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**Cloud computing and distributed  
platforms – Data flow, data categories  
and data use —**

**Part 1:  
Fundamentals**

*Informatique en nuage et plates-formes distribuées — Flux de  
données, catégories de données et utilisation des données —*

*Partie 1: Principes de base*





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## 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 document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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](http://www.iso.org/patents)) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <https://patents.iec.c>).

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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information Technology*, Subcommittee SC 38, *Cloud Computing and Distributed Platforms*.

This first edition of ISO/IEC 19944-1, along with ISO/IEC 19944-2<sup>1)</sup> cancels and replaces ISO/IEC 19944:2017, which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- provides additional material which principally deals with organizational data and the need to treat some organizational data in particular ways in order to ensure confidentiality, integrity and so on,
- the new concept of data facets is introduced and data facets are used to extend the expressiveness of data use statements, including adding the concept of which individuals or organizations have control over data,
- the new data use categories are introduced, including some that address the newer uses of data associated with artificial intelligence systems.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 19944 series can be found on the ISO website.

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).

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1) Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ISO/IEC PWI 19944-2:2020.

## Introduction

This document provides a description of the ecosystem of devices and cloud services and the related flows of data between cloud services, cloud service customers, cloud service users and their devices. These are necessary to provide guidance about how data are used on the devices in the context of the cloud computing ecosystem and the associated location and identity issues that emerge from such use.

This document proposes a scheme for the structure of data use statements that can be used by cloud service providers to help cloud service customers understand and protect the privacy and confidentiality of their data and their users' data through increased transparency of policies and practices.

This document may be used in several ways including, but not limited to:

- a) by cloud service providers and application developers to guide them in describing what they intend to do with data in their designs, so as to simplify privacy and data use reviews and to communicate this information to non-technical departments such as internal compliance, marketing and legal teams;
- b) by organisations drawing up data use statements as part of drafting cloud service agreements and application contracts, privacy statements, etc., which could apply to documents internal to an organisation, in addition to public or legal documents;
- c) by government regulators and agencies to advise on suitable ways of describing data flow and use;
- d) by those preparing information on data flow and data use for communication to the press and the public.

This document cannot be used for compliance directly. Instead, it provides a set of concepts and definitions, including a data taxonomy and data use statement structure, that can be used for transparency about how data are used in an ecosystem of devices and cloud services.

This document also aims to improve the understanding of the data flows that take place in an ecosystem consisting of devices accessing cloud services. It does this through an extended cloud computing reference architecture (CCRA) (based on the architecture described in ISO/IEC 17789) that describes the impact of devices on cloud service ecosystems and the impact of cloud services on devices. It also describes the data flows that take place within the extended reference architecture.

To maintain a relationship of trust between the stakeholders of the ecosystem of devices and cloud services and also to meet the demands of laws and regulations, it is necessary for the device platform providers and the cloud service providers to be transparent about how they make use of the various data types that flow within the ecosystem.

There is a particular need to provide simple and clear statements to end users about what is done with data that relates to them. The data may be personally identifiable information (PII) and may be sensitive, in other words, this can be a privacy issue. Cloud service customers are likely to be concerned about how their data are used, even when the customer is an organization rather than an individual. The cloud service customer may be a data controller, holding personal data about their employees or their customers; in such a role, the cloud service customer has obligations relating to the processing of that data.

To assist cloud service providers and device platform providers in being transparent about their use of data, this document defines a simple language for making statements about data use, which can be used to create clear notification to end users and other interested parties.

This version of ISO/IEC 19944 contains additional material which principally deals with organizational data and the need to treat some organizational data in particular ways in order to ensure confidentiality, integrity and so on.

To assist with this, the new concept of data facets is introduced and data facets are used to extend the expressiveness of data use statements, including adding the concept of which individuals or organizations have control over data.

New data use categories are introduced, including some that address the newer uses of data associated with artificial intelligence systems.



# Cloud computing and distributed platforms – Data flow, data categories and data use —

## Part 1: Fundamentals

### 1 Scope

This document

- extends the existing cloud computing vocabulary and reference architecture in ISO/IEC 17788 and ISO/IEC 17789 to describe an ecosystem involving devices using cloud services,
- describes the various types of data flowing within the devices and cloud computing ecosystem,
- describes the impact of connected devices on the data that flow within the cloud computing ecosystem,
- describes flows of data between cloud services, cloud service customers and cloud service users,
- provides foundational concepts, including a data taxonomy, and
- identifies the categories of data that flow across the cloud service customer devices and cloud services.

This document is applicable primarily to cloud service providers, cloud service customers and cloud service users, but also to any person or organisation involved in legal, policy, technical or other implications of data flows between devices and cloud services.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 17788:2014, *Information technology — Cloud computing — Overview and vocabulary*

ISO/IEC 17789:2014, *Information technology — Cloud computing — Reference architecture*