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Information technology – Home electronic system (HES) gateway – Part 1: A residential gateway model for HES

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CONTENTS

1	Scope	9
1.1	Overview	9
1.2	Functional safety	9
1.3	Privacy and security	9
2	Normative references	9
3	Terms, definitions and abbreviations	10
3.1	Definitions	10
3.2	Abbreviations	13
4	Conformance clauses	13
4.1	Basic functions and requirements	13
4.2	Optional functions and requirements	14
5	Functional requirements of residential gateways	14
5.1	Interfacing requirements	14
5.1.1	General	14
5.1.2	WAN and HAN interfaces	14
5.1.3	Additional physical modular interfaces	15
5.1.4	Application-specific modularity	15
5.2	Co-existence	15
5.3	Address translation requirements	15
5.3.1	General	15
5.3.2	External to internal (WAN to HAN)	15
5.3.3	Internal to internal (HAN to HAN)	15
5.4	Protocol conversion	16
5.5	Information transfer	16
5.6	Auxiliary RG services	16
5.6.1	Application-specific services	16
6	Functional safety with residential gateways	16
6.1	Introduction	16
6.2	Requirements for safety	16
6.2.1	General	16
6.2.2	Blocking capability	16
6.2.3	Discriminative blocking capability	17
6.2.4	Feedback on blocking	17
7	Specific privacy and security requirements concerning residential gateways	17
7.1	Introduction	17
7.2	Security requirements of a residential gateway	17
7.2.1	General	17
7.2.2	Devices with direct or secure connections to associated hosts	17
7.2.3	Devices on HANs, without inherent security	17
7.3	Information security	18
7.4	External attack on the RG	18
7.5	Security requirements for a residential gateway	18
7.6	Security requirements for IP connected residential gateways	18
Annex A	(informative) Architecture of residential gateways	19

A.1	Overview of architecture	19
A.2	Architectural domains	19
A.2.1	General	19
A.2.2	Domain of the RG	20
A.2.3	Basic residential gateway architecture	20
A.2.4	Interfaces and processes	21
A.2.5	Details of component parts	22
A.2.6	Structural implementations of the RG	25
Annex B	(informative) Functional safety considerations	29
B.1	Introduction	29
B.1.1	General	29
B.1.2	Commands to potentially hazardous objects	29
B.1.3	Commands to relocatable programmable objects	29
B.1.4	Commands to automatic objects	29
B.1.5	Command translation	30
B.1.6	Linked changed state	30
B.1.7	Addressing	30
B.1.8	Broadcast messages, variables and commands	30
Annex C	(informative) Specific privacy and security of residential gateways	31
C.1	Introduction	31
C.2	Threats	31
C.2.1	General	31
C.2.2	Masquerade and replay	31
C.2.3	Interception: eavesdropping and modification	31
C.2.4	Denial-of-service and resource-exhaustion attack	32
C.2.5	Software and configuration security: trojan horses, worms, viruses	32
C.2.6	Spyware/data leakage	33
C.2.7	Repudiation	33
C.2.8	Signal intelligence	33
C.2.9	Unintentional domain to domain interconnect	33
C.2.10	Secure purchase and payment	34
C.3	Defence measures	34
C.3.1	Introduction	34
C.3.2	Authentication	34
C.3.3	Access control	35
C.3.4	Integrity and confidentiality	35
C.3.5	Message authentication code (MAC)	35
C.3.6	Hash functions and digital signatures	36
C.3.7	Logging	36
C.3.8	Resource management	36
C.3.9	Host resistance	37
C.3.10	Social engineering	37
C.3.11	Intrusion detection	37
C.3.12	Repudiation	37

Figure 1	– Typical service provision for home network	7
Figure 2	– Diagram of possible RG connections and interfaces	7
Figure A.1	– Domain of the residential gateway	20

Figure A.2 – Unit architecture	21
Figure A.3 – Modular architecture	21
Figure A.4 – WAN Gateway gateway interface	22
Figure A.5 – HAN Gateway gateway interface.....	23
Figure A.6 – RG internal processes and interfaces	24
Figure A.7 – Simple 1:1 implementation of RG	25
Figure A.8 – Complex integral RG implementation	26
Figure A.9 – Complex modular RG implementation	27
Figure A.10 – Distributed RGs linked via HAN.....	28
Figure A.11 – Distributed RGs directly linked	28
Figure A.12 – Distributed RGs linked via WAN.....	28

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – HOME ELECTRONIC SYSTEM (HES) GATEWAY –

Part 1: A residential gateway model for HES

FOREWORD

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International Standard ISO/IEC 15045-1 was prepared by subcommittee 25: Interconnection of information technology equipment, of ISO/IEC joint technical committee 1: Information technology.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

INTRODUCTION

The residential gateway (RG) is a device of the Home Electronic System (HES) that connects home network domains to network domains outside the house, as shown in Figure 1. It supports communications among devices within the premises and systems, service providers, operators and users outside the premises.

