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Architecture processes**

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	vi
0 Introduction	vii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Conformance	6
4.1 General.....	6
4.2 Approach to conformance.....	6
4.3 Full conformance cases.....	6
4.4 Tailored conformance.....	7
5 Process overview and application	7
5.1 General.....	7
5.2 Relationship of architecture to other processes and information elements.....	9
5.3 Architecture Governance and Management processes.....	10
5.4 Architecture Conceptualization, Evaluation and Elaboration processes.....	10
5.5 Architecture Enablement process.....	12
5.6 Relationship of architecture to design.....	12
5.7 Architecture adaptation.....	13
5.8 Process application.....	13
5.8.1 Criteria for processes.....	13
5.8.2 Description of processes.....	14
5.8.3 General characteristics of processes.....	14
5.8.4 Tailoring.....	14
6 Architecture Governance process	15
6.1 Purpose.....	15
6.2 Outcomes.....	15
6.3 Implementation.....	15
6.4 Activities and tasks.....	15
6.4.1 Prepare for and plan the architecture governance effort.....	15
6.4.2 Monitor, assess and control the architecture governance activities.....	17
6.4.3 Establish architecture collection objectives.....	17
6.4.4 Make architecture governance decisions.....	18
6.4.5 Monitor and assess compliance with governance directives and guidance.....	19
6.4.6 Review implementation of governance directives and guidance.....	20
6.5 Work products.....	20
7 Architecture Management process	20
7.1 Purpose.....	20
7.2 Outcomes.....	20
7.3 Implementation.....	21
7.4 Activities and tasks.....	21
7.4.1 Prepare for and plan the architecture management effort.....	21
7.4.2 Monitor, assess and control the architecture management activities.....	22
7.4.3 Develop architecture management approach.....	23
7.4.4 Perform management of the architecture collection.....	24
7.4.5 Monitor architecting effectiveness.....	25
7.4.6 Prepare for completion of the architecture management plan.....	26
7.5 Work products.....	26
8 Architecture Conceptualization process	27
8.1 Purpose.....	27
8.2 Outcomes.....	27
8.3 Implementation.....	27

8.4	Activities and tasks.....	28
8.4.1	Prepare for and plan the architecture conceptualization effort.....	28
8.4.2	Monitor, assess and control the architecture conceptualization activities.....	29
8.4.3	Characterize problem space.....	30
8.4.4	Establish architecture objectives and critical success criteria.....	31
8.4.5	Synthesize potential solution(s) in the solution space.....	32
8.4.6	Characterize solutions and the tradespace.....	33
8.4.7	Formulate candidate architecture(s).....	35
8.4.8	Capture architecture concepts and properties.....	36
8.4.9	Relate the architecture to other architectures and to relevant affected entities.....	37
8.4.10	Coordinate use of conceptualized architecture by intended users.....	37
8.5	Work products.....	38
9	Architecture Evaluation process.....	38
9.1	Purpose.....	38
9.2	Outcomes.....	39
9.3	Implementation.....	39
9.4	Activities and tasks.....	40
9.4.1	Prepare for and plan the architecture evaluation effort.....	40
9.4.2	Monitor, assess and control the architecture evaluation activities.....	41
9.4.3	Determine evaluation objectives and criteria.....	42
9.4.4	Determine evaluation methods and integrate with evaluation objectives and criteria.....	43
9.4.5	Establish measurement techniques, methods and tools.....	43
9.4.6	Collect and review evaluation-related information.....	44
9.4.7	Analyze architecture concepts and properties and assess stakeholder value.....	44
9.4.8	Characterize architecture(s) based on assessment results.....	45
9.4.9	Formulate findings and recommendations.....	46
9.4.10	Capture and communicate evaluation results.....	46
9.5	Work products.....	47
10	Architecture Elaboration process.....	47
10.1	Purpose.....	47
10.2	Outcomes.....	47
10.3	Implementation.....	48
10.4	Activities and tasks.....	48
10.4.1	Prepare for and plan the architecture elaboration effort.....	48
10.4.2	Monitor, assess and control the architecture elaboration activities.....	49
10.4.3	Identify or develop architecture viewpoints.....	50
10.4.4	Develop models and views of the architecture(s).....	51
10.4.5	Relate the architecture to other architectures and to relevant affected entities.....	52
10.4.6	Assess the architecture elaboration.....	52
10.4.7	Coordinate use of elaborated architecture by intended users.....	53
10.5	Work products.....	53
11	Architecture Enablement process.....	54
11.1	Purpose.....	54
11.2	Outcomes.....	54
11.3	Implementation.....	54
11.4	Activities and tasks.....	54
11.4.1	Prepare for and plan the architecture enablement effort.....	54
11.4.2	Monitor, assess and control the architecture enablement activities.....	55
11.4.3	Manage the architecture process enablers.....	56
11.4.4	Acquire, develop and establish enabling capabilities, services and resources.....	56
11.4.5	Deploy enabling capabilities, services and resources.....	57
11.4.6	Improve architecture enablement capabilities, services and resources.....	57
11.5	Work products.....	58
	Annex A (normative) Tailoring process.....	59
	Annex B (informative) Defining metrics for architecture processes.....	63

