
**Information technology —
Learning, education and training
— Collaborative technology —
Collaborative workplace —**

**Part 3:
Collaborative group data model**

Technologies de l'information — Apprentissage, éducation et formation — Technologies collaboratives — Lieu de travail collaboratif —

Partie 3: Modèle de données du groupe collaboratif

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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. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

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).

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 WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 36, *Information technology for learning, education and training*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 19778-3:2008), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

ISO/IEC 19778 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Learning, education and training — Collaborative technology — Collaborative workplace*:

- *Part 1: Collaborative workplace data model*
- *Part 2: Collaborative environment data model*
- *Part 3: Collaborative group data model*

Introduction

ISO/IEC 19778 provides *Data Models* for specifying *collaborative workplaces* and their components. ISO/IEC 19778-1 provides general information for all parts, and specifies a *Data Model* which, by reference, composes the *Data Model instantiations* of the two main components of a *collaborative workplace*: the *collaborative environment* and the *collaborative group*. ISO/IEC 19778-2 provides the *Data Model* for the *collaborative environment* and specifies information related to the service aspects of a *collaborative workplace*. This part of ISO/IEC 19778 provides the *Data Model* for the *collaborative group* and specifies information related to the *roles* and the membership of a *collaborative workplace*.

The main accomplishment of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 is to specify the composition of the *roles* which can be played by the *participants* of a *collaborative group*, to declare the intended *role* holders (positions for playing a particular *role*) for each *role*, and (at least during the life-span of the *collaborative workplace*) to assign *participants* to these *role* holders.

The purposes of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 are the following:

- to provide a standardized way of defining and instantiating, as an independent entity, the composition of a collaborative group in terms of *roles* and *role* holders (this is done by associating this composition with a *collaborative group* identifier unique within a particular domain or application context);
- to specify the membership requirements of a *collaborative workplace* for the purpose of set-up, employment, management, administration, and evaluation of its *collaborative group*.

The detailed specification of the *roles* is not provided in this part of ISO/IEC 19778; however, it may be linked to the *collaborative group Data Model instantiations* by referring to “potential further specifications or standards” that are not identified and possibly do not yet even exist. (One of the intentions of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 is to encourage adopters to develop and harmonize such specifications.)

No reference to detailed specification of *participants* is provided in this part of ISO/IEC 19778 as multiple-purpose user management provisions are currently already in place and will be used.

Linkages to “potential further specifications or standards” are constituted by employing a “source/value” approach, where the value (e.g. the name of a *role*) is taken from a “source”, a specification or standard, which declares the names and specifies the details of *roles*. The “source” itself is specified by reference, using a URL. The intention of this “source/value” approach is to provide a simple method for linking developing specifications or standards to the *Data Model* of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 without needing to identify them beforehand. This highly flexible method reflects the fact that ISO/IEC 19778-3 is a part of a multipart standard that represents prospective technology. [Figure 1](#) illustrates how this is achieved.

