
**Identification cards — Integrated
circuit cards —**

**Part 4:
Organization, security and commands
for interchange**

Cartes d'identification — Cartes à circuit intégré —

Partie 4: Organisation, sécurité et commandes pour les échanges

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Contents

Page

Foreword	vii
Introduction	viii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Symbols and abbreviated terms	7
5 Command-response pairs	8
5.1 Conditions of operation	8
5.2 Syntax	9
5.3 Chaining procedures	10
5.3.1 General	10
5.3.2 Payload fragmentation	10
5.3.3 Command chaining	10
5.3.4 Response chaining	11
5.4 Class byte	12
5.4.1 Coding	12
5.4.2 Logical channels	13
5.5 Instruction byte	14
5.6 Status bytes	17
6 Data objects	19
6.1 GENERAL	19
6.2 SIMPLE-TLV data objects	19
6.3 BER-TLV data objects	20
6.4 Constructed DOs versus primitive DOs	20
7 Structures for applications and data	20
7.1 Available structures	20
7.2 Validity area	22
7.2.1 Definitions and attributes	22
7.2.2 Basic rules for VA handling and use	22
7.3 Structure selection	23
7.3.1 Structure selection methods	23
7.3.2 File reference data element and DO	24
7.3.3 General reference data element and DO	25
7.3.4 Data referencing methods in elementary files	25
7.4 File and data control information	26
7.4.1 File control information retrieval	26
7.4.2 Data control information retrieval	26
7.4.3 Control parameters	27
7.4.4 Short EF identifier	28
7.4.5 File descriptor byte	28
7.4.6 Profile indicator	29
7.4.7 Data descriptor byte	30
7.4.8 DF and EF list data elements	30
7.4.9 Instance number data element	30
7.4.10 Life cycle status	30
7.4.11 Indirect referencing by short EF identifier using DO'A2'	31
7.4.12 Interface and life cycle status dependent security attribute template	31
8 Specific use of DOs and related concepts	33
8.1 BER-TLV payloads and padding	33
8.1.1 General	33
8.1.2 Padding conditions	33

8.1.3	Padding procedure.....	33
8.2	Template referenced by curConstructedDO and data object generations.....	34
8.2.1	Template referenced by curConstructedDO and DO referenced by curDO.....	34
8.2.2	Template extension.....	34
8.2.3	Data object pruned-tree.....	35
8.2.4	Data object life cycle.....	35
8.3	Identification of data elements and data objects.....	35
8.3.1	Principles.....	35
8.3.2	Tag interpretation in command and response data fields or payloads.....	35
8.3.3	Tag allocation.....	36
8.3.4	Standard tag allocation scheme.....	36
8.3.5	Compatible tag allocation scheme.....	36
8.3.6	Coexistent tag allocation scheme.....	37
8.3.7	Avoidance of independent tag allocation schemes.....	37
8.4	Referencing and retrieval of DOs and data elements.....	37
8.4.1	General.....	37
8.4.2	Element list.....	38
8.4.3	Tag list.....	38
8.4.4	Header list.....	38
8.4.5	Extended header and extended header list.....	38
8.4.6	Resolving an extended header.....	39
8.4.7	Resolving an extended header list.....	40
8.4.8	Wrapper.....	40
8.4.9	Tagged wrapper.....	41
9	Security architecture.....	41
9.1	General.....	41
9.2	Cryptographic mechanism identifier template.....	43
9.3	Security attributes.....	43
9.3.1	General.....	43
9.3.2	Security attributes targets.....	43
9.3.3	Compact format.....	44
9.3.4	Expanded format.....	48
9.3.5	Access rule references.....	52
9.3.6	Security attributes for data objects.....	53
9.3.7	Security parameters template.....	54
9.3.8	Security attributes for logical channels.....	59
9.4	Security support data elements.....	60
10	Secure messaging.....	61
10.1	General.....	61
10.2	SM fields and SM DOs.....	61
10.2.1	SM protection of command payloads.....	61
10.2.2	SM protection of chained commands and responses.....	61
10.2.3	SM DOs.....	62
10.3	Basic SM DOs.....	63
10.3.1	SM DOs for encapsulating plain values.....	63
10.3.2	SM DOs for confidentiality.....	63
10.3.3	SM DOs for authentication.....	64
10.4	Auxiliary SM DOs.....	66
10.4.1	General.....	66
10.4.2	Control reference templates.....	67
10.4.3	Control reference DOs in control reference templates.....	67
10.4.4	Security environments.....	69
10.4.5	Response descriptor template.....	71
10.5	SM impact on command-response pairs.....	71
11	Commands for interchange.....	73
11.1	General.....	73
11.2	Selection.....	73

