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Information technology — Extensible biometric data interchange formats —

Part 1: **Framework**

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ISO copyright office
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
Website: www.iso.org

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 37, *Biometrics*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 39794 series can be found on the ISO website.

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Introduction

Biometric data interchange formats enable the interoperability of different biometric systems. The first generation of biometric data interchange formats was published between 2005 and 2007 in the first edition of the ISO/IEC 19794 series. From 2011 onwards, the second generation of biometric data interchange formats was published in the second edition of the established parts and the first edition of some new parts of the ISO/IEC 19794 series. In the second generation of biometric data interchange formats, new useful data elements such as those related to biometric sample quality were added, the header data structures were harmonized across all parts of the ISO/IEC 19794 series, and XML encoding was added in addition to the binary encoding.

The second generation of the biometric data interchange formats turned out to be syntactically incompatible with their first generation. The second generation, however, did not cancel and replace the first generation because the first generation has been adopted widely, e.g. for biometric data stored in machine-readable travel documents, which will be in the field for a long time. Therefore, the first editions of the ISO/IEC 19794 series are expected to be retained in the standards catalogue as long as needed alongside their second editions.

In anticipation of the need for additional data elements, and in order to avoid future compatibility issues, the ISO/IEC 39794 series provides standard biometric data interchange formats capable of being extended in a defined way. Extensible specifications in ASN.1 (Abstract Syntax Notation One) and the Distinguished Encoding Rules of ASN.1 form the basis for encoding biometric data in binary tag-length-value formats. XSDs (XML schema definitions) form the basis for encoding biometric data in XML (eXtensible Markup Language).

This document defines what is common for the extensible biometric data interchange formats considered in the specific parts of the ISO/IEC 39794 series, i.e. the common content, meaning and representation of biometric data interchange formats.

The ISO/IEC 39794 series is one of a family of international standards being developed by ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 37 that supports interoperability and data interchange among biometric applications and systems. This family of standards specifies requirements on a wide variety of biometric recognition applications, whether such applications operate in an open systems environment or consist of a single, closed system. Open systems are built on standards-based, publicly defined data formats, interfaces and protocols to facilitate data interchange and interoperability with other systems, which may include components of different design or manufacture. A closed system can also be built on publicly defined standards, and may include components of different design or manufacture, but inherently has no requirement for data interchange and interoperability with any other system.

The ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 37 biometric standards family includes a layered set of standards consisting of biometric data interchange formats and biometric interfaces, as well as biometric profiles that describe the use of these standards in specific application areas. Figure 1 shows the interrelation of biometrics-related areas of standardization. Biometric data complying with one of the biometric data interchange formats defined in the ISO/IEC 19794 series[7] and the ISO/IEC 39794 series represent the core component of biometric interoperability. The formats defined in the ISO/IEC 19785 series[4] may be used as a wrapper around biometric data. Since biometric data are sensitive data and subject to attack, cryptographic protection is required in interchange environments. Biometrics-related profiles, security evaluation and performance evaluation also play an important role. Biometric interfaces are essential to facilitate easy integration and usage of biometric components. The harmonized biometric vocabulary is recommended for use in describing biometric technology. The deployment of applications using biometric verification or identification takes place within the context of societal and cross-jurisdictional requirements.

The ISO/IEC 19794 series and the ISO/IEC 39794 series specify biometric data interchange formats for different types of biometric characteristics. Parties that agree on a biometric data interchange format specified in the ISO/IEC 19794 series or the ISO/IEC 39794 series should be able to decode each other's biometric data.

The biometric interface standards include the Common Biometric Exchange Formats Framework (CBEFF) series (ISO/IEC 19785[4]) and the Biometric Application Programming Interface (BioAPI) series (ISO/IEC 19784[3]). These standards support exchange of biometric data within a system or among systems. The CBEFF series specifies the basic structure of a standardized biometric information record (BIR) which includes one or more biometric data blocks (BDB) with added metadata, such as date and time when it was captured, its expiry date, whether it is encrypted, etc. The BioAPI series specifies an open system API that supports communications between software applications and underlying biometric technology services.

The biometric profile series (ISO/IEC 24713[8]) facilitates implementations of the base standards (e.g. biometric data interchange format standards and biometric interface standards and possibly non-biometric standards) for defined applications. These profiles define the functions of an application (e.g. physical access control for employees at airports) and then specify use of options in the base standards to ensure biometric interoperability.

