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OPC unified architecture - Part 18: Role-based security

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TITLE:

**OPC Unified Architecture – Part 18: Role-Based Security**

PROPOSED STABILITY DATE: 2026

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## OPC UNIFIED ARCHITECTURE –

## Part 18: Role-Based Security

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International Standard IEC 62541-18 has been prepared by subcommittee 65E: Devices and integration in enterprise systems, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial-process measurement, control and automation.

The text of this international standard is based on the following documents:

CDV	Report on voting
65E/XX/CDV	65E/XX/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this international standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

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118 *Italics* are used to denote a defined term or definition that appears in the “Terms and definition” clause  
119 in one of the parts of the series.

120 *Italics* are also used to denote the name of a service input or output parameter or the name of a structure  
121 or element of a structure that are usually defined in tables.

122 The *italicized terms* and *names* are also often written in camel-case (the practice of writing compound  
123 words or phrases in which the elements are joined without spaces, with each element's initial letter  
124 capitalized within the compound). For example, the defined term is *AddressSpace* instead of Address  
125 Space. This makes it easier to understand that there is a single definition for *AddressSpace*, not  
126 separate definitions for Address and Space.

127 A list of all parts of the IEC 62541 series is included in IEC 62541-1 clause 4 Structure of the OPC UA  
128 series and published under the general title OPC Unified Architecture, can be found on the IEC website.

129 The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability  
130 date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific  
131 publication. At this date, the publication will be

- 132 • reconfirmed,
- 133 • withdrawn,
- 134 • replaced by a revised edition, or
- 135 • amended.

136

137 A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

138

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# OPC Unified Architecture Specification

## Part 18: Role-Based Security

### 1 Scope

This part of the OPC Unified Architecture defines an Information Model. The Information Model describes the basic infrastructure to model role-based security.

Note: In the previous version, Role-Based Security was in IEC 62541-5, Annex F

### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments and errata) applies.

IEC 62541-1, *OPC Unified Architecture – Part 1: Overview and Concepts*

IEC 62541-3, *OPC Unified Architecture – Part 3: Address Space Model*

IEC 62541-4, *OPC Unified Architecture – Part 4: Services*

IEC 62541-5, *OPC Unified Architecture – Part 5: Information Model*

IEC 62541-6, *OPC Unified Architecture – Part 6: Mappings*

IEC 62541-7, *OPC Unified Architecture – Part 7: Profiles*

IEC 62541-8, *OPC Unified Architecture – Part 8: Data Access*

IEC 62541-12, *OPC Unified Architecture – Part 12: Discovery and Global Services*

### 3 Terms, definitions, abbreviated terms and conventions

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 62541-1, IEC 62541-3 and IEC 62541-5 apply.