11.2.1	General	73
11.2.2	SELECT command	73
11.2.3	MANAGE CHANNEL command	76
11.3	Data unit handling	77
11.3.1	Data units	77
11.3.2	General	77
11.3.3	READ BINARY command	78
11.3.4	WRITE BINARY command	78
11.3.5	UPDATE BINARY command	79
11.3.6	SEARCH BINARY command	79
11.3.7	ERASE BINARY command	80
11.3.8	COMPARE BINARY function	80
11.4	Record handling	80
11.4.1	Records	80
11.4.2	General	81
11.4.3	READ RECORD (s) command	82
11.4.4	WRITE RECORD command	84
11.4.5	UPDATE RECORD command	85
11.4.6	APPEND RECORD command	87
11.4.7	SEARCH RECORD command	88
11.4.8	ERASE RECORD (s) command	92
11.4.9	ACTIVATE RECORD (s) command	93
11.4.10	DEACTIVATE RECORD (s) command	94
11.4.11	COMPARE RECORD function	95
11.5	Data object handling	95
11.5.1	General	95
11.5.2	SELECT DATA command	96
11.5.3	GET DATA/GET NEXT DATA commands — even INS codes	100
11.5.4	GET DATA/GET NEXT DATA commands — odd INS codes	102
11.5.5	General properties of PUT DATA/PUT NEXT DATA/UPDATE DATA commands	103
11.5.6	PUT DATA command	104
11.5.7	PUT NEXT DATA command	104
11.5.8	UPDATE DATA command	105
11.5.9	COMPARE DATA function	106
11.6	Basic security handling	106
11.6.1	General	106
11.6.2	INTERNAL AUTHENTICATE command	107
11.6.3	GET CHALLENGE command	108
11.6.4	EXTERNAL AUTHENTICATE command	108
11.6.5	GENERAL AUTHENTICATE command	109
11.6.6	VERIFY command	111
11.6.7	CHANGE REFERENCE DATA command	112
11.6.8	ENABLE VERIFICATION REQUIREMENT command	112
11.6.9	DISABLE VERIFICATION REQUIREMENT command	112
11.6.10	RESET RETRY COUNTER command	113
11.6.11	MANAGE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT command	114
11.7	Miscellaneous	115
11.7.1	COMPARE command	115
11.7.2	GET ATTRIBUTE command	117
11.8	Transmission handling	118
11.8.1	GET RESPONSE command	118
11.8.2	ENVELOPE command	118
12	Application-independent card services	119
12.1	General	119
12.2	Card identification	119
12.2.1	General	119
12.2.2	Historical bytes	120
12.2.3	Initial data string recovery	124

