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**Information technology — Open
Systems Interconnection — The
Directory —**

**Part 3:
Abstract service definition**

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This eighth edition cancels and replaces the seventh edition (ISO/IEC 9594-3:2014), which has been technically revised.

[ISO/IEC 9594-3:2017](http://www.iso.org/iso/9594-3:2017)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/07ce8f8-410a-4dfe-bd9b-5463482e5c76/iso-iec-9594-3-2017>
This document was prepared by ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, SC 6, *Telecommunications and information exchange between systems*, in collaboration with ITU-T. The identical text is published as ITU-T X.511 (10/2016).

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 9594 series, published under the general title *Information technology — Open Systems Interconnection — The Directory*, can be found on the ISO website.

CONTENTS

		<i>Page</i>
1	Scope	1
2	Normative references.....	1
	2.1 Identical Recommendations International Standards	1
	2.2 Other references	2
3	Definitions	2
	3.1 OSI Reference Model security architecture definitions.....	2
	3.2 Basic Directory definitions.....	2
	3.3 Directory model definitions	2
	3.4 Directory information base definitions.....	2
	3.5 Directory entry definitions	2
	3.6 Name definitions	3
	3.7 Distributed operations definitions	3
	3.8 Abstract service definitions	3
4	Abbreviations	4
5	Conventions.....	4
6	Overview of the Directory service.....	5
7	Information types and common procedures	5
	7.1 Introduction.....	5
	7.2 Information types defined elsewhere	5
	7.3 Common arguments	6
	7.4 Common results	9
	7.5 Service controls	10
	7.6 Entry information selection	12
	7.7 Entry information	15
	7.8 Filter	17
	7.9 Paged results.....	20
	7.10 Security parameters	22
	7.11 Common elements of procedure for access control.....	23
	7.12 Managing the DSA Information Tree	25
	7.13 Procedures for families of entries.....	25
8	Directory authentication	26
	8.1 Simple authentication procedure	26
	8.2 Password policy	28
9	Bind, Unbind operations, Change Password and Administer Password operations	31
	9.1 Directory Bind.....	31
	9.2 Directory Unbind	34
10	Directory Read operations	34
	10.1 Read	34
	10.2 Compare	37
	10.3 Abandon	40
11	Directory Search operations	40
	11.1 List	40
	11.2 Search.....	44
12	Directory Modify operations	54
	12.1 Add Entry.....	55
	12.2 Remove Entry.....	57
	12.3 Modify Entry.....	58
	12.4 Modify DN	62
	12.5 Change Password	65
	12.6 Administer Password.....	65

	<i>Page</i>
13 Operations for LDAP messages	66
13.1 LDAP Transport operation.....	67
13.2 Linked LDAP operation.....	69
14 Errors.....	69
14.1 Error precedence	69
14.2 Abandoned	70
14.3 Abandon Failed	70
14.4 Attribute Error.....	71
14.5 Name Error.....	72
14.6 Referral.....	73
14.7 Security Error	73
14.8 Service Error	74
14.9 Update Error.....	76
15 Analysis of search arguments.....	77
15.1 General check of search filter.....	78
15.2 Check of request-attribute-profiles.....	79
15.3 Check of controls and hierarchy selections	80
15.4 Check of matching use	81
Annex A – Abstract Service in ASN.1	82
Annex B – Operational semantics for Basic Access Control.....	98
Annex C – Examples of searching families of entries	111
C.1 Single family example.....	111
C.2 Multiple families example.....	112
Annex D – External ASN.1 module	115
Annex E – Use of Protected Passwords for Bind operations.....	119
Annex F – Amendments and corrigenda	120

ISO/IEC 9594-3:2017

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/f07ce8f8-410a-4dfe-bd9b-5463482e5c76/iso-iec-9594-3-2017>

Introduction

This Recommendation | International Standard, together with the other Recommendations | International Standards, has been produced to facilitate the interconnection of information processing systems to provide directory services. A set of such systems, together with the directory information that they hold, can be viewed as an integrated whole, called the *Directory*. The information held by the Directory, collectively known as the Directory Information Base (DIB), is typically used to facilitate communication between, with or about objects such as application entities, people, terminals, and distribution lists.