The ISO/IEC 24779[10] series specifies a family of icons and symbols used in association with devices for biometric enrolment, verification and/or identification. The symbols and icons are intended to show the type of biometric characteristics and to advise on the appropriate preparation and behaviour required when using a biometric system. They are also intended to assist capture subjects by guiding them as they use the biometric system.

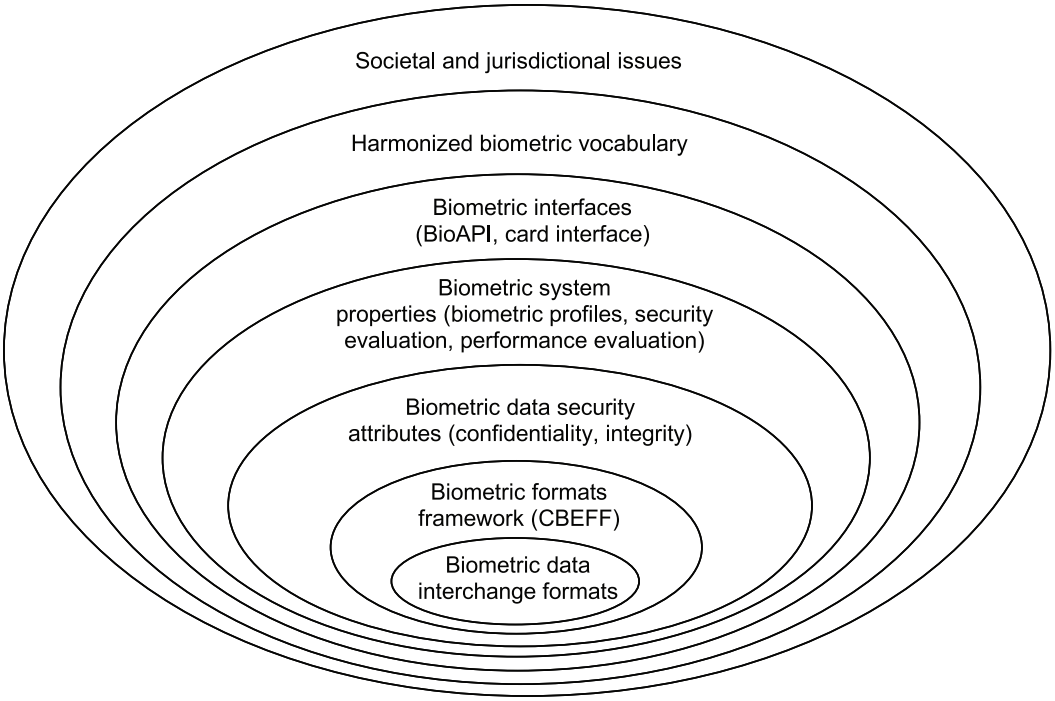

Figure 1 — General interrelation model of biometric issues

Information technology — Extensible biometric data interchange formats —

Part 1: Framework

1 Scope

This document specifies:

— rules and guidelines for defining extensible biometric data interchange formats that are extensible without invalidating previous data structures;

— the meaning of common data elements for use in extensible biometric data interchange formats;

— common data structures for tagged binary data formats based on an extensible specification in ASN.1;

— common data structures for textual data formats based on an XML schema definition; and

— conformance testing concepts and methodologies for testing the syntactic conformance of biometric data blocks.

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 2382-37, *Information technology — Vocabulary — Part 37: Biometrics*

ISO 8601 (all parts), *Date and time — Representations for information interchange*

ISO/IEC 8824-1, *Information technology — Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Specification of basic notation — Part 1*

ISO/IEC 8825-1, *Information technology — ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Basic Encoding Rules (BER), Canonical Encoding Rules (CER) and Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER) — Part 1*

ISO/IEC 19785-2,[1)] *Information technology — Common Biometric Exchange Formats Framework — Part 2: Procedures for the operation of the biometric registration authority*

ISO/IEC 29794-1, *Information technology — Biometric sample quality — Part 1: Framework*

ISO/IEC 30107-2, *Information technology — Biometric presentation attack detection — Part 2: Data formats*

IETF RFC 5141, *A Uniform Resource Name (URN) Namespace for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)*

IETF RFC 5234, *Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF*

W3C Recommendation, *XML Schema Part 1: Structures* (Second Edition), 28 October 2004, http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-1/

1) Second edition under preparation. Stage at time of publication: ISO/IEC DIS 19785-2:2018.

W3C Recommendation, *XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes* (Second Edition), 28 October 2004, http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/

