## INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## 17203

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### Information technology — Open Virtualization Format (OVF) specification

Technologies de l'information — Spécification du format de virtualisation ouvert (OVF)

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### CONTENTS

2       Normative References	Fore	eword	iii			
3   Terms and Definitions   2     4   Symbols and Abbreviated Terms   4     5   OVF Packages   4     5.1   OVF Package Structure   4     5.2   Virtual Disk Formats   6     5.3   Distribution as a Single File   6     5.4   Distribution as a Step of Files   7     6   OVF Descriptor   7     7   Envelope Element   8     7.1   File References   9     7.2   Content Element   10     7.3   Extensibility   11     7.4   Conformance   12     8   Virtual Hardware Description   13     8.1   Virtual Hardware Description   13     8.2   Extensibility   14     8.3   Virtual Hardware Elements   1     9   Core Metadata Sections   1     9   Core Metadata Sections   1     9   1   DiskSection   19     9   2   NetworkSection   19     9   2   NetworkSection   21     9   4   AnnotationSection installation installation installation installation installation installation installation   22     9   5   ProductSection   26     9   8   DeploymentOptionSection   26     9   9   DistallSection   26     9   1   DistallSection   27     9   OperatingSystemSection   29     9   10   InstallSection   29     9   10   InstallSection   29     9   10   InstallSection   29     11   OVF Environment   31     11   Environment Document   31     11   Environment Document   31     11   Transport   34     ANNEX A (informative) Cyf XSD   36    ANNEX B (informative) CVF XSD   36	1	Scope	1			
44       Symbols and Abbreviated Terms       4         50       OVF Packages       4         5.1       OVF Package Structure       4         5.2       Virtual Disk Formats       6         5.3       Distribution as a Single File       6         5.4       Distribution as a Set of Files       7         6       OVF Descriptor       7         7       Envelope Element       8         7.1       File References       9         7.2       Content Element       10         7.3       Extensibility       11         7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       (standards.itch.ai)       19         9.1       DiskSection       (standards.itch.ai)       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.4       AnnotationSection and st.ch.aicmatagestandards.st.ch.aicmatagestandards.st.ch.aicmatagestandards.st.ch.aicmatagestandards.st.ch.aicmatagestandards.st.ch.aicmatagestandards.st.ch.aicmatagestandards.st.ch.aicmatag	2	Normative References				
5.1         OVF Packages         4           5.1         OVF Package Structure         4           5.2         Virtual Disk Formats         6           5.3         Distribution as a Single File         6           5.4         Distribution as a Set of Files         7           6         OVF Descriptor         7           7         Envelope Element         8           7.1         File References         9           7.2         Content Element         10           7.3         Extensibility         11           7.4         Conformance         12           8         Virtual Hardware Description         13           8.1         Virtual Hardware Section         13           8.2         Extensibility         14           8.3         Virtual Hardware Elements         14           8.4         Ranges on Elements         17           9         Core Metadata Sections         (\$\frac{2}{4}\) Structure           9.1         DiskSection         (\$\frac{2}{4}\) Structure           9.2         NetworkSection         19           9.2         NetworkSection         19           9.2         ProductSection structure         21 <td>3</td> <td>Terms and Definitions</td> <td> 2</td>	3	Terms and Definitions	2			
5.1       OVF Packages       4         5.1       OVF Package Structure       4         5.2       Virtual Disk Formats       6         5.3       Distribution as a Single File       6         5.4       Distribution as a Set of Files       7         6       OVF Descriptor       7         7       Envelope Element       8         7.1       File References       9         7.2       Content Element       10         7.3       Extensibility       11         7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       Virtual Hardware Section       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       19         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection Associated Section Section Associated Section Section Associated Section Sect	4					
5.1       OVF Package Structure       4         5.2       Virtual Disk Formats       6         5.3       Distribution as a Single File       6         5.4       Distribution as a Single File       7         6       OVF Descriptor       7         7       Envelope Element       8         7.1       File References       9         7.2       Content Element       10         7.3       Extensibility       11         7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       Virtual Hardware Section       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       14         8.5       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       14         8.5       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.6       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.7       Post Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       19         9.3	5					
5.3       Distribution as a Single File       6         5.4       Distribution as a Set of Files       7         6       OVF Descriptor       7         7       Envelope Element       8         7.1       File References       9         7.2       Content Element       10         7.3       Extensibility       11         7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       VirtualHardware Section       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       ANDARD PREVIEW         9       Core Metadata Sections       14         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       21         9.4       AnnotationSection       21         9.4       AnnotationSection       22         9.5       ProductSection       10         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         9.10       InstallS						