12.2.4	Waiting time management.....	124
12.3	Application identification and selection.....	126
12.3.1	General.....	126
12.3.2	EFDIR.....	126
12.3.3	EFATR/INFO.....	127
12.3.4	Application identifier.....	127
12.3.5	Application template and related data elements.....	129
12.3.6	Application selection.....	129
12.4	Selection by path.....	130
12.5	Data retrieval.....	131
12.6	Card-originated byte string.....	131
12.6.1	General.....	131
12.6.2	Triggering by the card.....	131
12.6.3	Queries and replies.....	132
12.6.4	Formats.....	132
12.7	General feature management.....	132
12.7.1	General.....	132
12.7.2	On-card services.....	132
12.7.3	Interface services.....	133
12.7.4	Profile services.....	133
12.7.5	Provision of additional information.....	133
12.8	APDU management.....	134
12.8.1	Extended length information.....	134
12.8.2	List of supported INS codes.....	134
Annex A (informative)	Examples of object identifiers and tag allocation schemes.....	135
Annex B (informative)	Examples of secure messaging.....	138
Annex C (informative)	Examples of AUTHENTICATE functions by GENERAL AUTHENTICATE commands.....	146
Annex D (informative)	Application identifiers using issuer identification numbers.....	155
Annex E (informative)	BER encoding rules.....	156
Annex F (informative)	BER-TLV data object handling.....	158
Annex G (informative)	Template extension by tagged wrapper.....	166
Annex H (informative)	Parsing an extended header against its target DO.....	170
Annex I (informative)	Use case of WTX (waiting time extension) procedure and application waiting time procedure.....	172
Bibliography.....		176

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.

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) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <http://patents.iec.ch>).

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

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Cards and security devices for personal identification*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO/IEC 7816-4:2013), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendments ISO/IEC 7816-4:2013/Amd.1:2018 and ISO/IEC 7816-4:2013/Amd.2:2018 and the Corrigendum ISO/IEC 7816-4:2013/Cor.1:2014.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- incorporation with the amendments and the corrigendum;
- revision of unclear portions and correction of editorial mistakes.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 7816 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

ISO/IEC 7816 (all parts)^[4] is a series of standards specifying integrated circuit cards and the use of such cards for interchange. These cards are identification cards intended for information exchange negotiated between the outside world and the integrated circuit in the card. As a result of an information exchange, the card delivers information (computation result, stored data) and/or modifies its content (data storage, event memorization).

- Five parts are specific to cards with galvanic contacts and three of them specify electrical interfaces.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-1 specifies physical characteristics for cards with contacts.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-2 specifies dimensions and location of the contacts.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-3 specifies electrical interface and transmission protocols for asynchronous cards.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-10 specifies electrical interface and answer to reset for synchronous cards.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-12 specifies electrical interface and operating procedures for USB cards.
- All the other parts are independent from the physical interface technology. They apply to cards accessed by contacts and/or by radio frequency.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-4 specifies organization, security and commands for interchange.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-5 specifies registration of application providers.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-6 specifies interindustry data elements for interchange.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-7 specifies commands for structured card query language.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-8 specifies commands for security operations.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-9 specifies commands for card management.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-11 specifies personal verification through biometric methods.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-13 specifies commands for handling the life cycle of applications.
 - ISO/IEC 7816-15 specifies cryptographic information application.

ISO/IEC 10536 (all parts)^[11] specifies access by close coupling. ISO/IEC 14443 (all parts)^[14] and ISO/IEC 15693 (all parts)^[16] specify access by radio frequency. Such cards are also known as contactless cards.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) draw attention to the fact that it is claimed that compliance with this document may involve the use of a patent.

ISO and IEC take no position concerning the evidence, validity and scope of this patent right.

The holder of this patent right has assured ISO and IEC that he/she is willing to negotiate licences — reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions with applicants throughout the world. In this respect, the statement of the holder of this patent right is registered with ISO and IEC. Information may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents.

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Identification cards — Integrated circuit cards —

Part 4:

Organization, security and commands for interchange

1 Scope

This document is intended to be used in any sector of activity. It specifies:

- contents of command-response pairs exchanged at the interface,
- means of retrieval of data elements and data objects in the card,
- structures and contents of historical bytes to describe operating characteristics of the card,
- structures for applications and data in the card, as seen at the interface when processing commands,
- access methods to files and data in the card,
- a security architecture defining access rights to files and data in the card,
- means and mechanisms for identifying and addressing applications in the card,
- methods for secure messaging,
- access methods to the algorithms processed by the card. It does not describe these algorithms.

It does not cover the internal implementation within the card or the outside world.

