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**Information technology — Abstract  
Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) —**

**Part 2:  
Information object specification**

*Technologies de l'information — Notation de syntaxe abstraite  
numéro un (ASN.1) —*

*Partie 2: Spécification des objets informationnels*

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Published in Switzerland

## Foreword

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology, Subcommittee SC 6, Telecommunications and information exchange between systems*, in collaboration with ITU-T. The identical text is published as ITU-T X.681 (02/2021).

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition (ISO/IEC 8824-2:2015), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates ISO/IEC 8824-2:2015/Cor 1:2018.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 8824 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html) and [www.iec.ch/national-committees](http://www.iec.ch/national-committees).



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## Introduction

An application designer frequently needs to design a protocol which will work with any of a number of instances of some class of information objects, where instances of the class may be defined by a variety of other bodies, and may be added to over time. Examples of such information object classes are the "operations" of Remote Operations Service (ROS) and the "attributes" of the OSI Directory.

This Recommendation | International Standard provides notation which allows information object classes as well as individual information objects and information object sets thereof to be defined and given reference names.

An information object class is characterized by the kinds of fields possessed by its instances. A field may contain:

- an arbitrary type (a type field); or
- a single value of a specified type (a fixed-type value field); or
- a single value of a type specified in a (named) type field (a variable-type value field);
- a non-empty set of values of a specified type (a fixed-type value set field); or
- a non-empty set of values of a type specified in a (named) type field (a variable-type value set field); or
- a single information object from a specified information object class (an object field);
- an information object set from a specified information object class (an object set field).

A fixed-type value field of an information object class may be selected to provide unique identification of information objects in that class. This is called the identifier field for that class. Values of the identifier field, if supplied, are required to be unique within any information object set that is defined for that class. They may, but need not, serve to unambiguously identify information objects of that class within some broader scope, particularly by the use of object identifier as the type of the identifier field.

An information object class is defined by specifying:

- the names of the fields;
- for each field, the form of that field (type, fixed-type value, variable-type value, fixed-type value set, variable-type value set, object, or object set);
- optionality and default settings of fields;
- which field, if any, is the identifier field.

An individual information object in the class is defined by providing the necessary information for each field.

The notation defined herein permits an ASN.1 type to be specified by reference to a field of some information object class – the object class field type. In Rec. ITU-T X.682 | ISO/IEC 8824-3, notation is provided to enable this type to be restricted by reference to some specific information object set.

It can be useful to consider the definition of an information object class as defining the form of an underlying conceptual table (the associated table) with one column for each field, and with a completed row defining an information object. The form of the table (determined by the information object class specification) determines the sort of information to be collected and used to complete some protocol specification. The underlying conceptual table provides the link between those specifying information objects of that class and the protocol which needs that information to complete its specification. Typically, the actual information object set used to complete a particular protocol specification will be a parameter of that protocol (see Rec. ITU-T X.683 | ISO/IEC 8824-4).

The "InformationFromObjects" notation referencing a specific object or object set (probably a parameter) can be used to extract information from cells of conceptual tables.

This Recommendation | International Standard:

- Specifies a notation for defining an information object class, and for identifying it with a reference name (see clause 9).
- Specifies a notation by which the definer of an information object class can provide a defined syntax for the definition of information objects of that class; a default notation is provided for classes for which no defined syntax has been defined (see clause 10).
- Specifies a notation for defining an information object, and for assigning it to a reference name (see clause 11), and provides analogous notation for an object set (see clause 12).
- Defines the "associated table" for an object or object set of a class (see clause 13).