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BSI Standards Publication

Information technology – Additional Parallel Features in Fortran

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National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of ISO/IEC TS 18508:2015.

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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Contents

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 nongovernmental, 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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

In other circumstances, particularly when there is an urgent market requirement for such documents, the joint technical committee may decide to publish an ISO/IEC Technical Specification (ISO/IEC TS), which represents an agreement between the members of the joint technical committee and is accepted for publication if it is approved by 2/3 of the members of the committee casting a vote.

An ISO/IEC TS is reviewed after three years in order to decide whether it will be confirmed for a further three years, revised to become an International Standard, or withdrawn. If the ISO/IEC TS is confirmed, it is reviewed again after a further three years, at which time it must either be transformed into an International Standard or be withdrawn.

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.

ISO/IEC TS 18508:2015 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC22, *Programming languages, their environments and system software interfaces.*

Introduction

The system for parallel programming in Fortran, as standardized by ISO/IEC 1539-1:2010, defines simple syntax for access to data on another image of a program, synchronization statements for controlling the ordering of execution segments between images, and collective allocation and deallocation of memory on all images.

The existing system for parallel programming does not provide for an environment where a subset of the images can easily work on part of an application while not affecting other images in the program. This complicates development of independent parts of an application by separate teams of programmers. The existing system does not provide a mechanism for a processor to identify what images have failed during execution of a program. This adversely affects the resilience of programs executing on large systems. The synchronization primitives available in the existing system do not provide a convenient mechanism for ordering execution segments of different images without requiring that those images arrive at a synchronization point before either is allowed to proceed. This introduces unnecessary inefficiency into programs. Finally, the existing system does not provide intrinsic procedures for commonly used collective and atomic memory operations. Intrinsic procedures for these operations can be highly optimized for the target computational system, providing significantly improved program performance.

This Technical Specification extends the facilites of Fortran for parallel programming to provide for grouping the images of a program into nonoverlapping teams that can more effectively execute independently parts of a larger problem, for the processor to indicate which images have failed during execution and allow continued execution of the program on the remaining images, for a system of events that can be used for fine-grain ordering of execution segments, and for collective and atomic memory operation subroutines that can provide better performance for specific operations involving more than one image.

The facility specified in this Technical Specification is a compatible extension of Fortran as standardized by ISO/IEC 1539-1:2010, ISO/IEC 1539-1:2010/Cor 1:2012, and ISO/IEC 1539-1:2010/Cor 2:2013.

It is the intention of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC22 that the semantics and syntax specified by this Technical Specification be included in the next revision of ISO/IEC 1539-1 without change unless experience in the implementation and use of this feature identifies errors that need to be corrected, or changes are needed to achieve proper integration, in which case every reasonable effort will be made to minimize the impact of such changes on existing implementations.

This Technical Specification is organized in 8 clauses:

Scope	Clause 1
Normative references	Clause 2
Terms and definitions	Clause 3
Compatibility	Clause 4
Teams of images	Clause 5
Failed images	Clause 6
Events	Clause 7
Intrinsic procedures	Clause 8
Required editorial changes to ISO/IEC 1539-1:2010(E)	Clause 9

It also contains the following nonnormative material:

Extended notes	Annex A

1 Scope

This Technical Specification specifies the form and establishes the interpretation of facilities that extend the Fortran language defined by ISO/IEC 1539-1:2010, ISO/IEC 1539-1:2010/Cor 1:2012, and ISO/IEC 1539-1:2010/Cor 2:2013. The purpose of this Technical Specification is to promote portability, reliability, maintainability, and efficient execution of parallel programs written in Fortran, for use on a variety of computing systems.

This Technical Specification does not specify formal data consistency model. Developing the formal data consistency model is left until the integration of these facilities into ISO/IEC 1539-1.