Annex C (normative) Interactions with other processes and uses of architecture	66
Annex D (informative) Relationship with other standards	71
Annex E (informative) Notes on terms and concepts	72
Annex F (informative) Architecture enablement and process-enabling resources	91
Annex G (informative) Architecture governance and management	93
Annex H (informative) Mapping of processes to architecture frameworks	95
Bibliography	108
IEEE notices and abstract	111

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Foreword

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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 ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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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 7, *Software and systems engineering*, in cooperation with the Systems and Software Engineering Standards Committee of the IEEE Computer Society, under the Partner Standards Development Organization cooperation agreement between ISO and IEEE.

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.

0 Introduction

0.1 Rationale for architecture processes

The complexity of human-made systems has grown to an unprecedented level, which leads to new opportunities and greater challenges for organizations that create, trade and utilize systems. To address these opportunities and challenges, it is increasingly necessary to apply concepts, principles, procedures and tools to make better architecture-related decisions, more effective architectures, better architecture strategy and increased architecture maturity. Architecture-related activities are now strategic aspects of projects and enterprises, and the use of architecture frameworks has become common practice in commercial, government, civil and military domains.

Architecture is increasingly applied to systems—and to other entities that are not traditionally considered to be systems, such as enterprises, services, data, business functions, mission areas, product lines, families of systems, software items, etc. The concept of architecture used in this document goes beyond the traditional use where the architecture entity is a system. This allows for a more generalized usage of architecture when the processes in this document are applied. These entities are becoming more complex and architecture practices are increasingly adopted to manage the complexity.

Within enterprises and the engineering disciplines, acknowledgement is increasing for the value added by architecture, both as a practice and in the realization of artifacts that guide engineering and management activities.

This document complements the architecture-related processes identified in ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288, ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207 and ISO 15704 with activities and tasks that enable architects and others to more effectively and efficiently implement architecture practices. Implementing these practices can help ensure that the architecture has greater influence on business and mission success.

0.2 Use of the term architecture in this document

This document uses the term architecture in a broad sense. When the word architecture is used without any qualifier the word refers to the general case where the architecture entails the fundamental concepts and properties of an architecture entity. When a qualifier is prepended to the word architecture, this indicates that the architecture applies to that entity, such as in the following cases:

- System Architecture: When the entity is a system.
- Enterprise Architecture: When the entity is an enterprise.

The following are kinds of architecture entities that can be dealt with by the architecture processes of this document: enterprise, organization, solution, system (including software systems), subsystem, business, data (as a data element or data structure), application, information technology (as a collection), mission, product, service, software item, hardware item, etc. The kind of entity can also be a product line, family of systems, system of systems, collection of systems, collection of applications, etc.

There can be cases where the word architecture is prepended by the subject of interest, not by the entity being architected, such as in the following examples: security architecture, functional architecture, physical architecture and so on. See [E.4.1](#) for more examples.

Finally, there are cases when the word architecture is prepended by the purpose of the architecture, for example integration architecture, coherence architecture, design-control architecture, etc. See [E.4.1](#) for more examples.

0.3 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set the standard of performance for the governance, management, conceptualization, evaluation and elaboration of architectures, and activities that enable these processes. This document can be used as a process reference model in establishing architecture practice and be used across a range of contexts and situations. It provides guidance in conforming to