The RG enables service and content providers to deliver services such as entertainment, video and broadband digital streams, monitoring for health care, security and occupancy, home appliance control and preventive maintenance, remote metering, and energy management. The RG specified by this standard does not imply the use of any particular protocol such as IP and it is recognised that many forms of the RG will exist using many types of data such as analogue video and broadband digital streams.

The safe and effective delivery of these services places many demands on the facilities of the RG. These include the integrity and security of communications, the delivery of commands to devices in the home from external sources, the blocking of selected commands that may create unsafe conditions, the protection of the home from the risks inherent in a connection to the internet, and facilitating micro-payments. There may be many different configurations of RG. Regardless of the RG configuration, this standard ensures the interoperability of home devices with external services. Also, this standard specifies features to enhance the safety and security of network devices and consumer transactions via the network.

The RG connects the remote user and the internet with the people, equipment, appliances or services in the home. These devices or systems are usually objects or nodes on a particular Home Area Network (HAN).

Residential gateway

Some of the potential interfaces and supported networks of a residential gateway are shown in Figure 1. In all cases the gateway provides the mechanism whereby Wide Area Networks (WANs) communicate with Home Area Networks. The gateway may be a standalone gateway; it may be embedded in another device; or more than one gateway unit may be used. A number of distributed gateway units may display the behaviour of a single gateway.

