

# ETSI TS 103 779 V1.1.1 (2022-05)



**SmartM2M;**  
**Requirements and Guidelines for cross-domain  
data usability of IoT devices**

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## Foreword

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This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Smart Machine-to-Machine communications (SmartM2M).

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## Modal verbs terminology

2022-05

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## Introduction

The growth of the number of IoT devices and the data generated by those devices has led to the need to process a large amount of data. Processing such large amounts of data has become more challenging and has led to increased use of automated processing such as machine learning. Effective use of this data for decisions has been seen to depend on the quality of information used for modelling and how the systems work and interact together. The use of machine learning to process data has led to a debate on data gathering, data ownership, data transparency, and data bias that is going well beyond technical matters (privacy, regulation, remuneration schemes). The (negative) impact of poor-quality training data is obvious, especially in health applications, road travel, etc.

IoT devices and platforms also provide data that are used directly by human and very often non-technical users. This is the case for example for medical teams and their patients in the medical sector, mechanics in the automotive sector or first responders in the emergency sector. Trust in the IoT system can be ensured only if these data bring in a real added-value and are delivered in a non-ambiguous manner to these users.

In AI, in many cases, the source of poor or incorrect results is because of machine learning models that have biased outputs which can be traced back to lack of sufficient or poorly classified training data. Developing trained models is time and compute intensive and poor data used in training can result in the need to retrain which can take time (and therefore money). Models based on poor data can have unintended consequences from incorrectly classifying new data that can lead to expensive failures or negative social outcomes. As they become used in more critical use cases the results can be catastrophic, such as could be the case of failure in an autonomous vehicle. Similar impact would arise from poor data when IoT devices provide information to non-technical persons or to monitoring algorithms.

Creating more accurate machine learning models can be greatly enhanced by improving the quality and quantity of classified training sets. To emphasize the point, it is not a lack of data but the lack of classified data that impacts the machine learning algorithms. Recommendations in the present document include clearly describing the generated data at all stages of a machine learning pipeline, including:

- a description of the data from an IoT sensor with a common ontology
- a description of the environment the sensor data was collected with a common ontology
- storage in manner that makes the collected data shareable and discoverable
- classification of the data (either manually or by machine learning algorithms) with a common ontology
- traceability of all the sources of classification

The recommendations captured in the present document address the full machine learning pipeline. For maximum benefit the entire system should apply these recommendations, but each individual component or actor in the system can implement the relevant guidelines to provide a better outcome for the usability of the data generated from sensors and machine learning based solutions.

The intended audience of the present document are IoT sensor module developers, IoT platform and service providers, machine learning model developers, application developers and IoT consumers.

IoT sensor module developers are at the start of the pipeline and improvements in the characterization of data generated by the sensor can have a significant impact on its use throughout the pipeline. The data generated should be described with an appropriate common ontology that will make discovery and use of the data easier.

IoT platform and service providers can make data easily available and easy to annotate with the information needed for proper utilization through the lifecycle of the data generation, classification, and consumption.

Machine Learning algorithm developers will be able to find good data easier and subsequently they will generate better models. Additionally, machine learning models should generate labels with an appropriate common ontology that will make discovery and use of the data easier.

Application developers will be able to find and use machine learning models that are relevant to their application use case and know exactly what data is suitable for a discovered model and which models are suitable for their data sources.

IoT consumers in this context are those intending to make use of a solution that includes an IoT device or system. These recommendations can be used as a checklist for any solution considered for deployment.

# 1 Scope

The present document has the objective:

- to define minimum requirements for data and services usability on professional and general public IoT devices and platforms, whether they are critical or not;
- to develop a horizontal cross-domain specification encompassing these requirements.

## 2 References

### 2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at <https://docbox.etsi.org/Reference>.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] ETSI TS 103 264: "SmartM2M; Smart Applications; Reference Ontology and oneM2M Mapping".
- [2] ETSI EN 303 645: "CYBER; Cyber Security for Consumer Internet of Things: Baseline Requirements".

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NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

- [i.1] ETSI TR 103 778: "SmartM2M; Use cases for cross-domain data usability of IoT devices".
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## 3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

### 3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the terms given in ETSI TR 103 778 [i.1] and the following apply:

**data consumer:** AI, monitoring algorithm or human that uses the data provided by an IoT platform or device

NOTE: After the data consumer has used the data, they remain available for further usage.

**ML algorithms:** specific algorithms used to analyse data as well as any pre-processing or post-processing performed on the data before use in the ML algorithm

### 3.2 Symbols

Void.

