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This document was prepared by the Linux Foundation as Linux Standard Base (LSB): Core specification generic part and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was assigned to Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 22, *Programming languages, their environments and system software interfaces*, and adopted by National Bodies.

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Contents

Foreword ... **iii**
Introduction ... **vii**
I Introductory Elements ... **1**
1 Scope ... 2
2 References ... 3
2.1 Normative References ... 3
2.2 Informative References/Bibliography ... 5
3 Requirements ... 8
3.1 Relevant Libraries ... 8
3.2 LSB Implementation Conformance ... 8
3.3 LSB Application Conformance ... 10
4 Terms and Definitions ... 11
5 Documentation Conventions ... 13
6 Relationship To ISO/IEC 9945 POSIX ... 14
7 Relationship To Other Linux Foundation Specifications ... 15
II Executable And Linking Format (ELF) ... **16**
8 Introduction ... 17
9 Low Level System Information ... 18
9.1 Operating System Interface ... 18
9.2 Machine Interface ... 18
10 Object Format ... 19
10.1 Object Files ... 19
10.2 Sections ... 19
10.3 Special Sections ... 23
10.4 Symbol Mapping ... 29
10.5 DWARF Extensions ... 29
10.6 Exception Frames ... 31
10.7 Symbol Versioning ... 36
10.8 ABI note tag ... 40
11 Dynamic Linking ... 41
11.1 Program Loading and Dynamic Linking ... 41
11.2 Program Header ... 41
11.3 Dynamic Entries ... 41
12 C++ Class Representations ... 46
12.1 C++ Data Representation ... 46
13 Symbol Mapping ... 50
13.1 Symbol Mapping ... 50
III Base Libraries ... **51**
14 Base Libraries ... 52
14.1 Introduction ... 52
14.2 Program Interpreter ... 52
14.3 Interfaces for libc ... 52
14.4 Data Definitions for libc ... 73
14.5 Interface Definitions for libc ... 180
14.6 Interfaces for libm ... 393
14.7 Data Definitions for libm ... 397
14.8 Interface Definitions for libm ... 403
14.9 Interfaces for libpthread ... 428
14.10 Data Definitions for libpthread ... 434
14.11 Interface Definitions for libpthread ... 439

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14.12 Interfaces for libgcc_s ... 444
14.13 Data Definitions for libgcc_s ... 445
14.14 Interface Definitions for libgcc_s ... 446
14.15 Interfaces for libdl ... 452
14.16 Data Definitions for libdl ... 453
14.17 Interface Definitions for libdl ... 454
14.18 Interfaces for librt ... 457
14.19 Data Definitions for librt ... 459
14.20 Interfaces for libcrypt ... 461
14.21 Data Definitions for libcrypt ... 462
14.22 Interface Definitions for libcrypt ... 462
14.23 Interfaces for libpam ... 464
14.24 Data Definitions for libpam ... 465
14.25 Interface Definitions for libpam ... 467
IV Utility Libraries ... 481
15 Utility Libraries ... 482
15.1 Introduction ... 482
15.2 Interfaces for libz ... 482
15.3 Data Definitions for libz ... 483
15.4 Interface Definitions for libz ... 486
15.5 Interfaces for libncurses ... 533
15.6 Data Definitions for libncurses ... 538
15.7 Interface Definitions for libncurses ... 546
15.8 Interfaces for libncursesw ... 554
15.9 Data Definitions for libncursesw ... 560
15.10 Interface Definitions for libncursesw ... 587
15.11 Interfaces for libutil ... 587
15.12 Data Definitions for libutil ... 588
15.13 Interface Definitions for libutil ... 588
V C++ Libraries ... 594
16 Libraries ... 595
16.1 Interfaces for libstdcxx ... 595
16.2 Interface Definitions for libstdcxx ... 850
VI Commands and Utilities ... 851
17 Commands and Utilities ... 852
17.1 Commands and Utilities ... 852
17.2 Command Behavior ... 853
VII Execution Environment ... 917
18 File System Hierarchy ... 918
18.1 /dev: Device Files ... 918
18.2 /etc: Host-specific system configuration ... 918
18.3 User Accounting Databases ... 920
18.4 Path For System Administration Utilities ... 920
19 Additional Recommendations ... 921
19.1 Recommendations for applications on ownership and permissions ... **921**
20 Additional Behaviors ... 923
20.1 Mandatory Optional Behaviors ... 923
20.2 Optional Mandatory Behaviors ... 924
20.3 Executable Scripts ... 924
21 Localization ... 926
21.1 Introduction ... 926