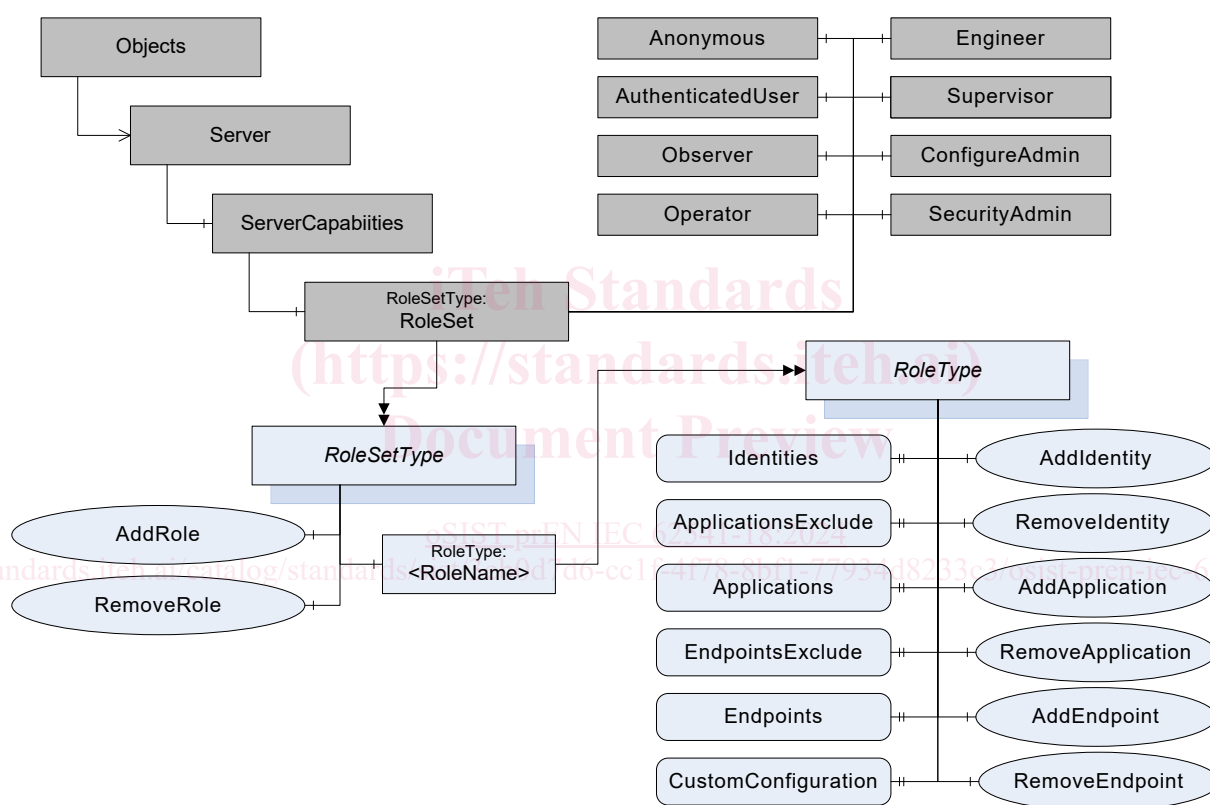
172 **4 Role Model**173 **4.1 General**

174 OPC UA defines a standard approach for implementing role-based security. *Servers* may  
 175 choose to implement part or all of the mechanisms defined here. The OPC UA approach assigns  
 176 *Permissions* to *Roles* for each *Node* in the *AddressSpace*. *Clients* are then granted *Roles* when  
 177 they create a *Session* based on the information provided by the *Client*.

178 *Roles* are used to separate authentication (determining who a *Client* is with a user token and  
 179 *Client* application identity) from authorization (*Permissions* determining what the *Client* is  
 180 allowed to do). By separating these tasks *Servers* can allow centralized services to manage  
 181 user identities and credentials while the *Server* only manages the *Permissions* on its *Nodes*  
 182 assigned to *Roles*.

183 IEC 62541-3 defines the possible *Permissions* and the representation as *Node Attributes*.

184 Figure 1 depicts the *ObjectTypes*, *Objects* and their components used to represent the *Role*  
 185 management.



186

187

**Figure 1 – Role management overview**

188 **4.2 RoleSetType**189 **4.2.1 RoleSetType definition**

190 The *RoleSet Object* defined in IEC 62541-5 is a *RoleSetType* which is formally defined in Table  
191 1.

192 **Table 1 – RoleSetType definition**

Attribute	Value				
BrowseName	RoleSetType				
IsAbstract	False				
References	Node Class	BrowseName	Data Type	Type Definition	Modelling Rule
Subtype of <i>BaseObjectType</i> defined in IEC 62541-5					
HasComponent	Object	<RoleName>		RoleType	OptionalPlaceholder
HasComponent	Method	AddRole	Defined in 4.2.2		Mandatory
HasComponent	Method	RemoveRole	Defined in 4.2.3.		Mandatory
Conformance Units					
Base Info ServerType					

193

194 The *AddRole Method* allows configuration *Clients* to add a new *Role* to the *Server*.

195 The *RemoveRole Method* allows configuration *Clients* to remove a *Role* from the *Server*.

196 **4.2.2 AddRole Method**

197 This *Method* is used to add a *Role* to the *RoleSet Object*.

198 The combination of the *NamespaceUri* and *RoleName* parameters are used to construct the  
199 *BrowseName* for the new *Node*. The *BrowseName* shall be unique within the *RoleSet Object*.

200 If the optional *Properties EndpointsExclude* and *ApplicationsExclude* are available on the *Role*  
201 *Object* created with this *Method*, the initial values of the *EndpointsExclude* and  
202 *ApplicationsExclude* Properties shall be TRUE.

203 The *Client* shall use an encrypted channel and shall provide user credentials with administrator  
204 rights like *SecurityAdmin Role* when invoking this *Method* on the *Server*.

205 IEC 62541-3 defines well-known *Roles*. If this *Method* is used to add a well-known *Role*, the  
206 name of the *Role* from IEC 62541-3 is used together with the OPC UA namespace URI. The  
207 *Server* shall use the *NodeIds* for the well-known *Roles* in this case. The *NodeIds* for the well-  
208 known *Roles* are defined in IEC 62541-6.

209 **Signature**

```
210 AddRole (
211     [in] String      RoleName,
212     [in] String      NamespaceUri,
213     [out] NodeId     RoleNodeId
214 );
215
```

Argument	Description
RoleName	The name of the <i>Role</i> .
NamespaceUri	The <i>NamespaceUri</i> qualifies the <i>RoleName</i> . If this value is null or empty then the resulting <i>BrowseName</i> will be qualified by the <i>Server's NamespaceUri</i> .
RoleNodeId	The <i>NodeId</i> assigned by the <i>Server</i> to the new <i>Node</i> .

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