5.4 Distribution as a Set of Files       7         6 OVF Descriptor       7         7 Envelope Element       8         7.1 File References       9         7.2 Content Element       10         7.3 Extensibility       11         7.4 Conformance       12         8 Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1 Virtual Hardware Section       13         8.2 Extensibility       14         8.3 Virtual Hardware Elements       17         9 Core Metadata Sections       14         8.4 Ranges on Elements       17         9 Core Metadata Section       19         9.1 DiskSection       19         9.2 NetworkSection       21         9.3 ResourceAllocationSection       21         9.4 AnnotationSectionadads itch ai/catalag/standards/sist/05c00abb-2454-4169-9981       22         9.5 ProductSection       163/4621a4ad/socien-17203-2011       22         9.6 EulaSection       26         9.8 DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9 OperatingSystemSection       29         10 Internationalization       29         10 Internationalization       29         11 OVF Environment       31         11.1 Environment Document       31<						
66       OVF Descriptor.       7         7       Envelope Element       8         7.1       File References.       9         7.2       Content Element       10         7.3       Extensibility       11         7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       Virtual Hardware Section       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.1       DiskSection       21         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       ISO/IEC 17203-2011       21         9.4       AnnotationSection and substitution and substitutio		5.3 Distribution as a Single File	6			
7 Envelope Element       8         7.1 File References       9         7.2 Content Element       10         7.3 Extensibility       11         7.4 Conformance       12         8 Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1 VirtualHardwareSection       13         8.2 Extensibility       14         8.3 Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4 Ranges on Elements       14         8.4 Ranges on Elements       17         9 Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1 DiskSection       19         9.2 NetworkSection       21         9.3 ResourceAllocationSection       180/JEC 17203-2011         9.3 ResourceAllocationSection       150/JEC 17203-2011         9.4 AnnotationSection       12         9.5 ProductSection       10 Ada21a4a4/socioc. 17203-2011       22         9.6 EulaSection       25         9.7 StartupSection       25         9.8 DeploymentOptionSection       25         9.9 OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10 Internationalization       29         10 Internationalization       29         11 OVF Environment       31         11.1 Environment Document       31		5.4 Distribution as a Set of Files	7			
7.1       File References       9         7.2       Content Element       10         7.3       Extensibility       11         7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       VirtualHardware Section       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       17         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       150/15C.17203.2011         9.1       ProductSection       150/15C.17203.2011       21         9.4       AnnotationSection and site hardstand site hardstand site hardstand site of the site	6	OVF Descriptor	7			
7.2       Content Element       10         7.3       Extensibility       11         7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       Virtual Hardware Section       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements ANDARD PREVIEW       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements I ANDARD PREVIEW       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       (standards.iten.ai)       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection.       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection ISQ/IEC.17203.2011.       21         9.4       AnnotationSection Section ISQ/IEC.17203.2011.       22         9.5       ProductSection Islandards/six/astalog/standards/six/05c00abb-2454.4169.9981-       22         9.5       ProductSection Islandards/six/astalog/standards/six/05c00abb-2454.4169.9981-       22         9.5       ProductSection Islandards/six/astalog/standards/six/05c00abb-2454.4169.9981-       22         9.5       ProductSection Islandards/six/astalog/standards/six/o5c00abb-2454.4169.9981-       22         9.7       StartupSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       26 </td <td>7</td> <td></td> <td></td>	7					
7.3       Extensibility       11         7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       VirtualHardwareSection       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       150/IEC 17203.2011         9.4       AnnotationSections.       21         9.5       ProductSection       16         9.6       EulaSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>						
7.4       Conformance       12         8       Virtual Hardware Description       13         8.1       VirtualHardwareSection       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       ISO/IEC 17203.2011         9.4       AnnotationSectionulards, itch.al/catalog/standards/sist/05c00abb-2454.4169.9981       22         9.5       ProductSection       fla34a21a4ad/iso-icc-17203-2011       22         9.6       EulaSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       26         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2       Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX						
8       Virtual Hardware Description.       13         8.1       Virtual Hardware Section       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       ISO/IEC 17203.2011         9.4       AnnotationSectionsection       21         9.5       ProductSection       10         9.5       ProductSection       25         9.6       EulaSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       25         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       26         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.1       Internationalization       29         10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2<						
8.1       VirtualHardwareSection       13         8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       ISO/IEC 17203.2011         9.4       AnnotationSection Section       ISO/IEC 17203.2011         9.5       ProductSection       22         9.5       ProductSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       26         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         9.10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2       Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) OVF XSD       36        A						
