
**Space data and information transfer
systems — Space link extension --
Application program interface for the
forward space packet service**

*Systèmes de transfert des informations et données spatiales — Extension de
liaisons spatiales — Interface du programme d'application pour le service
d'envoi de données spatiales par paquets*

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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
Web www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Foreword

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ISO 18446 was prepared by the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) (as CCSDS 916.3-M-2, September 2015) and was adopted (without modifications except those stated in clause 2 of this International Standard) by Technical Committee ISO/TC 20, *Aircraft and space vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Space data and information transfer systems*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18446:2013), which has been technically revised.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) is an organization officially established by the management of its members. The Committee meets periodically to address data systems problems that are common to all participants, and to formulate sound technical solutions to these problems. Inasmuch as participation in the CCSDS is completely voluntary, the results of Committee actions are termed **Recommendations** and are not in themselves considered binding on any Agency.

CCSDS Recommendations take two forms: **Recommended Standards** that are prescriptive and are the formal vehicles by which CCSDS Agencies create the standards that specify how elements of their space mission support infrastructure shall operate and interoperate with others; and **Recommended Practices** that are more descriptive in nature and are intended to provide general guidance about how to approach a particular problem associated with space mission support. This **Recommended Practice** is issued by, and represents the consensus of, the CCSDS members. Endorsement of this **Recommended Practice** is entirely voluntary and does not imply a commitment by any Agency or organization to implement its recommendations in a prescriptive sense.

No later than five years from its date of issuance, this **Recommended Practice** will be reviewed by the CCSDS to determine whether it should: (1) remain in effect without change; (2) be changed to reflect the impact of new technologies, new requirements, or new directions; or (3) be retired or canceled.

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FOREWORD

This document is a technical **Recommended Practice** for use in developing ground systems for space missions and has been prepared by the **Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems** (CCSDS). The Application Program Interface described herein is intended for missions that are cross-supported between Agencies of the CCSDS.

This **Recommended Practice** specifies service type-specific extensions of the Space Link Extension Application Program Interface for Transfer Services specified by CCSDS (reference [4]). It allows implementing organizations within each Agency to proceed with the development of compatible, derived Standards for the ground systems that are within their cognizance. Derived Agency Standards may implement only a subset of the optional features allowed by the **Recommended Practice** and may incorporate features not addressed by the **Recommended Practice**.

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Questions relating to the contents or status of this document should be sent to the CCSDS Secretariat at the e-mail address indicated on page i.

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	Title	Date	Status
CCSDS 916.3-M-1	Space Link Extension—Application Program Interface for the Forward Space Packet Service, Recommended Practice, Issue 1	October 2008	Original issue, superseded
CCSDS 916.3-M-2	Space Link Extension—Application Program Interface for the Forward Space Packet Service, Recommended Practice, Issue 2	September 2015	Current issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – updates text to accommodate changes in current version of SLE service specification; – differentiates applicability by SLE service specification version; – updates references.

NOTE – Substantive changes from the previous issue are marked with change bars in the inside margin.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The Recommended Practice *Space Link Extension—Application Program Interface for Transfer Services—Core Specification* (reference [5]) specifies a C++ API for CCSDS Space Link Extension Transfer Services. The API is intended for use by application programs implementing SLE transfer services.

Reference [5] defines the architecture of the API and the functionality that is independent of specific SLE service types.

The purpose of this document is to specify extensions to the API needed for support of the Forward Space Packet Service defined in reference [3].

1.2 SCOPE

This specification defines extensions to the SLE API in terms of:

- a) the FSP-specific functionality provided by API components;
- b) the FSP-specific interfaces provided by API components; and
- c) the externally visible behavior associated with the FSP interfaces exported by the components.

It does not specify:

- a) individual implementations or products;
- b) the internal design of the components; and
- c) the technology used for communications.

This Recommended Practice defines only interfaces and behavior that must be provided by implementations supporting the Forward Space Packet service in addition to the specification in reference [5].

1.3 APPLICABILITY

The Application Program Interface specified in this document supports two generations of Forward Space Packet service, namely:

- a) Generation 2 identified by the version number 1 in the BIND operation, as specified by reference [C8];
- b) Generation 3 identified by the version number 4 in the BIND operation, as specified in reference [3].

NOTES

- 1 The use of the term ‘Generation’ follows the definition in the API Core Specification (reference [4]), where it is used to classify all SLE Transfer Services.
- 2 Support for Generation 1 is not valid in this book because the FSP initial issue was written as part of Generation 2 of the RAF, RCF and CLTU specific version 1 recommendations.

Support for Generation 2 of the service is included for backward compatibility purposes for a limited time and may not be continued in future versions of this specification.

Provisions within this Recommended Practice that are specific for a specific generation are marked as:

- [G2:] for provisions specific to Generation 2;
- [G3:] for provisions specific to Generation 3.

Provisions that apply to all generations are not marked.

1.4 RATIONALE

This Recommended Practice specifies the mapping of the Forward Space Packet service specification to specific functions and parameters of the SLE API. It also specifies the distribution of responsibility for specific functions between SLE API software and application software.

The goal of this Recommended Practice is to create a standard for interoperability between:

- a) application software using the SLE API and SLE API software implementing the SLE API; and
- b) SLE user and SLE provider applications communicating with each other using the SLE API on both.

This interoperability standard also allows exchangeability of different products implementing the SLE API, as long as they adhere to the interface specification of this Recommended Practice.