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21.2 Regular Expressions 926
21.3 Pattern Matching Notation 926
VIII System Initialization 928
22 System Initialization 929
22.1 Cron Jobs 929
22.2 Init Script Actions 930
22.3 Comment Conventions for Init Scripts 932
22.4 Installation and Removal of Init Scripts 934
22.5 Run Levels 935
22.6 Facility Names 935
22.7 Script Names 936
22.8 Init Script Functions 936
IX Users & Groups 939
23 Users & Groups 940
23.1 User and Group Database 940
23.2 User & Group Names 940
23.3 User ID Ranges 941
23.4 Rationale 941
X Network Security Services 942
24 Libraries 943
24.1 Interfaces for libnspr4 943
24.2 Data Definitions for libnspr4 945
24.3 Interfaces for libnss3 955
24.4 Data Definitions for libnss3 956
24.5 Interfaces for libssl3 979
24.6 Data Definitions for libssl3 980
XI Package Format and Installation 990
25 Software Installation 991
25.1 Introduction 991
25.2 Package File Format 991
25.3 Package Script Restrictions 1011
25.4 Package Tools 1011
25.5 Package Naming Conventions 1011
25.6 Package Dependencies 1012
25.7 Package Architecture Considerations 1013
Annex A Alphabetical Listing of Interfaces by Library 1014
A.1 libc 1014
A.2 libcrypt 1029
A.3 libdl 1029
A.4 libgcc_s 1029
A.5 libm 1029
A.6 libncurses 1033
A.7 libncursesw 1036
A.8 libpam 1043
A.9 libpthread 1043
A.10 librt 1047
A.11 libutil 1047
A.12 libz 1048
A.13 libnspr4 1049
A.14 libnss3 1050
A.15 libssl3 1051

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Introduction

The LSB defines a binary interface for application programs that are compiled and packaged for LSB-conforming implementations on many different hardware architectures. A binary specification must include information specific to the computer processor architecture for which it is intended. To avoid the complexity of conditional descriptions, the specification has instead been divided into generic parts which are augmented by one of several architecture-specific parts, depending on the target processor architecture; the generic part will indicate when reference must be made to the architecture part, and vice versa.

This document should be used in conjunction with the documents it references. This document enumerates the system components it includes, but descriptions of those components may be included entirely or partly in this document, partly in other documents, or entirely in other reference documents. For example, the section that describes system service routines includes a list of the system routines supported in this interface, formal declarations of the data structures they use that are visible to applications, and a pointer to the underlying referenced specification for information about the syntax and semantics of each call. Only those routines not described in standards referenced by this document, or extensions to those standards, are described in the detail. Information referenced in this way is as much a part of this document as is the information explicitly included here.

The specification carries a version number of either the form `x.y` or `x.y.z`. This version number carries the following meaning:

1. The first number (`x`) is the major version number. Versions sharing the same major version number shall be compatible in a backwards direction; that is, a newer version shall be compatible with an older version. Any deletion of a library results in a new major version number. Interfaces marked as deprecated may be removed from the specification at a major version change.
2. The second number (`y`) is the minor version number. Libraries and individual interfaces may be added, but not removed. Interfaces may be marked as deprecated at a minor version change. Other minor changes may be permitted at the discretion of the LSB workgroup.
3. The third number (`z`), if present, is the editorial level. Only editorial changes should be included in such versions.

Since this specification is a descriptive Application Binary Interface, and not a source level API specification, it is not possible to make a guarantee of 100% backward compatibility between major releases. However, it is the intent that those parts of the binary interface that are visible in the source level API will remain backward compatible from version to version, except where a feature marked as "Deprecated" in one release may be removed from a future release. Implementors are strongly encouraged to make use of symbol versioning to permit simultaneous support of applications conforming to different releases of this specification.

