



**Software, systems and enterprise —
Architecture processes**

STANDARDS
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Software, systems and enterprise — Architecture processes

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-015, Software and Systems Engineering.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to establish a set of process descriptions for the governance and management of a collection of architectures and the architecting of entities. This document also establishes an enablement process description that provides support to these other architecture processes.

The processes defined in this document are applicable for a single project, as well as for an organisation performing multiple projects. These processes are applicable throughout the life of an architecture or a collection of architectures. These processes are applicable for managing and performing the activities within any stage in the life cycle of the architecture entities.

Annex D describes the relationships between this document and other standards.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO/IEC/IEEE 42020:2019, *Software, systems and enterprise — Architecture processes*.

As this document has been reproduced from an International Standard, a full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A “normative” appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

Contents

Preface	ii
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	13
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	21
7.1 Purpose	21
7.2 Outcomes	21
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	23
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	27
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	34
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	38
8.5	Work products	38
9	Architecture Evaluation process	39
9.1	Purpose	39
9.2	Outcomes	39
9.3	Implementation	40
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	42
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	44
9.4.6	Collect and review evaluation-related information	44
9.4.7	Analyze architecture concepts and properties and assess stakeholder value	45
9.4.8	Characterize architecture(s) based on assessment results	46
9.4.9	Formulate findings and recommendations	46
9.4.10	Capture and communicate evaluation results	47
9.5	Work products	47
10	Architecture Elaboration process	48
10.1	Purpose	48
10.2	Outcomes	48
10.3	Implementation	48
10.4	Activities and tasks	49
10.4.1	Prepare for and plan the architecture elaboration effort	49
10.4.2	Monitor, assess and control the architecture elaboration activities	50
10.4.3	Identify and develop architecture viewpoints	51
10.4.4	Develop models and views of the architecture(s)	52
10.4.5	Relate the architecture to other architectures and to relevant affected entities	52
10.4.6	Assess the architecture elaboration	53
10.4.7	Coordinate use of elaborated architecture by intended users	53
10.5	Work products	54
11	Architecture Enablement process	55
11.1	Purpose	55
11.2	Outcomes	55
11.3	Implementation	55
11.4	Activities and tasks	55
11.4.1	Prepare for and plan the architecture enablement effort	55
11.4.2	Monitor, assess and control the architecture enablement activities	56
11.4.3	Manage the architecture process enablers	56
11.4.4	Acquire, develop and establish enabling capabilities, services and resources	57
11.4.5	Deploy enabling capabilities, services and resources	58
11.4.6	Improve architecture enablement capabilities, services and resources	58
11.5	Work products	59

Annex A	(normative) Tailoring process	60
Annex B	(informative) Defining metrics for architecture processes	64
Annex C	(normative) Interactions with other processes and uses of architecture	67
Annex D	(informative) Relationship with other standards	72
Annex E	(informative) Notes on terms and concepts	73
Annex F	(informative) Architecture enablement and process-enabling resources	93
Annex G	(informative) Architecture governance and management	97
Annex H	(informative) Mapping of processes to architecture frameworks	97
Bibliography		111
IEEE notices and abstract		114

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.

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).

IEEE Standards documents are developed within the IEEE Societies and the Standards Coordinating Committees of the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Standards Board. The IEEE develops its standards through a consensus development process, approved by the American National Standards Institute, which brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve the final product. Volunteers are not necessarily members of the Institute and serve without compensation. While the IEEE administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the consensus development process, the IEEE does not independently evaluate, test, or verify the accuracy of any of the information contained in its standards.

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) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <http://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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 the 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

the architecture processes specified in this document, and, in a larger context, to facilitate trading in systems, products and services.

0.4 Field of application

The processes specified in this document apply in the context of:

- understanding, developing and evolving entities through their life cycle stages such as conception, development, implementation, operation, sustainment, decommissioning and disposal;
- the type of architecture to be developed;
- organization(s) acting as users, customers and providers of the solution specified by the architecture description; and
- architecting of entities.

The intent is to provide processes applicable across a wide spectrum of architecting domains (such as the enterprise, systems, services and software domains) for use by a broad range of architects and users of these practices.

When the entity is a system then it is necessary to consider that:

- Systems can vary widely in terms of purpose, domain of application, complexity, size, novelty, adaptability, qualities, locations, life spans and evolution. This document specifies processes for the development and use of architecture that involves human-made systems including one-of-a-kind systems, mass-produced systems and customized, adaptable systems either as a complete stand-alone system or systems embedded and integrated into larger, more complex and complete systems.
- Systems addressed by this document can be configured with one or more of the following kinds of system elements: hardware, software, data, humans, processes (e.g. processes for providing services to users), procedures (e.g. operator instructions), facilities, materials and naturally occurring entities.
- The processes in this document can be used to define the architecture of a system as well as to independently define the architecture of a system of systems involving that system or the architecture of an element of that system such as a software, data or hardware item.

0.5 Reference model for processes

This document provides a process reference model defined according to the ISO/IEC TR 24774 guidelines. This process reference model is characterized by process purpose and process outcomes that result from the successful execution of the relevant tasks in each of the process activities, and the creation of relevant work products, following the process constructs of ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 and ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207. Therefore, this document is useful to support process assessment as specified in ISO/IEC 33002. ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2015, Annex C provides information regarding the use of processes as a process reference model.

The processes specified in this document are applicable:

- concurrently, iteratively, incrementally and recursively to an architecture entity or its elements; and
- for the management and control of portfolios, programs and projects pertaining to the entities being architected.

0.6 Intended audience

The architecture processes specified in this document apply in the context of an enterprise or an extended enterprise, as well as on individual organizations or projects within the enterprise.

