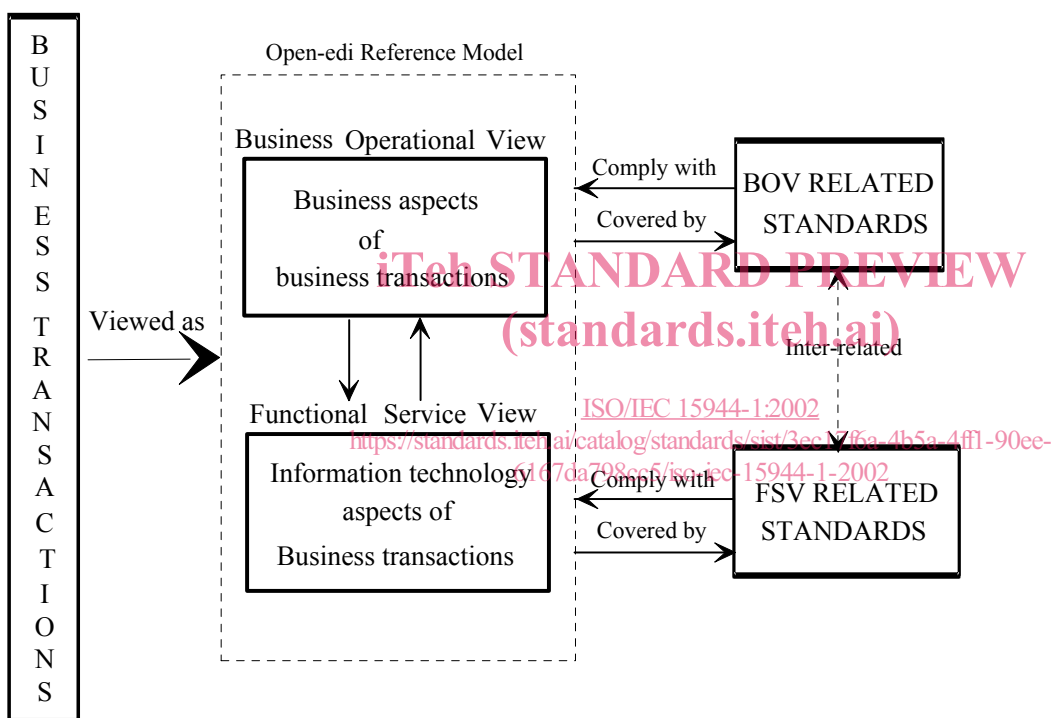


Figure 1 — Open-edi environment

In the BOV, the requirements that the business puts on the exchange of information are described using a modelling technique. ISO/IEC 14462 recognized that there was no single modelling technique identified whilst the IS was in preparation that would satisfy all of the conditions which could be identified that the FSV would need as input. It was also recognized that business users would need a selection of modelling tools since some tools appear to be better suited to particular types of business specifications and descriptions than others.

1) ISO/IEC 14662 Information technology - Open-edi Reference Model/Technologies de l'information - Modèle de référence EDI-ouvert. The English and French versions of this ISO/IEC standard are publicly available. {See <http://www.jtc1.org>}

To provide for a situation where business users may select from a range of modelling systems, selection criteria identifying the characteristics which any suitable modelling system must be able to support have to be defined. These criteria can be used in two ways. One is to be able to select a suitable modelling system. Another is to identify shortcomings in a modelling system currently in use so that the users can provide the extra information themselves if they prefer to use that modelling system.

The BOV is used to capture the business processes from the business perspective, but there are other things that the BOV would not capture because they are part of the operation of the Open-edi architecture itself. One example is that a process must be able to relate to specific Information Bundles. This relationship has to be precise because any supporting computer application has to be able to respond to the information structure that it receives as a result of a message from another Open-edi user. Another example is the need to provide for the ability to trigger an action because an event has not occurred (a message has been sent but no response has taken place). Therefore it is necessary to identify those characteristics which are not expected to be captured in the BOV but are required by computer systems developers in their work on the FSV.

