
**Information technology —
Telecommunications and information
exchange between systems —
Application session services**

*Technologies de l'information — Télécommunications et échange
d'information entre systèmes — Services de session d'application*

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
1.1 Overview	1
1.2 Template Description	1
2 Conformance	2
2.1 Application Conformance	2
2.2 Server Conformance	2
3 Normative references	2
4 Service Definitions	3
4.1 Start Application Session	3
4.1.1 Service Request	3
4.1.2 Service Response	4
4.1.3 Functional Requirements	4
4.2 Stop Application Session	5
4.2.1 Service Request	5
4.2.2 Service Response	5
4.2.3 Functional Requirements	6
4.3 Reset Application Session Timer	6
4.3.1 Service Request	6
4.3.2 Service Response	6
4.3.3 Functional Requirements	7
4.4 Application Session Terminated	7
4.4.1 Service Request	7
4.4.2 Service Response	7
4.4.3 Functional Requirements	8
5 Schema Definitions	8
5.1 Start Application Session	8
5.2 Stop Application Session	10
5.3 Reset Application Session Timer	11
5.4 Application Session Terminated	12
Annex A (informative) Examples	14
Annex B (informative) CSTA Usage Notes	18
Bibliography	19

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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

ISO/IEC 22534 was prepared by Ecma International (as ECMA-354) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Telecommunications and information exchange between systems*, in parallel with its approval by national bodies of ISO and IEC.

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Introduction

This International Standard defines Ecma Application Session Services – a set of XML-based services used to establish and maintain an application session for exchanging application messages.

The application session established by this International Standard is independent of the underlying transport protocol (TCP, HTTP, etc.) for exchanging application messages.

Sessions for application protocols such as CSTA-XML (ECMA-323) may be established using this International Standard.

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Information technology — Telecommunications and information exchange between systems — Application session services

1 Scope

The services defined in this International Standard are used to establish and maintain a relationship between an application and a server for the purpose of exchanging application messages. For the purpose of this International Standard this relationship is called an application session.

Application protocols, such as ECMA-323, require that an application session is established before application messages are exchanged. ECMA-269 specifies several mechanisms for establishing an application context. One possible mechanism is ACSE (ISO/IEC 8649) – but since ASCE uses ASN.1 encoding for its services, it is not desirable for use with XML based protocols such as ECMA-323.

This International Standard provides an XML-based alternative for establishing application sessions.

1.1 Overview

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The Ecma Application Session Services consist of the following services:

- Start Application Session. This service is used by an application to establish an application session with a server. A globally unique sessionID is returned by the server in the response message. The sessionID is used in other services to address the session as long as the session exists.
- Stop Application Session. This service is used by an application to stop an application session.
- Reset Application Session Timer. This service is used by an application to reset the timer associated with an application session. If the application timer is not reset before it expires, the application session will be terminated.
- Application Session Terminated – This service is used by the server to indicate that the application session has been abnormally terminated (i.e. not via the Stop Application Session service).

1.2 Template Description

The services specified in Clause 4 include tables that contain the following columns:

- Parameter Name – the name that is used to reference the parameter. This corresponds to the XML element name specified in Clause 5.
- Type – the format of the parameter. This corresponds to the XML element type used in the XML schema definition in Clause 5.
- M/O – the Mandatory/Optional aspect of the parameter. Mandatory parameters must be included in the corresponding XML instance document while optional parameters may be omitted.
- Description – Describes the purpose of the parameter.

2 Conformance

This Clause specifies the conformance requirements for an application and a server to conform to this International Standard.

2.1 Application Conformance

In order to conform to this International Standard an application shall:

- 1) Support the following services as follows:
 - b) Sending the Start Application Session service and all of the mandatory aspects of this service as specified in Clause 4.
 - c) Sending the Stop Application Session service and all of the mandatory aspects of this service as specified in Clause 4.
 - d) Sending the Reset Application Session service and all of the mandatory aspects of this service as specified in Clause 4.
 - e) Receiving the Application Session Terminated service and all of the mandatory aspects of this service as specified in Clause 4.
- 2) Send and receive XML Instance documents according to the XML Schema specified in Clause 5 in this International Standard for the services listed in item 1.

2.2 Server Conformance

In order to conform to this International Standard a server shall:

- 1) Support the following services as follows:
 - a) Receiving the Start Application Session service and all of the mandatory aspects of this service as specified in Clause 4.
 - b) Receiving the Stop Application Session service and all of the mandatory aspects of this service as specified in Clause 4.
 - c) Receiving the Reset Application Session service and all of the mandatory aspects of this service as specified in Clause 4.
 - d) Sending the Application Session Terminated service and all of the mandatory aspects of this service as specified in Clause 4.
- 2) Send and receive XML Instance documents according to the XML Schema specified in Clause 5 in this International Standard for the services listed in item 1.