The Directory plays a significant role in Open Systems Interconnection, whose aim is to allow, with a minimum of technical agreement outside of the interconnection standards themselves, the interconnection of information processing systems:

- from different manufacturers;
- under different managements;
- of different levels of complexity; and
- of different ages.

This Recommendation | International Standard defines the capabilities provided by the Directory to its users.

This Recommendation | International Standard provides the foundation frameworks upon which industry profiles can be defined by other standards groups and industry forums. Many of the features defined as optional in these frameworks may be mandated for use in certain environments through profiles. This eighth edition technically revises and enhances the seventh edition of this Recommendation | International Standard.

This eighth edition specifies versions 1 and 2 of the Directory protocols.

The first and second editions specified only version 1. Most of the services and protocols specified in this edition are designed to function under version 1. However, some enhanced services and protocols, e.g., signed errors, will not function unless all Directory entities involved in the operation have negotiated version 2. Whichever version has been negotiated, differences between the services and between the protocols defined in the eight editions, except for those specifically assigned to version 2, are accommodated using the rules of extensibility defined in Rec. ITU-T X.519 | ISO/IEC 9594-5.

Annex A, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 module for the Directory abstract service.

Annex B, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides charts that describe the semantics associated with Basic Access Control as it applies to the processing of a Directory operation.

Annex C, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, gives examples of the use of families of entries.

Annex D, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, includes an updated copy of an external ASN.1 module referenced by this Directory Specification.

Annex E, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides a suggested technique for Bind protected password.

Annex F, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, lists the amendments and defect reports that have been incorporated to form this edition of this Recommendation | International Standard.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
ITU-T RECOMMENDATION

**Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory:
Abstract service definition**

1 Scope

This Recommendation | International Standard defines in an abstract way the externally visible service provided by the Directory.

This Recommendation | International Standard does not specify individual implementations or products.

2 Normative references

The following Recommendations and International Standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation | International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and Standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this Recommendation | International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and Standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards. The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau of the ITU maintains a list of currently valid ITU-T Recommendations.

2.1 Identical Recommendations | International Standards

- Recommendation ITU-T X.500 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-1:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Overview of concepts, models and services*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.501 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-2:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Models*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.509 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-8:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.518 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-4:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Procedures for distributed operation*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.519 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-5:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Protocol specifications*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.520 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-6:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Selected attribute types*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.521 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-7:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Selected object classes*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.525 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-9:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Replication*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.680 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-1:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Specification of basic notation*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.681 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-2:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Information object specification*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.682 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-3:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Constraint specification*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.683 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-4:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Parameterization of ASN.1 specifications*.

2.2 Paired Recommendations | International Standards equivalent in technical content

- Recommendation ITU-T X.800 (1991), *Security architecture for Open Systems Interconnection for CCITT applications*.
- ISO 7498-2:1989, *Information processing systems – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model – Part 2: Security Architecture*.

2.3 Additional references

- Recommendation ITU-T X.200 (1994) | ISO/IEC 7498-1:1994, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model: The basic model*.
- IETF RFC 2025 (1996), *The Simple Public-Key GSS-API Mechanism (SPKM)*.
- IETF RFC 4422 (2006), *Simple Authentication and Security Layer (SASL)*.
- IETF RFC 4511 (2006), *Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP): The Protocol*.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this Recommendation | International Standard, the following definitions apply.

3.1 OSI Reference Model security architecture definitions

The following terms are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.800 | ISO 7498-2:

- a) *password*.

3.2 Basic Directory definitions

The following terms are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.500 | ISO/IEC 9594-1:

- a) *Directory*;
- b) *Directory Information Base*;
- c) *(Directory) User*.