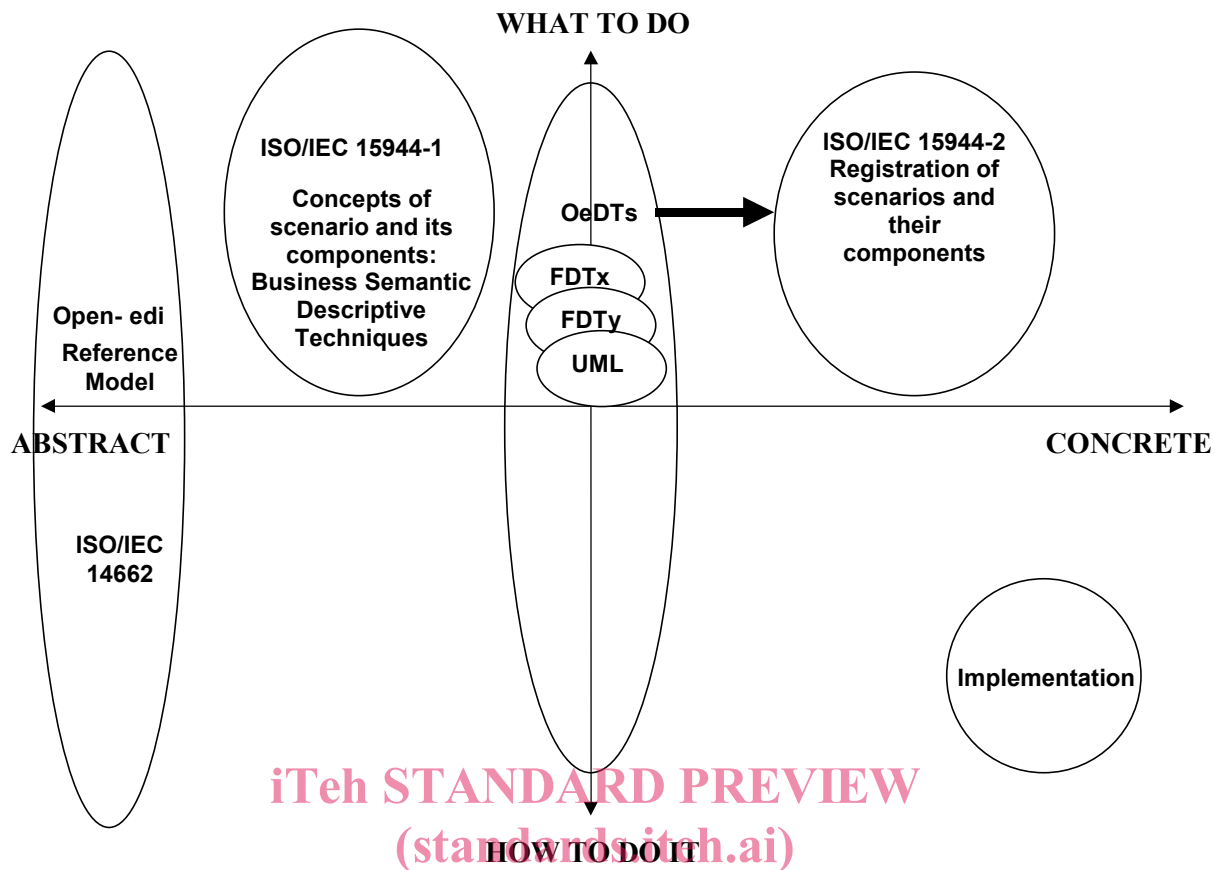
The FSV is used to express the technical methods by which the parts of the business processes used in Open-edi are developed. The FSV has to address the definition, development and lifecycle management of Information Bundles consisting of Semantic Components, together with any rules which are essential to their management and operation.

The FSV is a specification of the way in which the exchange of information is managed. It does not specify the syntax used to encode or represent information that is being exchanged. The selection of a suitable syntax is left to the EDI implementers, just as the selection of the data interchange service on which messages are sent and received is left to networking specialists. Appropriate specialists must ensure that these syntaxes and services are able to satisfy overarching communications requirements such as security services if these are not to be supported through the FSV.

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In summary, this standard is the first of a multi-part standard that focuses on aspects of "What to do" as opposed to "How to do it," as shown in Figure 2. Existing standards/tools will be used to the extent possible for the "How to." The second part of this standard focuses on identification, registration, referencing and re-use of scenarios, their attributes and components. (See further 0.6)

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Figure 2 — Aspects of ISO/IEC 15944
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0.2 Requirements on the business operational view aspects of Open-edi

The evolution of information and communications technologies has created a need and opportunity for different user groups to engage in business relationships using these technologies. This requires automated methods to carry out EDI among organizations.

