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Linux Standard Base (LSB) —

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Core specification generic part

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by the Linux Foundation as Linux Standard Base (LSB): Core specification generic part and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was assigned to Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 22, *Programming languages, their environments and system software interfaces*, and adopted by National Bodies.

This first edition of ISO/IEC 23360-1-2 cancels and replaces ISO/IEC 23360-1:2006, which has been technically revised.

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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 and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

Contents

Introduction

The LSB defines a binary interface for application programs that are compiled and packaged for LSB-conforming implementations on many different hardware architectures. A binary specification must include information specific to the computer processor architecture for which it is intended. To avoid the complexity of conditional descriptions, the specification has instead been divided into generic parts which are augmented by one of several architecture-specific parts, depending on the target processor architecture; the generic part will indicate when reference must be made to the architecture part, and vice versa.

This document should be used in conjunction with the documents it references. This document enumerates the system components it includes, but descriptions of those components may be included entirely or partly in this document, partly in other documents, or entirely in other reference documents. For example, the section that describes system service routines includes a list of the system routines supported in this interface, formal declarations of the data structures they use that are visible to applications, and a pointer to the underlying referenced specification for information about the syntax and semantics of each call. Only those routines not described in standards referenced by this document, or extensions to those standards, are described in the detail. Information referenced in this way is as much a part of this document as is the information explicitly included here.

The specification carries a version number of either the form `x.y` or `x.y.z`. This version number carries the following meaning:

1. The first number (`x`) is the major version number. Versions sharing the same major version number shall be compatible in a backwards direction; that is, a newer version shall be compatible with an older version. Any deletion of a library results in a new major version number. Interfaces marked as deprecated may be removed from the specification at a major version change.

2. The second number (`y`) is the minor version number. Libraries and individual interfaces may be added, but not removed. Interfaces may be marked as deprecated at a minor version change. Other minor changes may be permitted at the discretion of the LSB workgroup.

3. The third number (`z`), if present, is the editorial level. Only editorial changes should be included in such versions.

Since this specification is a descriptive Application Binary Interface, and not a source level API specification, it is not possible to make a guarantee of 100% backward compatibility between major releases. However, it is the intent that those parts of the binary interface that are visible in the source level API will remain backward compatible from version to version, except where a feature marked as "Deprecated" in one release may be removed from a future release. Implementors are strongly encouraged to make use of symbol versioning to permit simultaneous support of applications conforming to different releases of this specification.

LSB is a trademark of the Linux Foundation. Developers of applications or implementations interested in using the trademark should see the Linux Foundation Certification Policy for details.

I Introductory Elements

1 Scope

The Linux Standard Base (LSB) defines a system interface for compiled applications and a minimal environment for support of installation scripts. Its purpose is to enable a uniform industry standard environment for high-volume applications conforming to the LSB.

These specifications are composed of two basic parts: a common part describing those parts of the interface that remain constant across all implementations of the LSB, and an architecture-specific part describing the parts of the interface that vary by processor architecture. Together, the common part and the relevant architecture-specific part for a single hardware architecture provide a complete interface specification for compiled application programs on systems that share a common hardware architecture.

The LSB contains both a set of Application Program Interfaces (APIs) and Application Binary Interfaces (ABIs). APIs may appear in the source code of portable applications, while the compiled binary of that application may use the larger set of ABIs. A conforming implementation provides all of the ABIs listed here. The compilation system may replace (e.g. by macro definition) certain APIs with calls to one or more of the underlying binary interfaces, and may insert calls to binary interfaces as needed.

The LSB is primarily a binary interface definition. Not all of the source level APIs available to applications may be contained in this specification.

This is the common part of the Core module of the Linux Standard Base (LSB), LSB Core - Generic. This module provides the fundamental system interfaces, libraries, and runtime environment upon which all conforming applications and libraries depend.

LSB Core - Generic, the common part, should be used in conjunction with an architecture-specific part. Whenever a section of the common part is supplemented by architecture-specific information, the common part includes a reference to the architecture-specific part. Architecture-specific parts of the LSB Core Specification may also contain additional information that is not referenced in the common part.

Interfaces described in this part of the LSB Core Specification are mandatory except where explicitly listed otherwise. Interfaces described in the LSB Core module are supplemented by other LSB modules. All other modules depend on the presence of LSB Core.

2 References

2.1 Normative References

The following specifications are incorporated by reference into this specification. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced specification (including any amendments) applies.

Note: Where copies of a referenced specification are available on the World Wide Web, a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is given, for informative purposes only. Such URL might at any given time resolve to a more recent copy of the specification, or be out of date (not resolve). Reference copies of specifications at the revision level indicated may be found at the Linux Foundation's Reference Specifications (http://refspecs.linuxbase.org) site.