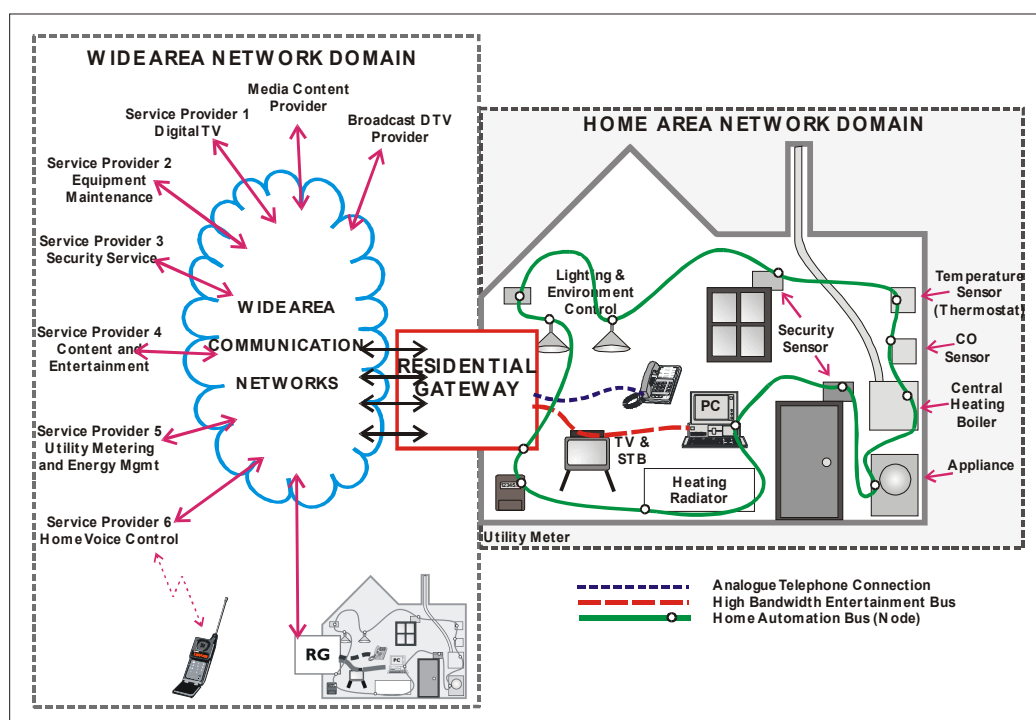


Figure 1 – Typical service provision for home network

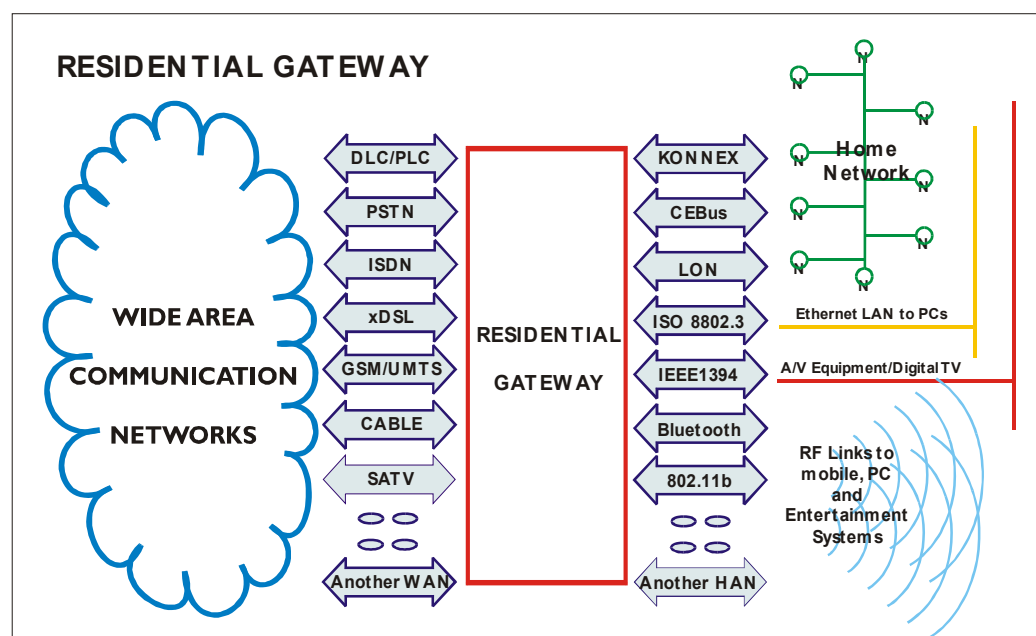


Figure 2 – Diagram of possible RG connections and interfaces

Figure 2 illustrates that multiple WANs and HANs may be supported by the RG. This figure is not intended to imply that all or any of the interfaces or connections shown need to be connected to a residential gateway (or for instance that terrestrial DTV is excluded in favour of SATV).

The physical manifestation of a residential gateway is outside the scope of this standard. This standard accommodates a range of potential configurations. These configurations may range from an approach where a single box acts as interface between two or more WANs and HANs, to a modular dedicated residential gateway, to multiple residential gateways distributed among physically separate locations within the premises.

This standard is based on a black box approach, since it specifies the interfaces of the RG and the function provided but leaves considerable freedom on how these functions are implemented within the black box¹.

This standard is applicable to all communications and other technologies that may be incorporated in the residential gateway and includes both analogue and digital systems.

This document comprises the following:

- requirements of a residential gateway;
- functional safety requirements of a residential gateway, where these are not covered by existing functional safety standards;
- security requirements of a residential gateway;
- options for the Architecture of the residential gateway and the elements of a conforming residential gateway (see Annex A);
- safety requirements of home systems connected to Wide Area Networks and the role of the residential gateway (see Annex B);
- security requirements of home systems connected to Wide Area Networks and the role of the residential gateway (see Annex C).

This document offers a future-proof², forwards and backwards compatible standard for residential gateways and for networks and devices to which they are interfaced.

¹ In systems terminology a 'black box' refers to an object that has inputs, outputs and carries out functions but for which the means and methodology that convert the inputs into outputs are not specified. Only inputs, outputs and functions are specified.

² A system that is called 'future proof' is expected to be adapted to technologies and meet requirements that were not specified when it was designed but may be needed in future.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – HOME ELECTRONIC SYSTEM (HES) GATEWAY –

Part 1: Residential gateway model for HES

1 Scope

1.1 Overview

This part of ISO/IEC 15045 specifies the minimum functional requirements of a residential gateway (RG) and the documentation to be provided. The standard specifies what a gateway should do in order to deliver services in a suitably safe, secure and future-proof way without being prescriptive. It also gives functional requirements.

1.2 Functional safety

This standard specifies certain safety features where commands sent from remote places to devices on the premises could cause danger to persons or property.

While this standard only specifies minimum requirements for the gateway architecture, gateway operation, and associated home systems in terms of safety, it provides an extensive checklist of functional situations that should be treated with the utmost caution and recommends appropriate measures.

1.3 Privacy and security

This standard specifies security measures to ensure the integrity of information that may pass through the residential gateway.

A residential gateway operating between the internet and the home creates significant concerns for security to the user.

Particular attention is drawn to safety, security and privacy. The attention of the user (consumer, maintainer or application service provider (ASP)) of the gateway is drawn to dangers resulting from unexpected system interoperation, from unauthorised access and from compromise of private user information. RGs that are stated to conform to this standard will be evaluated by the RG manufacturers for potential functional safety and/or security hazards arising from systems integration.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 7498, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model*

ISO/IEC 14762, *Information technology – Home Control Systems – Guidelines for functional safety*

ISO/IEC 18012-1, *Information technology – Home electronic system – Guidelines for product interoperability – Part 1: Introduction*³

³ To be published.