Standards required for Open-edi cover a large spectrum of areas and include commercial aspects, support for national and international laws and regulations, information technology perspectives, telecommunications and interconnections, security service, etc. To these are added public policy requirements of a generic and horizontal nature such as consumer protection, privacy, etc. Annex A in the ISO/IEC 14662 describes how the Open-edi Reference Model serves as the basis for coordination of work of different standardization areas and types of standardization for Open-edi.

In addition, the widespread adoption and use of Internet and World Wide Web (WWW)-based technologies by organizations as well as individuals has added urgency to the need to identify and specify the key components of a business transaction. For such specifications to be carried out as electronic business transactions supported by automated methods of the functional support services (FSV) requires a standards-based approach for business semantic descriptive techniques in support of the Business Operational View of Open-edi.

The sources of requirements on the Business Operational View (BOV) aspects which need to be integrated and/or taken into account in the development of business descriptive techniques for Open-edi based business transactions include²⁾:

- commercial frameworks and associated requirements;
- legal frameworks and associated requirements;
- public policy requirements particularly those of a generic nature such as consumer protection, privacy, etc.;
- sectorial and cross-sectorial requirements;
- requirements arising from the need to support cultural adaptability requirements. This includes meeting localization and multilingualism requirements, i.e., as may be required to meet requirements of a particular jurisdiction or desired for providing a good, service, and/or right in a particular market.³⁾ Here distinguishing between information technology (IT) interfaces and their multiple human interface equivalents is the recommended approach. (For an example, see Annex B below.)

Figure 3 provides an integrated view of the business operational requirements.

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2) This list of sources of requirements is a summary of Annexes A and B of ISO/IEC 14662:1997 Open-edi Reference Model; (titles in English and French):

- Annex A (Informative) Standardization areas and types of standardization activities [ISO/IEC 14662 (E) pages 25-29]/Annexe A (Informative) Domaines de normalisation et types d'activités de normalisation pour l'EDI-ouvert [ISO/IEC 14662 (F) pages 26-30];
- Annex B (Informative) Requirements for Open-edi standards [ISO/IEC 14662 (E) pages 30-33]/Annexe B (Informative) Exigences portant sur les normes d'EDI-ouvert. [ISO/IEC 14662 (F) pages 31-35].

3) See further the Chapter 6 "Horizontal Aspects" (pages 22-28) of the "Report of the ISO/IEC JTC1 Business Team on Electronic Commerce" (ISO/IEC JTC1 N5296).