3.3 Directory model definitions

The following terms are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2:

- a) *Directory System Agent*;
- b) *Directory User Agent*.

3.4 Directory information base definitions

The following terms are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2:

- a) *alias entry*;
- b) *ancestor*;
- c) *compound entry*;
- d) *(Directory) entry*;
- e) *Directory Information Tree*;
- f) *family (of entries)*;
- g) *immediate superior*;
- h) *immediately superior entry/object*;
- i) *object*;
- j) *object class*;
- k) *object entry*;
- l) *subordinate*;
- m) *superior*.

3.5 Directory entry definitions

The following terms are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2:

- a) *attribute*;
- b) *attribute type*;
- c) *attribute value*;

- d) *attribute value assertion*;
- e) *context*;
- f) *context type*;
- g) *context value*;
- h) *operational attribute*;
- i) *matching rule*;
- j) *user attribute*.

3.6 Name definitions

The following terms are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2:

- a) *alias, alias name*;
- b) *distinguished name*;
- c) *(directory) name*;
- d) *purported name*;
- e) *relative distinguished name*.

3.7 Distributed operations definitions

The following terms are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.518 | ISO/IEC 9594-4:

- a) *bound DSA*;
- b) *chaining*;
- c) *initial performer*;
- d) *LDAP requester*;
- e) *referral*.

3.8 Abstract service definitions

For the purposes of this Recommendation | International Standard, the following definitions apply.

3.8.1 additional search: A search that starts from `joinBaseObject` as specified by the originator in the `search` request. ISO/IEC 9594-3:2017

3.8.2 contributing member: A family member within a compound entry, which has made a contribution to either a Read, Search or Modify Entry operation.

3.8.3 explicitly unmarked entry: An entry or a family member that is excluded from the `SearchResult` according to a specification given in a control attribute referenced by the governing-search-rule.

3.8.4 family grouping: A set of members of a compound attribute that are grouped together for the purpose of operation evaluation.

3.8.5 filter: An assertion about the presence or value of certain attributes of an entry in order to limit the scope of a search.

3.8.6 originator: The user that originated an operation.

3.8.7 participating member: A family member that is either a contributing member or is a member of a family grouping that as a whole matched a `search` filter.

3.8.8 Password expiration: The situation where a user password has reached the end of its validity period: the account is locked and the user has to change the password before doing any other directory operation.

3.8.9 Password quality attributes: Attributes that specify how a password shall be constructed. Password quality attributes include things like minimum length, mixture of characters (uppercase, lowercase, figures, punctuations, etc), and avoidance of trivial passwords.

3.8.10 Password history: List of old passwords and the times they were inserted in the history.

3.8.11 primary search: The search that starts from `baseObject` as specified by the originator in the search request.

3.8.12 relaxation: A progressive modification of the behaviour of a filter during a search operation so as to achieve more matched entries if too few are received, or fewer matched entries if too many are received.

3.8.13 reply: A DAP/DSP result or an error; or an LDAP result.

3.8.14 request: Information consisting of an operation code and associated arguments to convey a directory operation from a requester to a performer.

3.8.15 requester: A DUA, an LDAP client or a DSA sending a request to perform (i.e., invoke) an operation.

3.8.16 service controls: Parameters conveyed as part of an operation, which constrain various aspects of its performance.

3.8.17 strand: A family grouping comprising all the members in a path from a leaf family member up to the ancestor inclusive. A family member will reside in as many strands as there are leaf family members below it (as immediate or non-immediate subordinates).