This document is independent from the physical interface technology. It applies to cards accessed by one or more of the following methods: contacts, close coupling and radio frequency. If the card supports simultaneous use of more than one physical interface, the relationship between what happens on different physical interfaces is out of the scope of this document.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

ISO/IEC 7816-3, *Identification cards — Integrated circuit cards — Part 3: Cards with contacts — Electrical interface and transmission protocols*

ISO/IEC 7816-6, *Identification cards — Integrated circuit cards — Part 6: Interindustry data elements for interchange*

ISO/IEC 8825-1, *Information technology — ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Basic Encoding Rules (BER), Canonical Encoding Rules (CER) and Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER) — Part 1:*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

access rule

data element (3.15) containing an access mode referring to an action and security conditions to fulfil before acting

3.2

Answer-to-Reset file

information file

EF.ATR/INFO

optional *EF* (3.22) indicating operating characteristics of the card

3.3

application

structures (3.55), *data elements* (3.15) and program modules needed for performing a specific functionality

3.4

application DF

dedicated file (*DF* (3.18)) hosting an *application* (3.3) in a card

3.5

application identifier

AID

data element (3.15) (up to sixteen bytes) that identifies an *application* (3.3)

3.6

application label

data element (3.15) for use at the man-machine interface

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/c8f7b7c1-5db2-4a54-ab03-856066ec7458/iso-iec-7816-4-2020>

application provider

entity providing the components that make up an *application* (3.3) in the card

3.8

application template

set of application-relevant *data objects* (3.16) including one *application identifier* (3.5) *data object* (3.16)

3.9

asymmetric cryptographic technique

cryptographic technique that uses two related operations: a public operation defined by public numbers or by a *public key* (3.41) and a private operation defined by private numbers or by a *private key* (3.39)

Note 1 to entry: The two operations have the property that, given the public operation, it is computationally infeasible to derive the private operation.

3.10

base template

value field of constructed *data object* (3.16) excluding DOs resulting from resolution of indirect referencing

3.11

certificate

digital signature (3.20) binding a particular person or *object* (3.32) and its associated *public key* (3.41)

Note 1 to entry: The entity issuing the certificate also acts as tag allocation authority with respect to the data elements in the certificate.

3.12**command-response pair****C-RP**

set of two messages at the interface: a command APDU followed by a response APDU in the opposite direction

3.13**command chaining**

means used by the outside world to tell the card that the command data of a sequence of successive *command-response pairs* (3.12) shall be processed together

3.14**context-specific class**

class of a tag with its first or only byte from '80' to 'BF'

3.15**data element**

item of information seen at the interface for which are specified a name, a description of logical content, a format and a coding

3.16**data object**

information seen at the interface consisting of the concatenation of a mandatory tag field, a mandatory length field and a conditional value field

3.17**data unit**

smallest set of bits that can be unambiguously referenced within an *EF* (3.22) supporting data units

3.18**dedicated file****DF**

structure (3.55) containing file control information and, optionally, memory available for allocation

3.19**DF name**

data element (3.15) (up to sixteen bytes) that uniquely identifies a *DF* (3.18) in the card

3.20**digital signature**

data appended to, or cryptographic transformation of, a data string that proves the origin and the integrity of the data string and protects against forgery, e.g. by the recipient of the data string

3.21**directory file****EF.DIR**

optional *EF* (3.22) containing a list of *applications* (3.3) supported by the card and optional related *data elements* (3.15)

3.22**elementary file****EF**

set of *data units* (3.17) or *records* (3.42) or *data objects* (3.16) sharing the same *file identifier* (3.26)

3.23**extended header**

data element (3.15) referencing one or several DOs in a constructed DO

3.24**extended header list**

concatenation of *extended headers* (3.23)

3.25

file

structure (3.55) for *application* (3.3) and/or data in the card, as seen at the interface when processing commands

3.26

file identifier

data element (3.15) (two bytes) used to address a *file* (3.25)

3.27

header list

concatenation of pairs of tag field and length field without delimiter

3.28

interindustry

items specified in the ISO/IEC 7816^[4] series

3.29

internal EF

EF (3.22) for storing data interpreted by the card

3.30

key

sequence of symbols controlling a cryptographic operation

EXAMPLE Encipherment, decipherment, a private or a public operation in a dynamic authentication, signature generation, signature verification.

