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**Information technology — Digital  
publishing — EPUB 3.0.1 —**

**Part 1:  
Overview**

*Technologies de l'information — Publications numériques — EPUB  
3.0.1 —*

*Partie 1: Aperçu général*





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CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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This document was prepared by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) (as EPUB 3 Overview) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was adopted, under the JTC 1 PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

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# EPUB 3 Overview

## Recommended Specification 26 June 2014

### THIS VERSION

<http://www.idpf.org/epub/301/spec/epub-overview-20140626.html>

### LATEST VERSION

<http://www.idpf.org/epub3/latest/overview>

### PREVIOUS VERSION

<http://www.idpf.org/epub/301/spec/epub-overview-20140228.html>

A [diff of changes](#) from the previous version is also available.

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## Editors

Garth Conboy, Google Inc.

Matt Garrish, Invited Expert

Markus Gylling, International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF)

William McCoy, International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF)

MURATA Makoto, JEP A EPUB Study Group

Daniel Weck, DAISY Consortium

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## › 1 Introduction

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### › 1.1 Overview

The EPUB® specification is a distribution and interchange format standard for digital publications and documents. EPUB defines a means of representing, packaging and encoding structured and semantically enhanced Web content — including HTML5, CSS, SVG and other resources — for distribution in a single-file format.

EPUB 3, the third major release of the standard, consists of a set of four specifications, each defining an important component of an overall [EPUB Publication](#):

- EPUB Publications 3.0.1 [[Publications301](#)], which defines the semantics and overarching conformance requirements for each [Rendition](#) of an [EPUB Publication](#).
- EPUB Content Documents 3.0.1 [[ContentDocs301](#)], which defines profiles of XHTML, SVG and CSS for use in the context of [EPUB Publications](#).
- EPUB Open Container Format (OCF) 3.0.1 [[OCF301](#)], which defines a file format and processing model for encapsulating a set of related resources into a single-file (ZIP) [EPUB Container](#).
- EPUB Media Overlays 3.0.1 [[MediaOverlays301](#)], which defines a format and a processing model for synchronization of text and audio.

EPUB has been widely adopted as the format for digital books (eBooks), and these new specifications significantly increase the format's capabilities in order to better support a wider range of publication requirements, including complex layouts, rich media and interactivity, and global typography features. The expectation is that EPUB 3 will be utilized for a broad range of content, including books, magazines and educational, professional and scientific publications.

This document provides a starting point for content authors and software developers wishing to understand these specifications. It consists entirely of informative overview material, including a [roadmap](#) to the four building-block specification documents that compose EPUB 3.

Another informative document, EPUB 3 Changes from EPUB 2.0.1 [[EPUB3Changes](#)], describes changes in EPUB 3 from the previous version, but is intended primarily for [Authors](#) and [EPUB Reading System](#) vendors migrating from EPUB 2.0.1 to EPUB 3 and for those who anticipate supporting both versions.