Table 2-1 Normative References

Name	Title	URL
Filesystem Hierarchy Standard	Filesystem Hierarchy Standard (FHS) 3.0	http://refspecs.linuxbase.org/fhs
ISO C (1999)	ISO/IEC 9899:1999 - Programming Languages -- C	
ISO/IEC 14882: 2003 C++ Language	ISO/IEC 14882: 2003 Programming languages --C++	
Itanium™ C++ ABI	Itanium™ C++ ABI (Revision 1.86)	http://refspecs.linuxfoundation.org/cxxabi-1.86.html
Large File Support	Large File Support	http://www.UNIX-systems.org/version2/whatsnew/lfs20mar.html
Libncursesw API	Libncursesw API	http://invisible-island.net/ncurses/man/ncurses.3x.html
Libncursesw Placeholder	Libncursesw Specification Placeholder	http://refspecs.linux-foundation.org/libncursesw/libncurses.html
POSIX 1003.1-2001 (ISO/IEC 9945-2003)	ISO/IEC 9945-1:2003 Information technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) -- Part 1: Base Definitions ISO/IEC 9945-2:2003 Information technology -- Portable Operating System Interface	http://www.unix.org/version3/

Name	Title	URL
	(POSIX) -- Part 2: System Interfaces ISO/IEC 9945-3:2003 Information technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) -- Part 3: Shell and Utilities ISO/IEC 9945-4:2003 Information technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) -- Part 4: Rationale Including Technical Cor. 1: 2004	
POSIX 1003.1-2008 (ISO/IEC 9945-2009)	Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX®) 2008 Edition / The Open Group Technical Standard Base Specifications, Issue 7	http://www.unix.org/version4/
SUSv2	CAE Specification, January 1997, System Interfaces and Headers (XSH),Issue 5 (ISBN: 1-85912-181-0, C606)	http://www.opengroup.org/publications/catalog/un.htm
SVID Issue 3	American Telephone and Telegraph Company, System V Interface Definition, Issue 3; Morristown, NJ, UNIX Press, 1989. (ISBN 0201566524)	
SVID Issue 4	System V Interface Definition, Fourth Edition	http://refspecs.linuxfoundation.org/svid4/
System V ABI	System V Application Binary Interface, Edition 4.1	http://www.sco.com/developers/devspecs/gabi41.pdf
System V ABI Update	System V Application Binary Interface -	http://www.sco.com/developers/gabi/2003-12-17/contents.html

Name	Title	URL
	DRAFT - 17 December 2003	
X/Open Curses, Issue 7	X/Open Curses, Issue 7 (ISBN: 1-931624-83-6, The Open Group, November 2009)	https://www2.opengroup.org/ogsys/catalog/C094

2.2 Informative References/Bibliography

The documents listed below provide essential background information to implementors of this specification. These references are included for information only, and do not represent normative parts of this specification.

Table 2-2 Other References

Name	Title	URL
DWARF Debugging Information Format, Version 4	DWARF Debugging Information Format, Version 4 (June 10, 2010)	http://www.dwarfstd.org/doc/DWARF4.pdf
IEC 60559/IEEE 754 Floating Point	IEC 60559:1989 Binary floating-point arithmetic for microprocessor systems	http://www.ieee.org/
ISO/IEC TR14652	ISO/IEC Technical Report 14652:2002 Specification method for cultural conventions	
ITU-T V.42	International Telecommunication Union Recommendation V.42 (2002): Error-correcting procedures for DCEs using asynchronous-to-synchronous conversionITUV	http://www.itu.int/rec/recommendation.asp?type=folders&lang=e&parent=T-REC-V.42
Li18nux Globalization Specification	LI18NUX 2000 Globalization Specification, Version 1.0 with Amendment 4	http://www.openi18n.org/docs/html/LI18NUX-2000-amd4.htm
Linux Allocated Device Registry	LINUX ALLOCATED DEVICES	http://www.lanana.org/docs/device-list/devices-2.6+.txt

Name	Title	URL
Linux Assigned Names And Numbers Authority	Linux Assigned Names And Numbers Authority	http://www.lanana.org/
Mozilla's NSS SSL Reference	Mozilla's NSS SSL Reference	http://www.mozilla.org/projects/security/pki/nss/ref/ssl/
NSPR Reference	Mozilla's NSPR Reference	http://refspecs.linuxfoundation.org/NSPR_API_Reference/NSPR_API.html
PAM	Open Software Foundation, Request For Comments: 86.0 , October 1995, V. Samar & R.Schemers (SunSoft)	http://www.opengroup.org/tech/rfc/mirror-rfc/rfc86.0.txt
RFC 1321: The MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm	IETF RFC 1321: The MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1321.txt
RFC 1833: Binding Protocols for ONC RPC Version 2	IETF RFC 1833: Binding Protocols for ONC RPC Version 2	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1833.txt
RFC 1950: ZLIB Compressed Data Format Specification	IETF RFC 1950: ZLIB Compressed Data Format Specification	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1950.txt
RFC 1951: DEFLATE Compressed Data Format Specification	IETF RFC 1951: DEFLATE Compressed Data Format Specification version 1.3	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1951.txt
RFC 1952: GZIP File Format Specification	IETF RFC 1952: GZIP file format specification version 4.3	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1952.txt
RFC 2440: OpenPGP Message Format	IETF RFC 2440: OpenPGP Message Format	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2440.txt
RFC 2821:Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	IETF RFC 2821: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2821.txt
RFC 2822:Internet Message Format	IETF RFC 2822: Internet Message Format	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2822.txt
RFC 5531/4506 RPC & XDR	IETF RFC 5531 & 4506	http://www.ietf.org/

