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## Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Governance of information security

*Sécurité de l'information, cybersécurité et protection de la vie  
privée — Gouvernance de la sécurité de l'information*



Reference number  
ISO/IEC 27014:2020(E)

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Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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## Foreword

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This document was prepared by ITU-T as ITU-T X.1054 (04/2021) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules, in collaboration with Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology, Subcommittee SC 27, Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 27014:2013), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the document has been aligned with ISO/IEC 27001:2013;
- the requirements in ISO/IEC 27001 which are governance activities have been explained;
- the objectives and processes of information security governance have been described.

This corrected version of ISO/IEC 27014:2020 incorporates the following corrections:

- the document has been editorially revised in accordance with the rules-for-presentation-ITU-T-ISO-IEC common text.

## ISO/IEC 27014:2020(E)

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) and [www.iec.ch/national-committees](http://www.iec.ch/national-committees).

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO/IEC 27014  
RECOMMENDATION ITU-T X.1054**

**Information security, cybersecurity and privacy  
protection – Governance of information security**

**Summary**

Recommendation ITU-T X.1054 | International Standard ISO/IEC 27014 provides guidance on the governance of information security.

Information security is a key issue for organizations, amplified by rapid advances in attack methodologies and technologies, and corresponding increased regulatory pressures.

The failure of an organization's information security controls can have many adverse impacts on an organization and its interested parties including but not limited to the undermining of trust.

Governance of information security is the use of resources to ensure effective implementation of information security, and provides assurance that:

- directives concerning information security will be followed; and
- the governing body will receive reliable and relevant reporting about information security related activities.

This assists the governing body to make decisions concerning the strategic objectives for the organization by providing information about information security that may affect these objectives. It also ensures that information security strategy aligns with the overall objectives of the entity.

Managers and others working in organizations need to understand:

- the governance requirements that affect their work; and
- how to meet governance requirements that require them to take action.

**History**

Edition	Recommendation	Approval	Study Group	Unique ID*
1.0	ITU-T X.1054	2012-09-07	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11594">11.1002/1000/11594</a>
2.0	ITU-T X.1054	2021-04-30	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/14248">11.1002/1000/14248</a>

**Keywords**

Information security, information security governance, information security management, ISMS.

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\* To access the Recommendation, type the URL <http://handle.itu.int/> in the address field of your web browser, followed by the Recommendation's unique ID. For example, <http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11830-en>.

## FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

## NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

Compliance with this Recommendation is voluntary. However, the Recommendation may contain certain mandatory provisions (to ensure, e.g., interoperability or applicability) and compliance with the Recommendation is achieved when all of these mandatory provisions are met. The words "shall" or some other obligatory language such as "must" and the negative equivalents are used to express requirements. The use of such words does not suggest that compliance with the Recommendation is required of any party.

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## Introduction

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating, and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a world-wide basis. The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups that, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics. The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1. In some areas of information technology that fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electro technical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of Recommendation | 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. In the field of Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

This Recommendation | International Standard has been 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 this Recommendation | International Standard. Draft Recommendation | 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.

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Rec. ITU-T X.1054 | ISO/IEC 27014 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection*, in collaboration with ITU-T SG17.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD  
ITU-T RECOMMENDATION****Information Security, Cybersecurity and Privacy  
Protection – Governance of Information Security****1 Scope**

This Recommendation | International Standard provides guidance on concepts, objectives and processes for the governance of information security, by which organizations can evaluate, direct, monitor and communicate the information security-related processes within the organization.

The intended audience for this document is:

- governing body and top management;
- those who are responsible for evaluating, directing and monitoring an information security management system (ISMS) based on ISO/IEC 27001;
- those responsible for information security management that takes place outside the scope of an ISMS based on ISO/IEC 27001, but within the scope of governance.

This Recommendation | International Standard is applicable to all types and sizes of organizations.

All references to an ISMS in this document apply to an ISMS based on ISO/IEC 27001.

This Recommendation | International Standard focuses on the three types of ISMS organizations given in Annex B. However, it can also be used by other types of organizations.

**2 Normative references**

The following Recommendations and International Standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation | International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and Standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this Recommendation | International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and Standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards. The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau of the ITU maintains a list of currently valid ITU-T Recommendations.

- ISO/IEC 27000:in force, *Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems – Overview and vocabulary*.
- ISO/IEC 27001:in force, *Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems – Requirements*.