4 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this Recommendation | International Standard, the following abbreviations apply:

ACI	Access Control Information
AVA	Attribute Value Assertion
DIB	Directory Information Base
DIT	Directory Information Tree
DMD	Directory Management Domain
DSA	Directory System Agent
DUA	Directory User Agent
LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
RDN	Relative Distinguished Name

5 Conventions

The term "Directory Specification" (as in "this Directory Specification") shall be taken to mean Rec. ITU-T X.511 | ISO/IEC 9594-3. The term "Directory Specifications" shall be taken to mean the X.500-series Recommendations, except for Rec. ITU-T X.509 and all parts of ISO/IEC 9594, except for ISO/IEC 9594-8.

This Directory Specification uses the term *first edition systems* to refer to systems conforming to the first edition of the Directory Specifications, i.e., the 1988 edition of the series of CCITT X.500 Recommendations and the ISO/IEC 9594:1990 edition.

This Directory Specification uses the term *second edition systems* to refer to systems conforming to the second edition of the Directory Specifications, i.e., the 1993 edition of the series of ITU-T X.500 Recommendations and the ISO/IEC 9594:1995 edition.

This Directory Specification uses the term *third edition systems* to refer to systems conforming to the third edition of the Directory Specifications, i.e., the 1997 edition of the series of ITU-T X.500 Recommendations and the ISO/IEC 9594:1998 edition.

This Directory Specification uses the term *fourth edition systems* to refer to systems conforming to the fourth edition of the Directory Specifications, i.e., the 2001 editions of Recs ITU-T X.500, X.501, X.511, X.518, X.519, X.520, X.521, X.525, and X.530, the 2000 edition of Rec. ITU-T X.509, and parts 1-10 of the ISO/IEC 9594:2001 edition.

This Directory Specification uses the term *fifth edition systems* to refer to systems conforming to the fifth edition of the Directory Specifications, i.e., the 2005 edition of the series of ITU-T X.500 Recommendations and the ISO/IEC 9594:2005 edition.

This Directory Specification uses the term *sixth edition systems* to refer to systems conforming to the sixth edition of the Directory Specifications, i.e., the 2008 edition of the series of ITU-T X.500 Recommendations and the ISO/IEC 9594:2008 edition.

This Directory Specification uses the term *seventh edition systems* to refer to systems conforming to the seventh edition of the Directory Specifications, i.e., the 2012 edition of the ITU-T X.500-series Recommendations and the ISO/IEC 9594:2014 edition.

This Directory Specification uses the term *eighth edition systems* to refer to systems conforming to the eighth edition of the Directory Specifications, i.e., the 2016 edition of the ITU-T X.500-series Recommendations and the ISO/IEC 9594:2017 edition.

This Directory Specification presents ASN.1 notation in the bold Courier New typeface. When ASN.1 types and values are referenced in normal text, they are differentiated from normal text by presenting them in the bold Courier New typeface. The names of procedures, typically referenced when specifying the semantics of processing, are differentiated from normal text by displaying them in bold Times New Roman. Access control permissions are presented in italicized Times New Roman.

If the items in a list are numbered (as opposed to using "–" or letters), then the items shall be considered steps in a procedure.

6 Overview of the Directory service

As described in Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2, the services of the Directory are provided through access points to directory user agents (DUAs), each acting on behalf of a user. These concepts are depicted in Figure 1. Through an access point, the Directory provides service to its users by means of a number of Directory operations.

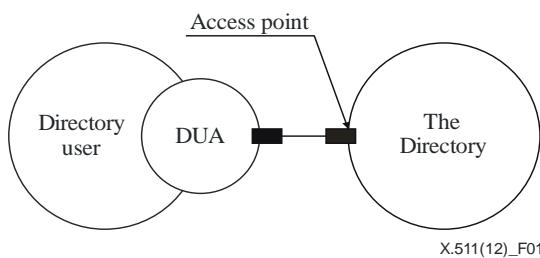


Figure 1 – Access to the Directory

The Directory operations are of three different kinds:

- a) Directory Read operations, which interrogate a single Directory entry;
- b) Directory Search operations, which interrogate potentially several Directory entries; and
- c) Directory Modify operations. [ISO/IEC 9594-3:2017](#)

The Directory Read operations, the Directory Search operations and the Directory Modify operations are specified in clauses 10, 11, and 12, respectively. Conformance to Directory operations is specified in Rec. ITU-T X.519 | ISO/IEC 9594-5.