1.5 DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

1.5.1 ORGANIZATION

This document is organized as follows:

- section 1 provides purpose and scope of this Recommended Practice, identifies conventions, and lists definitions and references used throughout the document;
- section 2 describes the extension of the API model defined in reference [5] to include support for the FSP service;
- section 3 contains detailed specifications for the API components and for applications using the API;
- annex A provides a formal specification of the API interfaces and data types specific to the FSP service;
- annex B lists all acronyms used within this document;
- annex C lists informative references.

1.5.2 SLE SERVICE DOCUMENTATION TREE

The SLE suite of Recommended Standards is based on the cross support model defined in the SLE Reference Model (reference [2]). The services defined by the reference model constitute one of the three types of Cross Support Services:

- a) Part 1: SLE Services;
- b) Part 2: Ground Domain Services; and
- c) Part 3: Ground Communications Services.

The SLE services are further divided into SLE service management and SLE transfer services.

The basic organization of the SLE services and SLE documentation is shown in figure 1-1. The various documents are described in the following paragraphs.

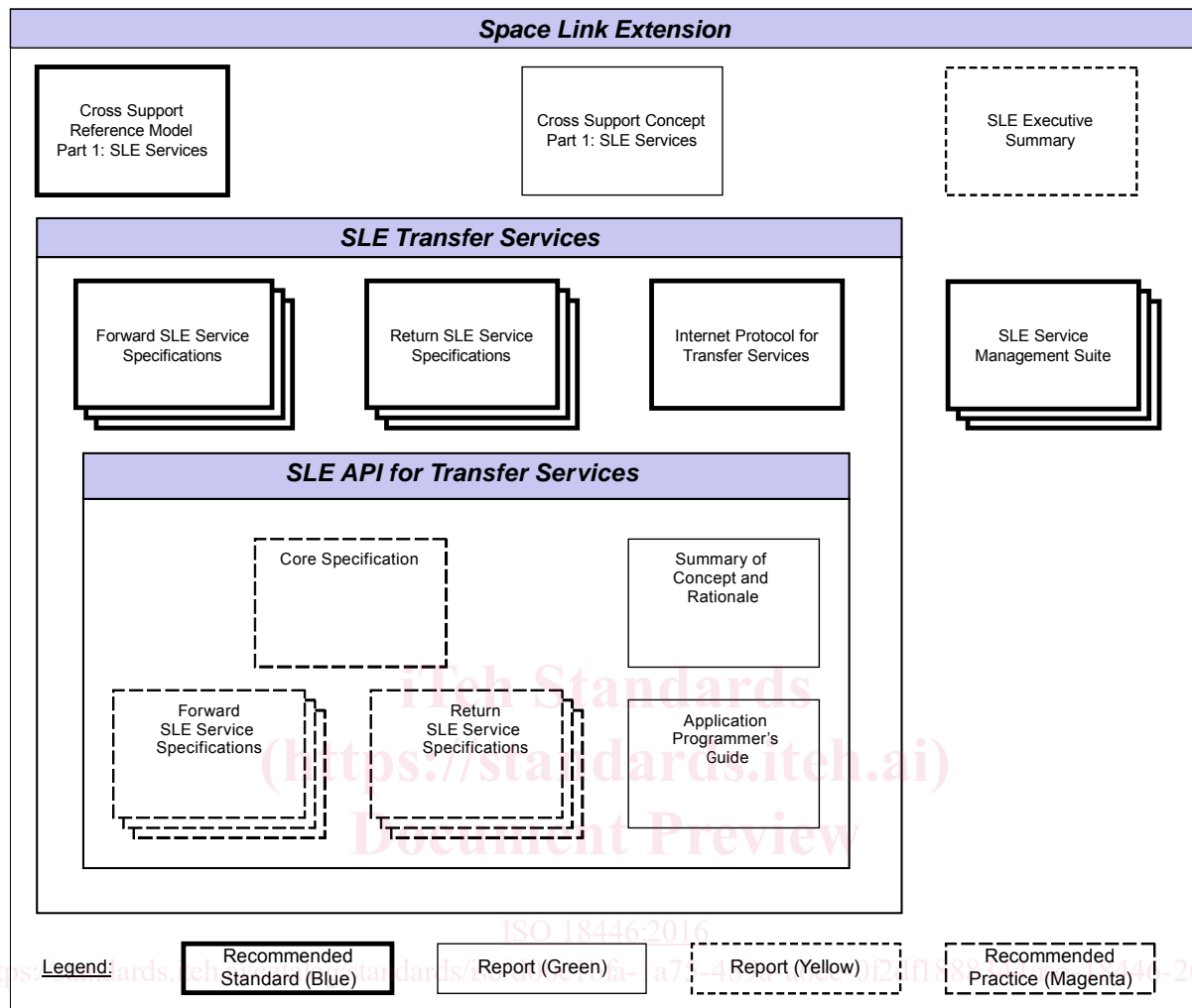


Figure 1-1: SLE Services and SLE API Documentation

- Cross Support Reference Model—Part 1: Space Link Extension Services*, a Recommended Standard that defines the framework and terminology for the specification of SLE services.
- Cross Support Concept—Part 1: Space Link Extension Services*, a Report introducing the concepts of cross support and the SLE services.
- Space Link Extension Services—Executive Summary*, an Administrative Report providing an overview of Space Link Extension (SLE) Services. It is designed to assist readers with their review of existing and future SLE documentation.
- Forward SLE Service Specifications*, a set of Recommended Standards that provide specifications of all forward link SLE services.
- Return SLE Service Specifications*, a set of Recommended Standards that provide specifications of all return link SLE services.