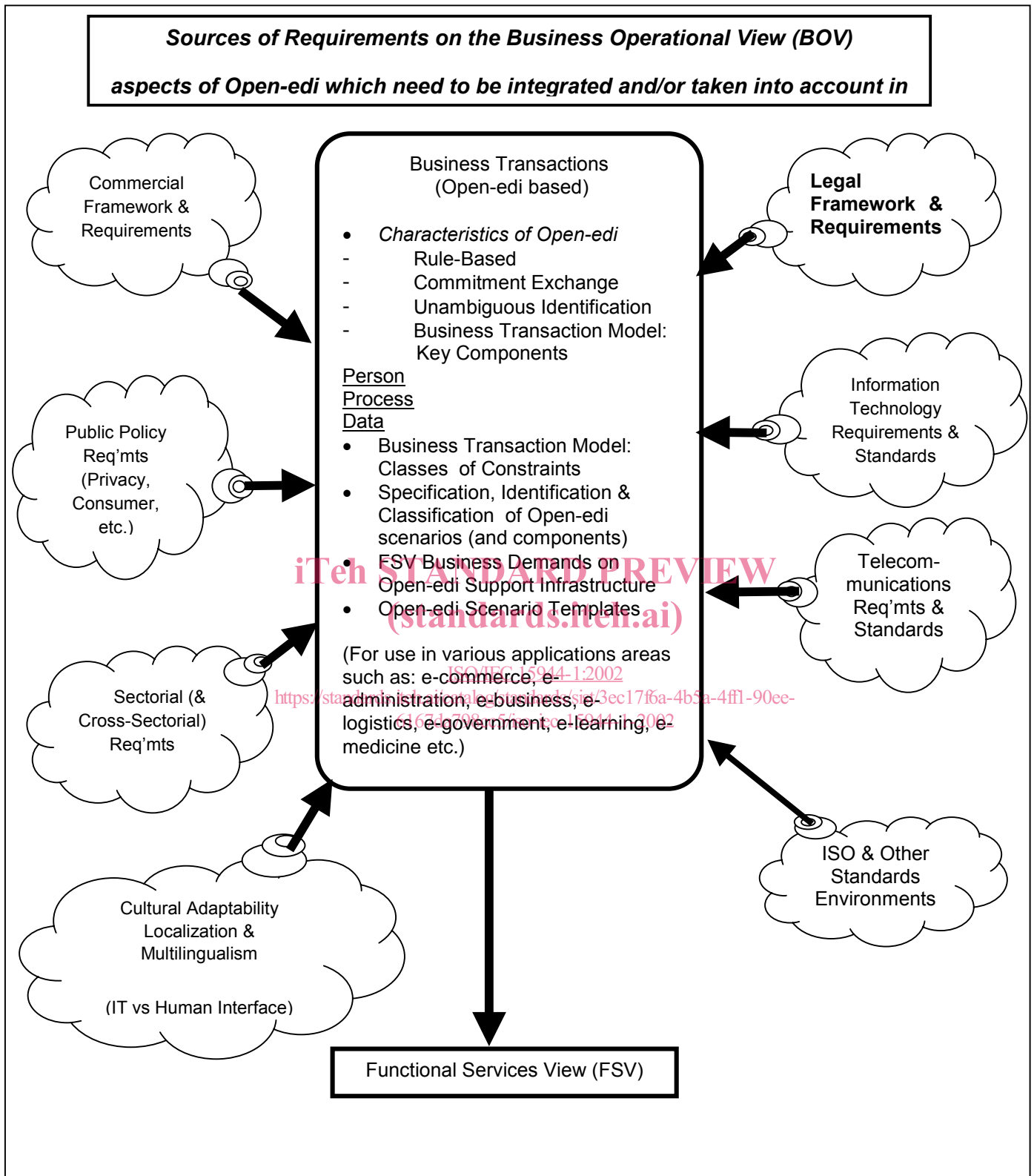


Figure 3 — Integrated View — Business Operational Requirements

0.3 Business operational view (BOV), Open-edi and E-commerce, E-business, etc.

The purpose of this part of the introduction is to provide users with an understanding of the relationship between concepts/terms in this standard and concepts/terms such as “electronic commerce”, “electronic administration”, “electronic business”, etc.

Concepts/terms such as “edi”, and now e-commerce, (and its compatriots such as e-administration, e-business, e-government, e-logistics, e-travel, e-tailing, etc.), have a high profile among users and suppliers alike including those working in standardization. These concepts/terms have many different meanings in various contexts and perspectives.⁴⁾ In addition, marketing people and those seeking to raise investment funds do and will continue to use “e-” words in a variety of ways.

The underlying principles and characteristics of e-commerce and e-administration, e-business etc., include:

- being business transaction-based (of both a financial and non-financial nature);
- using information technology (computers and telecommunications);
- interchanging electronic data involving establishment of commitments among Persons⁵⁾.

From a commercial, legal and standardization perspective, one can view electronic commerce as:

electronic commerce

a category of *business transactions*, involving two or more *Persons*, enacted through electronic data interchange, based on a monetary and for profit basis (Persons can be individuals, organizations, and/or public administrations)

Consequently, interpretations and use of the concepts/terms, “e-commerce”, “e-business”, “e-administration”, etc., which do not require:

- 1) a clearly understood purpose, mutually agreed upon goal(s), explicitness and unambiguity;
- 2) pre-definable set(s) of activities and/or processes; pre-definable and structured data;
- 3) commitments among persons being established through electronic data interchange;
- 4) computational integrity and related characteristics; and,
- 5) the above being specifiable through Formal Description Techniques (FDTs)⁶⁾ and executable through information technology systems for use in real world actualizations;

are not considered a priority for this standard and are likely to be outside its scope.

