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

**Part 7:  
Selected object classes**

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Technologies de l'information — Interconnexion de systèmes ouverts  
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Partie 7: Classes d'objets sélectionnées

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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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This eighth edition cancels and replaces the seventh edition (ISO/IEC 9594-7:2014), which has been technically revised. [ISO/IEC 9594-7:2017](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html#7.2.1)

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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.521 (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.



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## Introduction

This Recommendation | International Standard, together with 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 a number of attribute sets and object classes which may be found useful across a range of applications of the Directory.

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 eight 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 an ASN.1 module containing all of the type and value definitions which appear in this Recommendation | International Standard.

Annex B, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides some common naming and structure rules which may or may not be used by administrative authorities.

Annex C, 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: Selected object classes**

**SECTION 1 – GENERAL**

**1 Scope**

This Recommendation | International Standard defines a number of object classes and name forms which may be found useful across a range of applications of the Directory. The definition of an object class involves listing a number of attribute types which are relevant to objects of that class. The definition of a name form involves naming the object class to which it applies and listing the attributes to be used in forming names for objects of that class. These definitions are used by the administrative authority which is responsible for the management of the directory information.

Any administrative authority can define its own object classes or subclasses and name forms for any purpose.

NOTE 1 – Those definitions may or may not use the notation specified in Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2.

NOTE 2 – It is recommended that an object class defined in this Recommendation | International Standard, or a subclass derived from one, or a name form defined in this Recommendation | International Standard, be used in preference to the generation of a new one, whenever the semantics is appropriate for the application.

Administrative authorities may support some or all the selected object classes and name forms, and may also add additional ones.

All administrative authorities shall support the object classes which the directory uses for its own purpose (the top, alias and Directory system agent (DSA) object classes).

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**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 editions 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.200 (1994) | ISO/IEC 7498-1:1994, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model: The Basic Model*.
- 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.511 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-3:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Abstract service definition*.
- 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.525 (2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-9:2017, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Replication*.

### 3 Definitions

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

#### 3.1 Communication Model definitions

The following terms are defined in Rec. ITU-T X.519 | ISO/IEC 9594-5:

- a) *application-entity*;
- b) *application process*.

#### 3.2 Directory Model definitions

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

- a) *attribute*;
- b) *attribute type*;
- c) *Directory information tree (DIT)*;
- d) *Directory system agent (DSA)*;
- e) *attribute set*;
- f) *entry*;
- g) *name*;
- h) *object class*;
- i) *subclass*;
- j) *name form*;
- k) *structure rule*.

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### 4 Conventions

[ISO/IEC 9594-7:2017](#)

The term "Directory Specification" (as in "this Directory Specification") shall be taken to mean Rec. ITU-T X.521 | ISO/IEC 9594-7. The term "Directory Specifications" shall be taken to mean the ITU-T X.500-series Recommendations and all parts of ISO/IEC 9594.

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 CCITT X.500-series 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 ITU-T X.500-series 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 ITU-T X.500-series 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, ITU-T X.501, ITU-T X.511, ITU-T X.518, ITU-T X.519, ITU-T X.520, ITU-T X.521, ITU-T X.525, and ITU-T 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 ITU-T X.500-series 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 ITU-T X.500-series 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.

Object classes and name forms are defined in this Directory Specification as values of the **OBJECT-CLASS** and **NAME-FORM** information object classes defined in Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2.

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