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I Introductory Elements

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1 Scope

The Linux Standard Base (LSB) defines a system interface for compiled applications and a minimal environment for support of installation scripts. Its purpose is to enable a uniform industry standard environment for high-volume applications conforming to the LSB.

These specifications are composed of two basic parts: a common part describing those parts of the interface that remain constant across all implementations of the LSB, and an architecture-specific part describing the parts of the interface that vary by processor architecture. Together, the common part and the relevant architecture-specific part for a single hardware architecture provide a complete interface specification for compiled application programs on systems that share a common hardware architecture.

The LSB contains both a set of Application Program Interfaces (APIs) and Application Binary Interfaces (ABIs). APIs may appear in the source code of portable applications, while the compiled binary of that application may use the larger set of ABIs. A conforming implementation provides all of the ABIs listed here. The compilation system may replace (e.g. by macro definition) certain APIs with calls to one or more of the underlying binary interfaces, and may insert calls to binary interfaces as needed.

The LSB is primarily a binary interface definition. Not all of the source level APIs available to applications may be contained in this specification.

This is the common part of the Core module of the Linux Standard Base (LSB), LSB Core - Generic. This module provides the fundamental system interfaces, libraries, and runtime environment upon which all conforming applications and libraries depend.

LSB Core - Generic, the common part, should be used in conjunction with an architecture-specific part. Whenever a section of the common part is supplemented by architecture-specific information, the common part includes a reference to the architecture-specific part. Architecture-specific parts of the LSB Core Specification may also contain additional information that is not referenced in the common part.

Interfaces described in this part of the LSB Core Specification are mandatory except where explicitly listed otherwise. Interfaces described in the LSB Core module are supplemented by other LSB modules. All other modules depend on the presence of LSB Core.

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2 References

2.1 Normative References

The following specifications are incorporated by reference into this specification. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced specification (including any amendments) applies.

Note: Where copies of a referenced specification are available on the World Wide Web, a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is given, for informative purposes only. Such URL might at any given time resolve to a more recent copy of the specification, or be out of date (not resolve). Reference copies of specifications at the revision level indicated may be found at the Linux Foundation's Reference Specifications (http://refspecs.linuxbase.org) site.

Table 2-1 Normative References

Name	Title	URL
Filesystem Hierarchy Standard	Filesystem Hierarchy Standard (FHS) 3.0	http://refspecs.linuxbase.org/fhs
ISO C (1999)	ISO/IEC 9899:1999 - Programming Languages -- C	
ISO/IEC 14882: 2003 C++ Language	ISO/IEC 14882: 2003 Programming languages --C++	
Itanium™ C++ ABI	Itanium™ C++ ABI (Revision 1.86)	http://refspecs.linuxfoundation.org/cxxabi-1.86.html
Large File Support	Large File Support	http://www.UNIX-systems.org/version2/whatsnew/lfs20mar.html
Libncursesw API	Libncursesw API	http://invisible-island.net/ncurses/man/ncurses.3x.html
Libncursesw Placeholder	Libncursesw Specification Placeholder	http://refspecs.linux-foundation.org/libncursesw/libncurses.html
POSIX 1003.1-2001 (ISO/IEC 9945-2003)	ISO/IEC 9945-1:2003 Information technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) -- Part 1: Base Definitions ISO/IEC 9945-2:2003 Information technology -- Portable Operating System Interface	http://www.unix.org/version3/

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Name	Title	URL
	(POSIX) -- Part 2: System Interfaces ISO/IEC 9945-3:2003 Information technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) -- Part 3: Shell and Utilities ISO/IEC 9945-4:2003 Information technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) -- Part 4: Rationale Including Technical Cor. 1: 2004	
POSIX 1003.1-2008 (ISO/IEC 9945-2009)	Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX®) 2008 Edition / The Open Group Technical Standard Base Specifications, Issue 7	http://www.unix.org/version4/
SUSv2	CAE Specification, January 1997, System Interfaces and Headers (XSH),Issue 5 (ISBN: 1-85912-181-0, C606)	http://www.opengroup.org/publications/catalog/un.htm
SVID Issue 3	American Telephone and Telegraph Company, System V Interface Definition, Issue 3; Morristown, NJ, UNIX Press, 1989. (ISBN 0201566524)	
SVID Issue 4	System V Interface Definition, Fourth Edition	http://refspecs.linuxfoundation.org/svid4/
System V ABI	System V Application Binary Interface, Edition 4.1	http://www.sco.com/developers/devspecs/gabi41.pdf
System V ABI Update	System V Application Binary Interface -	http://www.sco.com/developers/gabi/2003-12-17/contents.html