3 Normative references

This Clause has no content in this document.

4 Service Definitions

4.1 Start Application Session

The Start Application Session service is used to initiate an application session between an application and a server.

A globally unique identifier, called a sessionID, is returned in the positive service response that identifies the application session.

Once an application session is established, the server must maintain information associated with the application session. When the application session is terminated, the application context information is cleared.

The application session exists until:

- it is stopped by using a Stop Application Session service
- the session is abnormally terminated by the server as indicated by the Application Session Terminated service (e.g., due to the session timer expiry)
- etc.

4.1.1 Service Request

Table 4-1 — Start Application Session – Service Request

Parameter Name	Type	M/O	Description
applicationInfo	Sequence	M	Specifies information associated with the application requesting the application session. This information consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applicationID (M) – a character string that identifies the application requesting the application association. • applicationSpecificInfo (O) – this consists of a list of one or more implementation specific attributes associated with the application requesting the application association.
requestedProtocolVersions	List of character strings	M	Specifies one or more application protocol versions that the application wishes to use for the application association. The list is ordered by highest priority protocol version first. The server shall choose the highest priority protocol version that it supports and return the chosen protocol version in the positive response. The character string specifying a specific protocol must be a globally unique string (e.g., a standardized namespace (URI) that indicates a given protocol version).
requestedSessionDuration	Value	O	Specifies the length of time (in seconds) that the application session should be maintained. The sessionDuration timer can be periodically refreshed via the Reset Application Session Timer service. If the requestedSessionDuration is not provided the server will choose a default sessionDuration value.
extensions	Sequence	O	Specifies non-standardized information.

4.1.2 Service Response

4.1.2.1 Positive Acknowledgement

Table 4-2 — Start Application Session – Positive Service Response

Parameter Name	Type	M/O	Description
sessionID	Character String	M	Specifies the globally unique identifier associated with the application session that has been created.
actualProtocolVersion	Character String	M	Specifies the protocol version that is being used for the application session. This protocol version shall be one of the protocol versions specified in the service request.
actualSessionDuration	Value	M	Specifies the value for the length of time (in seconds) that the application session will be maintained by the server. This value may be less than or equal to the requestedSessionDuration in the service request. If the requestedSessionDuration is not provided in the service request, the server shall provide a default value which shall be used for the application session.
extensions	Sequence	O	Specifies non-standardized information.

4.1.2.2 Negative Acknowledgement

Table 4-3 — Start Application Session – Negative Service Response

Parameter Name	Type	M/O	Description
errorCode	Character String	M	Specifies the type of error. Either a standardized error or an application specific error may be used. The standardized set of errors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> invalidApplicationInfo – the server is unable to establish an application session due to invalid or unrecognized information in the applicationInfo parameter. requestedProtocolVersionNotSupported – none of the requested protocol versions specified in the service request are supported. serverResourcesBusy – the server cannot establish an application session due to internal resource constraints. maxNumberSessions – the server cannot create an application session because it has reached the maximum number of allowed application sessions (e.g. license/provisioning limitations).
extensions	Sequence	O	Specifies non-standardized information.

4.1.3 Functional Requirements

1. The sessionID returned in the response is used in other Ecma Application Session services to manage the application session.
2. The positive response includes the actual value of the sessionDuration used for the specified application session. This value may be less than what the application requested in the service request.

3. For an existing session, an application can restart the sessionDuration timer by using the Reset Application Session Timer service.
4. Once the sessionDuration timer expires the server shall terminate the application session and clear any application context information associated with the application session.
5. Mechanisms defined outside of this International Standard may be used to authenticate a user before an application session is started.

4.2 Stop Application Session

The Stop Application Session service is used by the application to terminate an existing application session.

4.2.1 Service Request

Table 4-4 — Stop Application Session – Service Request

Parameter Name	Type	M/O	Description
sessionID	Character String	M	Specifies the globally unique identifier associated with the application session that is being stopped.
sessionEndReason	Character String	O	Specifies the reason that the application session is being stopped. Either a standardized reason or an application specific reason may be used. The standardized set of reasons are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • normal – the application is no longer interested in maintaining this application association.
extensions	Sequence	O	Specifies non-standardized information.

ISO/IEC 22534:2005

4.2.2 Service Response

4.2.2.1 Positive Acknowledgement

Table 4-5 — Stop Application Session – Positive Service Response

Parameter Name	Type	M/O	Description
extensions	Sequence	O	Specifies non-standardized information.

4.2.2.2 Negative Acknowledgement

Table 4-6 — Stop Application Session – Negative Service Response

Parameter Name	Type	M/O	Description
errorCode	Character String	M	Specifies the type of error. Either a standardized error or an application specific error may be used. The standardized set of errors are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invalidSessionID – the sessionID is not valid or known by the server.
extensions	Sequence	O	Specifies non-standardized information.