### 3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

4G/5G	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Generation (mobile networks)
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AI/ML	Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning
AIOTI	Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation
API	Application Programming Interface
CPU	Central Processing Unit
CSV	Comma Separated Value
DCAT	Data CATalogue vocabulary
HTTP	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol
IoT	Internet of Things
IP	Intellectual Property
JSONLD	JavaScript Object Notation for Linked Data
MIMO	Multiple-Input and Multiple-Output

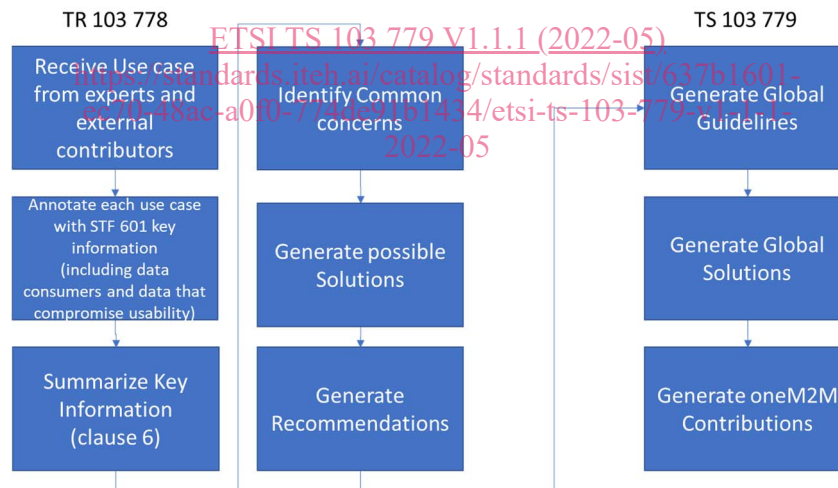


ML	Machine Learning
mMIMO	massive MIMO
NOMA	Non-Orthogonal Multiple Access
RDF	Resource Description Framework
ROI	Return Of Investment
SAREF	Smart Applications REference ontology
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
SKOS	Simple Knowledge Organization System
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
URI	Universal Resource Identifier

## 4 Recommendations for data usability

ETSI TR 103 778 [i.1] identifies and describes use cases where the IoT data and services require data usability for humans and for machines consuming data for AI (for example machine learning). The data that IoT devices and platforms provide should be easily accessed to all authorized users, understood and acted upon by a large non-technical public in the case of humans (e.g. medical teams and their patients in the medical sector, mechanics in the automotive sector, first responders in the emergency sector, etc.) and by machines and processes when the data are fed to the AI components of a system (e.g. machine learning). Its main objective is to analyse these use cases to derive requirements and guidelines towards a horizontal cross-domain standard, with the specification of minimum requirements for data usability of professional and general public IoT services, whether they are critical or not. In that aim, ETSI TR 103 778 [i.1] analyses the impact of these use cases from the data usability point of view for both machines (algorithms and AI/ML) and humans. The present document fulfils one of the standardization gaps identified in the AIOTI report published in 2020 [i.27]. It also includes part of the recommendations that were produced in the use case analysis of ETSI TR 103 582 [i.28].

Potential solutions build up a list of what can mitigate the identified issues with the intent of decreasing the likelihood of these issues. Each use case has been analysed again to determine which potential solutions could be applied and then identify the residual impact assessment, with a goal to have the minimal residual impacts for each use case.



**Figure 1: Link between the use cases and the specifications**

This clause contains a summary describing the major points of attention to consider when an AI system is deployed. It provides a table describing a list of recommendations grouped by type and, for each of them, the recommendation that may be addressed to handle some of the impact to issues raised under the use cases that have been described in ETSI TR 103 778 [i.1]. The aim of this clause is to connect the outcomes of the work performed in ETSI TR 103 778 [i.1] with the set of requirements provided in clause 5.

Table 1: Summary of recommendations in ETSI TR 103 778 [i.1]