These five requirements are essential for achieving interoperability from a BOV perspective (just as existing computer and telecommunication standards have as a key objective interoperability from an IT perspective).

4) The ISO/IEC JTC1 Business Team on Electronic Commerce (BT-EC) in its Report to JTC1 stated (p.9)

“BT-EC recognizes that Electronic Commerce (EC) can be defined in many different ways. But rather than attempting to provide a satisfactory definition, the Team has chosen to take a more heuristic approach to EC and to do so from a global perspective, i.e., world-wide, cross-sectorial, multilingual, various categories of participants (including consumers)”.

ISO/IEC JTC1 N5296 "Report to JTC1: Work on Electronic Commerce Standardization to be initiated". 4 May 1998, 74 p.

5) In this standard the term “party(ies)” is used in its generic context independent of roles or categories of “Person”. It assumes that a party has the properties of a “Person”.

6) The Formal Description Technique (FDT) used in support of this standard is "Unified Modelling Language (UML). UML is being progressed as new international standard ISO/IEC 19501 by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7 titled "*Information technology — Unified Modeling Language (UML) — Part 1: Specification [Technologies de l'information — Langage de modélisation unifié (UML) — Partie 1: Spécification]*".

0.4 Use of “Person”, “person”, and “party” in the context of business transactions and commitment exchange

When the ISO/IEC 14662 Open-edi Reference Model standard was being developed, the “Internet” and “WWW” were an embryonic stage and their impact on private and public sector organizations was not fully understood. The Business Operational View (BOV) was therefore initially defined as:

- “a perspective of business transactions limited to those aspects regarding the making of business decisions and commitments among organizations which are needed for the description of a business transaction”.

The existing and widely-used ISO/IEC 6523 standard definition of “organization” was used in ISO/IEC 14662. The fact that today Open-edi through the Internet and WWW also involves “individuals” has now been taken into account in this standard. Further, ISO/IEC 14662 did not define “commitment”, nor the discrete properties and behaviors an entity must have to be capable of making a “commitment” as well as bridging legal and IT perspectives in the dematerialized world of the Internet.

During the development of ISO/IEC 15944-1 the term “commitment” was defined. At the same time it was recognized that in order to be able to make a commitment, the term Open-edi Party was not specific enough to satisfy scenario specifications when the legal aspects of commitment were considered. In many instances commitments were noted as being actually made between and among machines (automata or computer programs) acting under the direction of those legally capable of making commitment, rather than the individuals in their own capacities. It was also recognized that in some jurisdictions commitment could be made by ‘artificial’ persons such as corporate bodies. Finally, it was recognized that there are occasions where agents act, either under the instruction of a principal or as a result of requirement(s) laid down by a jurisdiction, or where an individual is prevented by a relevant jurisdiction from being able to make commitment.

To address these extended requirements an additional term: Person, was defined. The construct of Person has been defined in such a way that it is capable of having the potential legal and regulatory constraints applied to it.

The reader should understand that:

- the use of the Person with a capital “P” represents Person as a defined term in this standard, i.e., as the entity within an Open-edi Party that carries the legal responsibility for making commitment(s);
- “individual”, “organization” and “public administration” are defined terms representing the three common sub-types of “Person”;
- the words “person(s)” and/or “party(ies)” are used in their generic contexts independent of roles of “Person” as defined sub-types in this standard. A “party to a business transaction” has the properties and behaviors of a “Person”. {See further below Clause 6, and in particular 6.1.3 and 6.2}.

0.5 Organization and description of the document

This document describes the key concepts required for developing the BOV of a business transaction and scenario. It considers how a scenario may be decomposed into functions and how the different classes of constraints to be applied shall be identified and documented. It provides for methods of modeling processes, work flow and information flow. This standard provides methods for identifying primitive or common components so that there is a) high likelihood of reusability and b) ability to locate suitable components in registries. A key purpose of this standard is to enable support of legal and regulatory requirements in business transactions.

The document provides two checklists to guide the reader through the mechanics of determining the scope of a business transaction and determining the adequacy of the scenario definition as well as those of scenario components. The definitions of scenarios and scenario components must be accessible to all organizations in order to minimize resources needed to communicate between parties in a clear and unambiguous manner. Designers must therefore ensure that scenarios and components are designed to be interoperable and re-useable. They must also be clearly described such that a recipient can interpret them without external information.