3.31

master file

MF

unique *DF* (3.18) representing the root in a card using a hierarchy of *DFs* (3.18)

3.32

object

structure (3.55) plus *security object* (3.52)

3.33

offset

number sequentially referencing a *data unit* (3.17) in an *EF* (3.22) supporting *data units* (3.17), or a byte in a *record* (3.42)

3.34

oversize payload

payload (3.38) which exceeds the current size constraints of the APDU

3.35

parent file

DF (3.18) immediately preceding a given *file* (3.25) within a hierarchy of *DFs* (3.18)

3.36

password

data that may be required by the *application* (3.3) to be presented to the card by its *user* (3.63) for authentication purpose

3.37

path

concatenation of *file identifiers* (3.26) without delimiter

3.38

payload

data of arbitrary length, to be sent to the card or by the card, in order to be processed together

3.39**private key**

key (3.30) of an entity's asymmetric key pair which should only be used by that entity

3.40**provider**

authority who has or who obtained the right to create a *DF* (3.18) in the card

3.41**public key**

key (3.30) of an entity's asymmetric key pair that can be made public

3.42**record**

string of bytes referenced and handled by the card within an *EF* (3.22) supporting records

3.43**record identifier**

number used to reference one or more *records* (3.42) within an *EF* (3.22) supporting records

3.44**record number**

sequential number that uniquely identifies each *records* (3.42) within an *EF* (3.22) supporting records

3.45**registered application provider identifier****RID**

data element (3.15) (five bytes) that uniquely identifies an *application provider* (3.7)

3.46**resetting code**

data to be presented to a card in order to modify the value of a counter

3.47**response chaining**

means used by the card to tell the outside world that the response data of any *command-response pair* (3.12) followed by the response data of a sequence of GET RESPONSE command-response pairs should be processed together

3.48**secret key**

key (3.30) used with *symmetric cryptographic techniques* (3.56) by a set of specified entities

3.49**secure messaging****SM**

set of means for cryptographic protection of (parts of) *command-response pairs* (3.12)

3.50**security attribute**

condition of use of *objects* (3.32) in the card including stored data and data processing functions, expressed as a *data element* (3.15) containing one or more *access rules* (3.1)

3.51**security environment****SE**

set of components required by an *application* (3.3) in the card for *secure messaging* (3.49) or for security operations

3.52

security object

standalone object nested in an *EF* (3.22), a *record* (3.42), a *data object* (3.16), a *DataString* or a combination thereof that endorses security handling according to this document

EXAMPLE Password, password type, reference data including biometric, reference data type, *certificate* (3.11), certificate type or *key* (3.30).

3.53

self-controlled DO

constructed DO which nests at least a DO'62' nesting *security attributes* (3.50)

3.54

short EF identifier

data element (3.15) (five bits) used to address an elementary file

3.55

structure

DF (3.18), *EF* (3.22), *record* (3.42), *DataString* or DO

3.56

symmetric cryptographic technique

cryptographic technique using the same *secret key* (3.48) for both the originator's and the recipient's operation (without the secret key, it is computationally infeasible to compute either operation)

3.57

tag list

concatenation of tag fields without delimiter

3.58

tagged wrapper

wrapper (3.67) which provides a tag for local addressing of the DO it references

3.59

template

concatenation of BER-TLV *data objects* (3.16), forming the value field of a constructed BER-TLV *data object* (3.16)

3.60

template extension

part of the value field of a constructed DO resulting from automatic resolution of indirect referencing

3.61

transient selection

structure (3.55) selection needed when performing a *C-RP* (3.12), the success of which will not modify the current *validity area* (3.64)

3.62

transient VA

validity area (3.64) set transiently during execution of a command which handles DOs

3.63

user

user of the card, also known as cardholder

3.64

validity area

VA

result of all successful selections performed on a logical channel