8.2       Extensibility       14         8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       ISO/IEC 17203.2011       21         9.4       AnnotationSectionudards itch alicatalog/standards/sist/05c00abh-2454.4169.9981       22         9.5       ProductSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       26         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2       Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36	8					
8.3       Virtual Hardware Elements       14         8.4       Ranges on Elements       17         9       Core Metadata Sections       19         9.1       DiskSection       19         9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       JSQ/IEC 17203.2011       21         9.4       AnnotationSectionndards, itch.ai/catalog/standards/sist/05c00abb-2454.4169.9981       22         9.5       ProductSection       22         9.6       EulaSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       26         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2       Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36						
9 Core Metadata Sections (Standards:iteh:ai) 19 9.1 DiskSection 19 9.2 NetworkSection 21 9.3 ResourceAllocationSection ISΩ/IEC.17203:2011 21 9.4 AnnotationSection.dards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/05c00abh-2454-4169-9981 22 9.5 ProductSection 61a34a21a4ad/iso-icc-17203-2011 22 9.6 EulaSection 25 9.7 StartupSection 26 9.8 DeploymentOptionSection 27 9.9 OperatingSystemSection 29 9.10 InstallSection 29 10 Internationalization 29 11 OVF Environment 29 11 OVF Environment 31 11.1 Environment Document 31 11.2 Transport 33 ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions 34 ANNEX B (informative) Change Log 35 ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD 36						
9 Core Metadata Sections (Standards:iteh:ai) 19 9.1 DiskSection 19 9.2 NetworkSection 21 9.3 ResourceAllocationSection ISΩ/IEC.17203:2011 21 9.4 AnnotationSection.dards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/05c00abh-2454-4169-9981 22 9.5 ProductSection 61a34a21a4ad/iso-icc-17203-2011 22 9.6 EulaSection 25 9.7 StartupSection 26 9.8 DeploymentOptionSection 27 9.9 OperatingSystemSection 29 9.10 InstallSection 29 10 Internationalization 29 11 OVF Environment 29 11 OVF Environment 31 11.1 Environment Document 31 11.2 Transport 33 ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions 34 ANNEX B (informative) Change Log 35 ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD 36		8.3 VIrtual Hardware Elements	. 14			
9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       ISQ/IEC 17203:2011       21         9.4       AnnotationSection       22         9.5       ProductSection       £0         9.6       EulaSection       £0         9.7       StartupSection       £0         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       £0         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       £0         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       £0         9.10       InstallSection       £0         10       Internationalization       £0         11       OVF Environment       £0         11.1       Environment Document       £0         11.2       Transport       £0         ANNEX A (informative)       Symbols and Conventions       £0         ANNEX B (informative)       Change Log       £0         ANNEX C (normative)       OVF XSD       £0	^					
9.2       NetworkSection       21         9.3       ResourceAllocationSection       ISQ/IEC 17203:2011       21         9.4       AnnotationSection       22         9.5       ProductSection       £0         9.6       EulaSection       £0         9.7       StartupSection       £0         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       £0         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       £0         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       £0         9.10       InstallSection       £0         10       Internationalization       £0         11       OVF Environment       £0         11.1       Environment Document       £0         11.2       Transport       £0         ANNEX A (informative)       Symbols and Conventions       £0         ANNEX B (informative)       Change Log       £0         ANNEX C (normative)       OVF XSD       £0	9	Core Metadata Sections (Standard Sitemai)	. 19			
9.3       ResourceAllocationSection						
9.4       Annotation Section and adds. itch. ai/catalog/standards/sist/05c00abh-2454-4.169-9981-       22         9.5       ProductSection		9.3 Resource Allocation Section ISO/IFC 17203:2011	21			
9.5       ProductSection       £034a21a4ad/iso-icc-17203-2011       22         9.6       EulaSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       26         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2       Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36		9.4 Annotation/Sectionndards iteh ai/catalog/standards/sist/05c00abb-2454-4169-9981-	22			
9.6       EulaSection       25         9.7       StartupSection       26         9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2       Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36		9.5 ProductSection. f0a34a21a4ad/iso-jec-17203-2011	. 22			
9.8       DeploymentOptionSection       27         9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2       Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36						
9.9       OperatingSystemSection       29         9.10       InstallSection       29         10       Internationalization       29         11       OVF Environment       31         11.1       Environment Document       31         11.2       Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36		9.7 StartupSection	. 26			
9.10 InstallSection       29         10 Internationalization       29         11 OVF Environment       31         11.1 Environment Document       31         11.2 Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36						
10 Internationalization       29         11 OVF Environment       31         11.1 Environment Document       31         11.2 Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36						
11 OVF Environment       31         11.1 Environment Document       31         11.2 Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36						
11.1 Environment Document       31         11.2 Transport       33         ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions       34         ANNEX B (informative) Change Log       35         ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD       36	10	Internationalization	. 29			
11.2 Transport	11					
ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions						
ANNEX B (informative) Change Log		·				
ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD	ANNEX A (informative) Symbols and Conventions					
	ANN	ANNEX B (informative) Change Log39				
Dibliography 27	ANN	ANNEX C (normative) OVF XSD36				
bibliography	Bibli	. 37				