This standard focuses on addressing horizontal, generic issue common to all Open-edi applications and does so from the BOV perspective on business transactions. The diversity of sources of requirements that need to be integrated is illustrated in Figure 3. In addition, this standard is also intended to be used by those not that familiar with formal ISO/IEC standards.

To address these requirements and to ensure understandability and thus widespread use of this standard, a series of informative annexes has been developed and is included. The purpose of these informative annexes is to provide added informative and explanatory text to the normative part of this standard. They have been organized to mirror the sequence of the clauses of the normative part. Users who have difficulty in understanding the necessary short, explicit text of the normative part of this standard are advised to read the related informative and explanatory text in the Annexes.

0.6 Registration aspects of Open-edi scenarios, scenario attributes and scenario components

Part 1 of the standard serves as the methodology and tool for building and defining scenarios, scenario attributes, and scenario components. It identifies these basic or primitive components of a business transaction, provides guidelines for scoping Open-edi scenarios as well as rules for specification of Open-edi scenarios and their components. It consolidates these through a "Primitive Open-edi Scenario Template". {See further Clause 9}. Registration aspects of Open-edi, including requirements, procedures, etc. are covered in Part 2 of the ISO/IEC 15944 standard titled "*Information technology - Business Agreement Semantic Descriptive Techniques - Part 2: Registration of Scenarios, Scenario Attributes and Scenario Components*". Part 2 supports the registration of scenarios, scenario attributes and scenario components as "objects". The objective of Part 2 here is the identification, registration, referencing and re-useability of common objects in a business transaction. Re-useability of scenarios and scenario components is an achievable objective because existing (global) business transactions, whether conducted on a for-profit or not for profit basis, already consist of reusable components unambiguously understood among participating parties. However, such existing "standard" components have not yet been formally specified and registered. Part 2 fills this gap.

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Information technology — Business agreement semantic descriptive techniques —

Part 1: Operational aspects of Open-edi for implementation

1 Scope

Integrated business operational view (BOV)

The Open-edi Reference Model (ISO/IEC 14662, Section 4) states:

"The intention is that the sending, by an Open-edi Party, of information from a scenario, conforming to Open-edi standards, shall allow the acceptance and processing of that information in the context of that scenario by one or more Open-edi Parties by reference to the scenario and without the need for agreement. However, the legal requirements and/or liabilities resulting from the engagement of an organization in any Open-edi transaction may be conditioned by the competent legal environment(s) or the formation of a legal interchange agreement between the participating organizations. Open-edi Parties need to observe rule-based behavior and possess the ability to make commitments in Open-edi (e.g., business, operational, technical, legal and/or audit perspectives)."

[ISO/IEC 15944-1:2002](https://standards.iso.org/iso-iec/15944-1:2002)

This BOV-related standard addresses the fundamental requirements of the commercial and legal frameworks and their environments on business transactions, and also integrates the requirements of the information technology and telecommunications environments.

In addition to the existing strategic directions of "portability" and "interoperability", the added strategic direction of ISO/IEC JTC1 of "cultural adaptability" is supported in this standard. This BOV standard also supports requirements arising from the public policy/consumer environment, cross-sectorial requirements and the need to address horizontal issues.⁷⁾ This BOV standard integrates these different sets of requirements. See above Figure 3.

This standard allows constraints (which include legal requirements, commercial and/or international trade and contract terms, public policy (e.g. privacy/data protection, product or service labelling, consumer protection), laws and regulations) to be defined and clearly integrated into Open-edi through the BOV. This means that terms and definitions in this standard serve as a common bridge among these different sets of business operational requirements allowing the integration of code sets and rules defining these requirements to be integrated into business processes electronically.

This standard contains a methodology and tool for specifying common business practices as parts of common business transactions in the form of scenarios, scenario attributes, roles, Information Bundles and Semantic Components. It achieves this by 1) developing standard computer processable specifications of common business rules and practices as scenarios and scenario components; and thus 2) maximizing the re-use of these components in business transactions.

7) See further on these requirements the [Recommendations of the ISO/IEC JTC1 Business Team on Electronic Commerce \(BT-EC\)](#) [Ref: ISO/IEC JTC1 N5296].