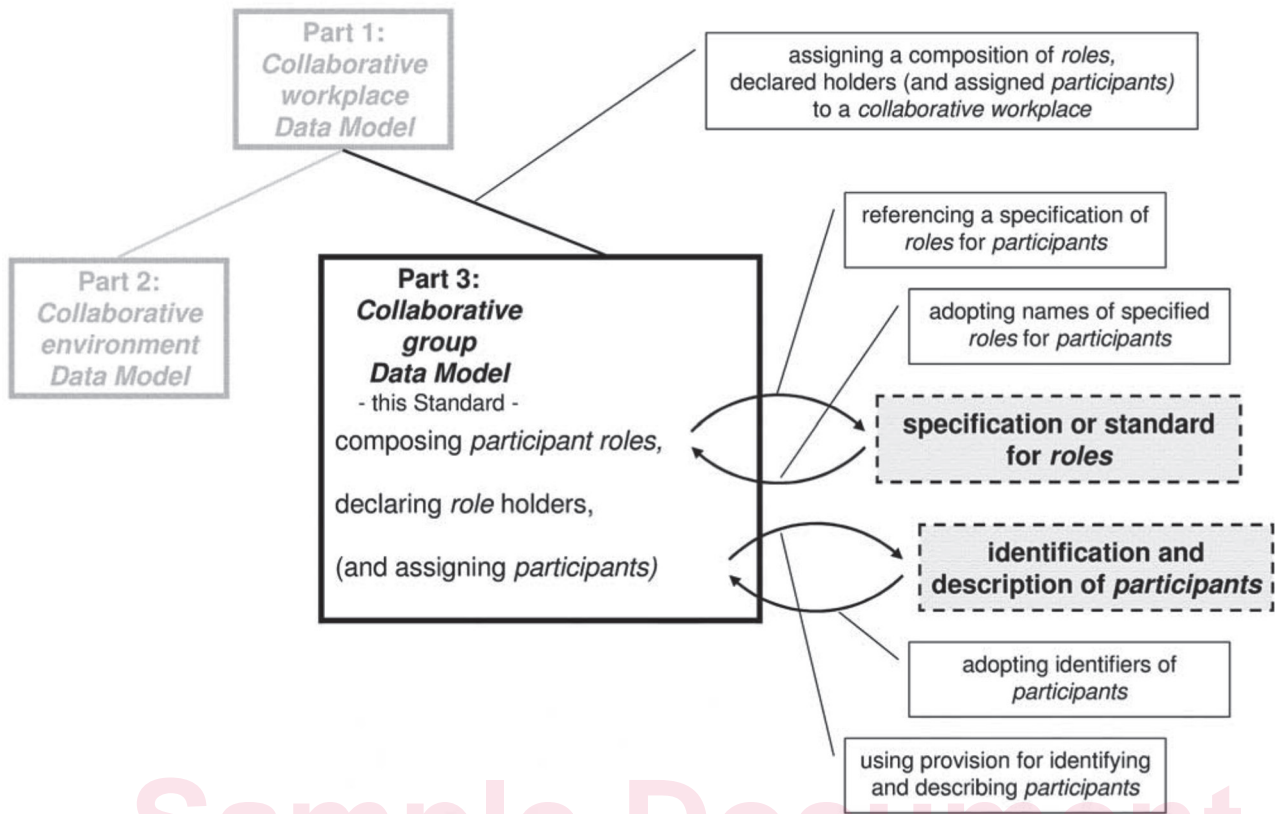


Figure 1 — Composing roles, declaring role holders, and assigning participants in this part of ISO/IEC 19778

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In this part of ISO/IEC 19778, “composing roles” and “assigning participants to role holders” are generally performed by specifying names of roles and identifiers of participants. Further information on these roles and participants may be specified in “potential further specifications or standards” or in user management provisions which are not included in this part of ISO/IEC 19778. The adopters of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 may decide whether or not to use such “potential further specifications or standards” or provisions. If no “potential further specifications or standards” or participant identification provisions are used, the names and properties of roles and the identifiers of participants need to be consistently known in the user community. This, however, also means that the interoperability of Data Model instantiations of this kind is limited to this “harmonized” user community.

It should be noted that, where no participants are assigned to the role holders, the respective collaborative group Data Model instantiation can be reused as a template for setting up further collaborative groups of the same dedication. Also, due to the provision of role holder identifiers, anonymizing a collaborative group Data Model instantiation by removing the assigned participant identifiers does not affect the differentiation between role holders. This is important in cases where role holders of the collaborative group Data Model instantiation are referenced by other data objects.

Where the need for broader interoperability exists, external “specifications or standards” are required. They would at least define a set of roles or a method for identifying participants and information on them, provide names for roles, and describe their properties. Of course, “specifications or standards” for roles could be very simple and general. However, they could be highly sophisticated and detailed as well. Where a collaborative group Data Model instantiation makes use of such an external “specification or standard” for roles, it references it and adopts the role names as shown in [Figure 1](#).

Using this first edition of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 provides utmost flexibility at the risk of a low level of interoperability. It allows adopters to experiment with diverse specifications for roles or methods for identifying participants and providing information on them. It is intended as a step towards broader harmonization of such specifications or provisions. This expected progress in harmonization will be

reflected by future editions of this part of ISO/IEC 19778, while today's users can employ this first edition instantly.

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