### **Tables**

Table 1 – XML Namespace Prefixes	8
Table 2 – Actions for Child Elements with ovf:required Attribute	
Table 3 – HostResource Element	. 16
Table 4 – Elements for Virtual Devices and Controllers	. 17
Table 5 – Core Metadata Sections	. 19
Table 6 – Property Types	. 25
Table 7 – Property Qualifiers	. 25
Table 8 – Core Sections	

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ISO/IEC 17203:2011 https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/05c00abb-2454-4169-9981-f0a34a21a4ad/iso-iec-17203-2011 Foreword (This foreword is not part of American National Standard INCITS 469-2010.)

The Open Virtualization Format (OVF) Specification describes an open, secure, portable, efficient and extensible format for the packaging and distribution of software to be run in virtual machines. The key properties of the format are as follows:

- Optimized for distribution: OVF supports content verification and integrity
  checking based on industry-standard public key infrastructure, and it provides
  a basic scheme for management of software licensing.
- Optimized for a simple, automated user experience: OVF supports validation of the entire package and each virtual machine or metadata component of the OVF during the installation phases of the virtual machine (VM) lifecycle management process. It also packages with the package relevant user-readable descriptive information that a virtualization platform can use to streamline the installation experience.
- Supports both single VM and multiple-VM configurations: OVF supports both standard single VM packages and packages containing complex, multitier services consisting of multiple interdependent VMs.
- Portable VM packaging: OVF is virtualization platform neutral, while also enabling platform-specific enhancements to be captured. It supports the full range of virtual hard disk formats used for hypervisors today, and it is extensible, which allow it to accommodate formats that may arise in the future. Virtual machine properties are captured concisely and accurately.
- Vendor and platform independent: OVF does not rely on the use of a specific host platform, virtualization platform, or guest operating system.
- Extensible: OVF is immediately useful and extensible. It is designed to be extended as the industry moves forward with virtual appliance technology. It also supports and permits the encoding of vendor-specific metadata to support specific vertical markets.
- Localizable: OVF supports user-visible descriptions in multiple locales, and it supports localization of the interactive processes during installation of an appliance. This capability allows a single packaged appliance to serve multiple market opportunities.
- Open standard: OVF has arisen from the collaboration of key vendors in the industry, and it is developed in an accepted industry forum as a future standard for portable virtual machines.

It is not an explicit goal for OVF to be an efficient execution format. A hypervisor is allowed but not required to run software in virtual machines directly out of the Open Virtualization Format.

This standard contains four annexes. Annex C is normative and is considered part of this standard. Annexes A, B, and D are informative and are not considered part of this standard.

Requests for interpretation, suggestions for improvement or addenda, or defect reports are welcome. They should be sent to InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS), ITI, 1101 K Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20005.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by INCITS. Committee approval of this standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, INCITS had the following members:

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The Open Virtualization Format Specification (DSP0243) was prepared by the System Virtualization, Partitioning, and Clustering Working Group of the DMTF.

This specification has been developed as a result of joint work with many individuals and teams, including:

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### American National Standard for Information Technology –

### Open Virtualization Format (OVF) Specification

### 1 Scope

The *Open Virtualization Format (OVF) Specification* describes an open, secure, portable, efficient and extensible format for the packaging and distribution of software to be run in virtual machines.

#### 2 Normative References

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this American National Standard. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this American National Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below.

ANSI/IEEE Standard 1003.1-2008, *IEEE Standard for Information Technology-Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) Base Specifications, Issue 7*, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, December 2008, <a href="http://standards.ieee.org/index.html">http://standards.ieee.org/index.html</a>

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ISO/IEC 17203:2011

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IETF RFC3986, *Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax*, http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3986.txt