7 Information types and common procedures

7.1 Introduction

This clause identifies, and in some cases defines, a number of information types which are subsequently used in the definition of Directory operations. The information types concerned are those which are common to more than one operation, are likely to be in the future, or which are sufficiently complex or self-contained as to merit being defined separately from the operation which uses them.

Several of the information types used in the definition of the Directory Service are actually defined elsewhere. Clause 7.2 identifies these types and indicates the source of their definition. Each of the clauses (7.3 to 7.10) identifies and defines an information type.

This clause also specifies some common elements of procedure that apply to most or all of the Directory operations.

7.2 Information types defined elsewhere

The following information types are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2:

- a) **Attribute**;
- b) **AttributeType**;

- c) **AttributeValue**;
- d) **AttributeValueAssertion**;
- e) **Context**;
- f) **ContextAssertion**;
- g) **DistinguishedName**;
- h) **Name**;
- i) **OPTIONALLY-PROTECTED**;
- j) **OPTIONALLY-PROTECTED-SEQ**;
- k) **RelativeDistinguishedName**.

The following information type is defined in Rec. ITU-T X.520 | ISO/IEC 9594-6:

- a) **PresentationAddress**.

The following information types are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.509 | ISO/IEC 9594-8:

- a) **Certificate**;
- b) **SIGNED**;
- c) **CertificationPath**.

The following information type is defined in Rec. ITU-T X.880 | ISO/IEC 13712-1:

- a) **InvokeId**.

The following information types are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.518 | ISO/IEC 9594-4:

- a) **OperationProgress**;
- b) **ContinuationReference**.

7.3 Common arguments

The **CommonArguments** information may be present to qualify the invocation of each operation that the Directory can perform.

```
CommonArguments ::= SET {
  serviceControls      [30]  ServiceControls  DEFAULT {} ,
  securityParameters   [29]  SecurityParameters OPTIONAL ,
  requestor            [28]  DistinguishedName OPTIONAL ,
  operationProgress    [27]  OperationProgress
                            DEFAULT {nameResolutionPhase notStarted} ,
  aliasedRDNs          [26]  INTEGER          OPTIONAL ,
  criticalExtensions   [25]  BIT STRING        OPTIONAL ,
  referenceType         [24]  ReferenceType    OPTIONAL ,
  entryOnly             [23]  BOOLEAN          DEFAULT TRUE ,
  exclusions           [22]  Exclusions        OPTIONAL ,
  nameResolveOnMaster  [21]  BOOLEAN          DEFAULT FALSE ,
  operationContexts    [20]  ContextSelection  OPTIONAL ,
  familyGrouping        [19]  FamilyGrouping   DEFAULT entryOnly ,
  ...
}
```

NOTE 1 – The above data type can only be used when included in set-constructs. An alternative data type **CommonArgumentsSeq** has been defined to be used in sequence-constructs (see Annex A).

The **ServiceControls** component is specified in clause 7.5. Its absence is deemed equivalent to there being an empty set of controls.

The **SecurityParameters** component is specified in clause 7.10. If the argument of the operation is to be signed by the requester, the **SecurityParameters** component shall be included. The absence of the **SecurityParameters** component is deemed equivalent to an empty set.

The **requestor** component, when present, shall hold the distinguished name of the originator (requester) of the operation. If the distinguished name of the requester was established at bind time, the **requestor** component shall be equal to that distinguished name. Likewise, it shall be equal to the distinguished name in **subject** field of the end-entity public-key certificate of the requester if the **certification-path** component of the **SecurityParameters** is present.

NOTE 2 – The bound directory system agent (DSA) should check the equality of the distinguished names as indicated above (pre-seventh edition systems may not do that).