This document is applicable to organizations in their roles as both acquirers and suppliers of architected entities or their elements, and is useful for a single organization in a self-imposed mode or in a multi-

party situation involving agreements between parties. Parties can be from the same organization or from different organizations and the situation can range from informal agreements to formal contracts.

The principal intended users of this document are architects and others who create, express, evaluate, communicate and document architectures. Other users include:

- clients, acquirers, designers, service providers, sub-contractors, users and operators of systems and others who need to understand architectures;
- developers and other stakeholders who need to understand, interpret and analyze architecture descriptions to establish, maintain and transform enterprises, systems or other entities;
- chief information officers, chief engineers, program/enterprise managers, auditors, independent assessors and those who oversee and evaluate architecture entities and their development;
- managers of architecting endeavors who establish, plan, monitor and control such undertakings;
- people involved in enterprise-wide activities that span development of multiple systems products, services and software, including those that seek to establish and codify architecture frameworks, architecture viewpoints and architecting methods;
- business analysts who need to understand the norms for the architecture process and process outcome sufficiently in order to verify whether a given architecture description (a) is consistent with their stakeholder needs, and (b) does not risk leaving any of their needs unsatisfied or contradicted; and
- developers of tools and methods used in support of architecting practices, architecture governance and management, and enablement of architecture process implementation.

Additional users include researchers who can use this document to provide a common framework for expressing their research discoveries related to novel methods or techniques that enable or improve the practices of architecting, architecture governance and architecture management, as well as improving the enablement of these practices.

0.7 Benefits from use of this document

This document provides a process framework that:

- contributes to the identification of job roles and responsibilities in the organization, along with requisite skills and competencies;
- facilitates proper oversight, accountability, consistent governance and management, and alignment within and between architectures;
- enables proper implementation of architecture governance directives and change management of architectures; and
- facilitates the effective planning and tracking of the architecture effort.

A set of well-specified architecture activities results in:

- an architecting capability that is applicable to all architecture efforts, irrespective of size and complexity;
- a framework that provides a consistent approach for developing an architecture based on addressing stakeholder concerns and for identifying the aspects of the architecture that would be required to address those concerns;
- standardized architecture approaches that can be adopted by enterprise, system, information technology, software, product and service architects;
- an effective mechanism that facilitates the understanding and communication of the problem and corresponding solution to various stakeholders; and

- a common vocabulary that facilitates communication between stakeholders.

Various groups and individuals benefit from the use of standardized architecture processes, including:

- solution acquirers in helping them characterize the business context, evaluate providers' proposals, identify alternatives, make informed decisions, and in facilitating collaboration between providers who will work together on architecture development and governance;
- solution providers in helping them understand the problem/request, elaborate a proposal in their solution space, and define and justify their deliveries;
- solution users in helping them express the operational context, characterize their needs and evaluate providers' proposals in the context of their problem space;
- decision makers and program/project managers in helping them consider a range of options during creation and usage of architectures which are considered as a source of information and as a basis for the rationale when decisions are made; and
- other bodies such as legal, safety and security authorities, in helping them assess compliance with standards, policies, directives, treaties, regulations and laws.

0.8 Limitations

No formal traceability is made between ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288, ISO/IEC/IEEE 12207, ISO 15704 and this document. Consequently, meeting all requirements in this document does not necessarily mean that all requirements related to architecture processes specified in those other documents are met.

This document does not specify a particular life cycle model to be used when applying these processes.

The ISO/IEC/IEEE 24748 series provides guidance for life cycle definition and application of life cycle processes. Although this document does not establish a management system, the intent of this specification is to be compatible with the quality management system provided by ISO 9001, the service management system provided by ISO/IEC 20000-1 (also published as IEEE Std 20000-1), and the information security management system provided by ISO/IEC 27000.

This document does not specify detailed information items in terms of format, explicit content and recording media. ISO/IEC/IEEE 15289 addresses the content for life cycle process information items (documentation).

This document does not specify any particular architecture framework or architecture documentation standard.

Australian Standard®

Software, systems and enterprise — Architecture processes

1 Scope

This document establishes a set of process descriptions for the governance and management of a collection of architectures and the architecting of entities. This document also establishes an enablement process description that provides support to these other architecture processes.

The processes defined in this document are applicable for a single project, as well as for an organization performing multiple projects. These processes are applicable throughout the life of an architecture or a collection of architectures. These processes are applicable for managing and performing the activities within any stage in the life cycle of the architecture entities.

[Annex D](#) describes the relationships between this document and other standards.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO, IEC and IEEE maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- IEEE Standards Dictionary Online: available at <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpls/dictionary.jsp>

NOTE Definitions for other terms typically can be found in ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765, which provides the vocabulary for system and software engineering, available at www.computer.org/sevocab.

3.1 activity

set of cohesive *tasks* (3.23) of a *process* (3.16)

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2015, 4.1.3]

3.2 architecting

conceiving, defining, expressing, documenting, communicating, certifying proper implementation of, maintaining and improving an *architecture* (3.3) throughout the *life cycle* (3.11) for an *architecture entity* (3.6)

Note 1 to entry: The entity to be architected can be of several kinds, as illustrated in the following examples: system, *enterprise* (3.9), solution, business, data, application, information technology, mission, product, service, software, etc. See [E.4](#) for more information on this topic.

Note 2 to entry: Certifying the proper implementation of an architecture is sometimes captured as a formal statement by the architect to the client or user that the system, as built, meets the criteria as ready for use.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 42010:2011, 3.1 modified — The word “system” has been replaced with “architecture entity”; the original NOTE has been removed; Notes 1 and 2 to entry have been added.]