Category	Recommendation	Description
Setup	IoT infrastructure/devices bootstrap.	Easy way for sensor data to be directed to a data consumer (human or ML algorithm). Each deployed IoT infrastructure/device has to be properly setup in order to grant an efficient and effective flow of involved data. During the bootstrap operation it is necessary to check if all data gathered by sensors are easily provided to the target data consumers. Target data consumers may be either humans or ML algorithms.
	Data format description and intelligibility.	Data formats used within a deployed IoT infrastructure/device have to be properly described in order to avoid ambiguity for the target data consumers using such data. Target data consumers may be either humans or ML algorithms.
Configuration	Mitigation of data heterogeneity.	A complex IoT infrastructure/device may include data produced by means of different data formats (e.g. different sensor manufacturers, external API services). It may be necessary to foresee operations to mitigate the data heterogeneity. Such an operation is necessary to standardize the input data format exploited by ML algorithms and/or humans. Use of ontologies thought for specific domains (e.g. SAREF [1]) can be foreseen.
	Data quality.	Each IoT infrastructure/device has to be accompanied with appropriate metadata (e.g. accuracy) for each data source used, of the granularity and frequency with which each data source provides data. Such information is exploited for determining the reliability and suitability of data sources in different scenarios as well as for understanding how to configure ML algorithms to better exploit such data.
Machine Learning or monitoring output	Explainability.	Transparency is one of the most important challenges to address in ML field. Associated with the output produced by a ML algorithm (e.g. classification of an object based on the features provided as input), it is important to reconstruct the classification process through the meaning provided to the data of interest generated such a classification.
	Terminology.	Misunderstanding concerning the usage of terms is common. The definition of a precise vocabulary associated with the output produced by ML algorithms and with the meaning of each data feature is recommended. The usage of an ontology may be a proper way for providing such a terminology.
	Output management.	Output provided by ML algorithms has to be stored and described within an effective and efficient repository. Such a repository works as an enabler for making data easy to find for target data consumers and for supporting the retrieval and understanding of important information linked with them.
	Data duplication.	Data duplication is an issue that may affect the effectiveness of ML algorithms. This may happen when multiple instances of the same raw data are stored within the same repository. This fact may lead to the generation of biases during the building/update of classification models due to the usage of same data instance more than once.
	Traceability.	It is necessary to reconstruct the classification process through the identification of the ML modules providing specific outputs. This need is the basis for preserving the traceability of the data flow within the entire infrastructure.
IoT system operation	Data coordinates.	IoT infrastructure/device has to label data provided with both timing and location information when they are used in scenarios exploiting such information.
	Data access.	The deployment of an IoT infrastructure/device has to ensure a precise policy for managing the authorization to access data by all authorized data consumers and not authorized data consumers.
	IoT data interoperability.	IoT infrastructure/device may include IoT devices provided by different manufacturers adopting, in turn, different data format and exporting methods. It is recommended the integration of data interoperability modules for supporting the effective and efficient sharing of data provided between different IoT systems.

Category	Recommendation	Description
	Maintenance of IoT infrastructure/devices.	Complex IoT infrastructure/device has to define a maintenance policy ensuring the proper monitoring and maintenance of all components.
Security	Preservation of integrity, privacy and security.	All components of the deployed IoT infrastructure/device have to be compliant with standards and regulations related to privacy and security of data. Specific procedures have to be put in place for avoiding/managing data integrity breaches.

## 5 Requirements and guidelines for preserving data usability

### 5.1 General considerations

This clause contains the essential requirements to follow for preserving the data usability. Here, an abstract conceptual model is provided for giving unambiguous definitions of each guideline and, at the same time, to pave the way for future developments.

With respect to the content of Annex A, this clause provides the main contribution towards the objectives of the present document, i.e. the set of requirements to preserve the data usability aspect within IoT-based systems. While, in Annex A, the intention is to provide a more in-depth analysis of specific research-wise aspects associated with data usability that have been analysed in the literature and that are relevant for the topic treated in the present document.

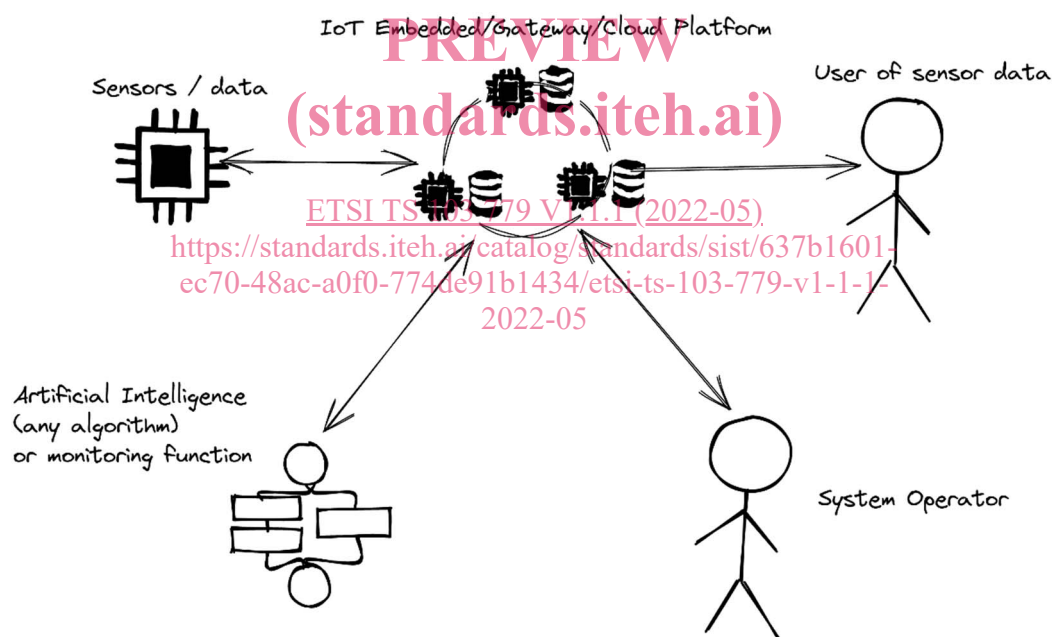


Figure 2: Architecture of an ML deployment