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Part 4:
Guidelines for security of cloud services

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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
www.iso.org

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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 2.

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 document 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 27036-4 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *Security techniques*.

ISO/IEC 27036 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Security techniques — Information security for supplier relationships*:

Part 1: Overview and concepts

Part 2: Requirements

Part 3: Guidelines for ICT supply chain security

Part 4: Guidelines for security of cloud services

Introduction

This International Standard provides guidance to cloud service customers and cloud service providers. Its application should result in:

— Increased understanding and definition of information security in cloud services.

— Increased understanding by the customers of the risks associated with cloud services to enhance the specification of information security requirements.

— Increased ability of cloud service providers to provide assurance to customers that they have identified risks in their service(s) and associated supply chains and have taken measures to manage those risks.

This International Standard is intended to be used by all types of organizations that acquire or supply cloud services. The standard is intended primarily for risk owners in cloud service customers, who finally accept the use of the cloud service, and the individual accountable for the cloud service provided by the cloud service provider. The guidance is primarily focused on the initial link of the first cloud service customer and cloud service provider, but the principal steps should be applied throughout the chain, starting when the first cloud service provider changes its role to being a cloud service customer and so on. The manner in which this change of roles is repeated and the manner in which the same steps are repeated for each new cloud service customer-cloud service provider link in the chain is central to this standard. By following the guidance contained within this standard it should be possible to have a seamless linkage of information security priorities visible across the supply chain. Information security concerns related to supplier relationships cover a broad range of scenarios. Organizations that wish to improve trust within their cloud service provision should define their trust boundaries, evaluate the risk associated with their supply chain activities, and then define and implement appropriate risk identification and mitigation techniques to reduce the risk of vulnerabilities being introduced through their cloud service provision supply chain.

The ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 27002 framework and controls provide a useful starting point for identifying appropriate requirements for customers and providers. ISO/IEC 27017 and ISO/IEC 27018 provide guidance on how a cloud service customer and cloud service provider can implement, manage and operate information security for a cloud service. ISO/IEC 27036 (all parts) provides further detail regarding specific requirements to be used in establishing and monitoring information security in supplier relationships. This part of the standard is based upon the premise that a cloud service customer has applied general information security according to an Information Security Management System (ISMS) (ISO/IEC 27001). As a result, much of the content is focused on the cloud service provider and depends on the capabilities type, service category and deployment model of the actual cloud service.

Typically, cloud services are purchased 'as is'; a cloud service customer has no ability to specify or request changes to the cloud service being purchased. However, in certain cases, the customer has the ability to specify the service and the detail of that service, including the information security arrangements required of the supplier. ISO/IEC 27036 is written to cover both of these eventualities. This **part** of the International Standard **(part 4)** is written to cover the first of these eventualities and refers to ISO/IEC 27036 Part 1-3 for the cases when security arrangements can be specified.

For a cloud service customer this means that when reading this standard it should be noted that it is only addressing what are cloud service specific security processes and controls. It is assumed all other general information security processes and controls necessary for the cloud service customer organization are in place to handle information security in the cloud service to be or being used. The general information security processes and controls are found in other ISO/IEC standards and in particular ISO/IEC 27036 part 1-3 and ISO/IEC 27017 and ISO/IEC27018.

Information technology — Security techniques — Information security for supplier relationships — Part 4: Guidelines for security of cloud services

1 Scope

This part of International Standard ISO/IEC 27036 provides cloud service customers and cloud service providers with guidance on:

a) gaining visibility into the information security risks associated with the use of cloud services and managing those risks effectively; and

b) responding to risks specific to the acquisition or provision of cloud services that can have an information security impact on organizations using these services.

This part of ISO/IEC 27036 does not include business continuity management/resiliency issues involved with the cloud service. ISO/IEC 27031 addresses business continuity.

This part of ISO/IEC 27036 does not provide guidance on how a cloud service provider should implement, manage and operate information security. Guidance on those can be found in ISO/IEC 27002 and ISO/IEC 27017.

The scope of this International Standard is to define guidelines supporting the implementation of Information Security Management for the use of cloud services.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Recommendation ITU-T Y.3500 | ISO/IEC 17788:2014, Information technology — Cloud computing — Overview and vocabulary Recommendation ITU-T Y.3502 | ISO/IEC 17789:2014, Information technology — Cloud computing — Reference architecture

Recommendation ITU-T X.1631 | ISO/IEC 27017[1], *Information technology – Security techniques – Code of practice for information security controls for cloud computing services based on ISO/IEC 27002*

ISO/IEC 27036-1, *Information technology – Security techniques – Information security in supplier relationships – Part 1: Overview and concepts*

ISO/IEC 27036-2, *Information technology – Security techniques – Information security in supplier relationships – Part 2: Requirements*

ISO/IEC 27036-3, *Information technology – Security techniques – Information security in supplier relationships – Part 3: Guidelines for ICT supply chain security*

[1] To be published.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 27036-1, ISO/IEC 27036-2, ISO/IEC 27036-3, and “Recommendation ITU-T Y.3500|ISO/IEC 17788 apply.

4 Structure of this International Standard

This International Standard should be used in combination with the other parts within ISO/IEC 27036. This fourth part should be used as additional guidelines for information security specifically addressing cloud services. This standard is structured to be harmonized with ISO/IEC 15288 and ISO/IEC 12207. Clause 6 mirrors lifecycle processes provided in those two standards. This International Standard is also harmonized with ISO/IEC 27017 and provides a mapping of ISO/IEC 27017 information security controls to the life cycle processes in Annex B (informative).

The documents named in this standard are generic and do not need to be elaborated or be separate documents. Organizations should use existing documents to integrate cloud service supply chain security.

5 Key cloud concepts and security threats and risks

5.1 Characteristics of cloud computing

According to the definition of cloud computing, underpinning the cloud capabilities types and cloud service categories are a number of technologies (such as server virtualisation and Service Oriented Architecture) that enable provision of the service. These cloud services typically use shared resources in which a cloud service provider can move and process a cloud service customer’s information to deliver the most efficient service at minimal cost.

ISO/IEC 17788 defines three cloud capabilities types which are typically shared and consumed by many cloud service customers in supplier relationships. The following are the defined capabilities types:

a) Application

b) Infrastructure

c) Platform.

Within the ISO/IEC 27036 series, the terms ‘acquirer’ is used to indicate a stakeholder that procures a product or service from another party and an organization; the term ‘supplier’ is used for an individual that enters into agreement with the acquirer for the supply of a product or service respectively. In this part (ISO/IEC 27036-4), the terms cloud service customer for the acquirer and cloud service provider for the supplier are used to differentiate between the roles in supplier relationships and to highlight specific roles regarding cloud services.

There are differences and similarities in acquisition process between public cloud deployment models and ICT outsourcing as shown in Figure 1. The following highlights differences between use of cloud services based on the public cloud deployment model and other information services:

a) The cloud service is generally standardized with limited flexibilities for customization so that the cloud service customers are charged a specific standard fee for that service.

b) The cloud service provider provides the cloud service customers with pre-determined information security controls.

c) The cloud service provider does not usually accept an audit being conducted by an individual customer.

d) The cloud service customer’s information security depends on the cloud service provider’s ability to implement information security in the cloud service for the customer.