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Name	Title	URL
	DRAFT - 17 December 2003	
X/Open Curses, Issue 7	X/Open Curses, Issue 7 (ISBN: 1-931624-83-6, The Open Group, November 2009)	https://www2.opengroup.org/ogsys/catalog/C094

2.2 Informative References/Bibliography

The documents listed below provide essential background information to implementors of this specification. These references are included for information only, and do not represent normative parts of this specification.

Table 2-2 Other References

Name	Title	URL
DWARF Debugging Information Format, Version 4	DWARF Debugging Information Format, Version 4 (June 10, 2010)	http://www.dwarfstd.org/doc/DWARF4.pdf
IEC 60559/IEEE 754 Floating Point	IEC 60559:1989 Binary floating-point arithmetic for microprocessor systems	http://www.ieee.org/
ISO/IEC TR14652	ISO/IEC Technical Report 14652:2002 Specification method for cultural conventions	
ITU-T V.42	International Telecommunication Union Recommendation V.42 (2002): Error-correcting procedures for DCEs using asynchronous-to-synchronous conversionITUV	http://www.itu.int/rec/recommendation.asp?type=folders&lang=e&parent=T-REC-V.42
Li18nux Globalization Specification	LI18NUX 2000 Globalization Specification, Version 1.0 with Amendment 4	http://www.openi18n.org/docs/html/LI18NUX-2000-amd4.htm
Linux Allocated Device Registry	LINUX ALLOCATED DEVICES	http://www.lanana.org/docs/device-list/devices-2.6+.txt

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Name	Title	URL
Linux Assigned Names And Numbers Authority	Linux Assigned Names And Numbers Authority	http://www.lanana.org/
Mozilla's NSS SSL Reference	Mozilla's NSS SSL Reference	http://www.mozilla.org/projects/security/pki/nss/ref/ssl/
NSPR Reference	Mozilla's NSPR Reference	http://refspecs.linuxfoundation.org/NSPR_API_Reference/NSPR_API.html
PAM	Open Software Foundation, Request For Comments: 86.0 , October 1995, V. Samar & R.Schemers (SunSoft)	http://www.opengroup.org/tech/rfc/mirror-rfc/rfc86.0.txt
RFC 1321: The MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm	IETF RFC 1321: The MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1321.txt
RFC 1833: Binding Protocols for ONC RPC Version 2	IETF RFC 1833: Binding Protocols for ONC RPC Version 2	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1833.txt
RFC 1950: ZLIB Compressed Data Format Specication	IETF RFC 1950: ZLIB Compressed Data Format Specification	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1950.txt
RFC 1951: DEFLATE Compressed Data Format Specification	IETF RFC 1951: DEFLATE Compressed Data Format Specification version 1.3	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1951.txt
RFC 1952: GZIP File Format Specification	IETF RFC 1952: GZIP file format specification version 4.3	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1952.txt
RFC 2440: OpenPGP Message Format	IETF RFC 2440: OpenPGP Message Format	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2440.txt
RFC 2821:Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	IETF RFC 2821: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2821.txt
RFC 2822:Internet Message Format	IETF RFC 2822: Internet Message Format	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2822.txt
RFC 5531/4506 RPC & XDR	IETF RFC 5531 & 4506	http://www.ietf.org/

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Name	Title	URL
RFC 791:Internet Protocol	IETF RFC 791: Internet Protocol Specification	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc791.txt
RPM Package Format	RPM Package Format V3.0	http://www.rpm.org/max-rpm/s1-rpm-file-format-rpm-file-format.html
zlib Manual	zlib 1.2 Manual	http://www.gzip.org/zlib/

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