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**Information technology — Open
systems interconnection —**

Part 8:
**The Directory: Public-key and
attribute certificate frameworks**



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This document was prepared by ITU-T as ITU-T X.509 (10/2019) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules, in collaboration with Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Telecommunications and information exchange between systems*.

This ninth edition cancels and replaces the eighth edition (ISO/IEC 9594-8:2017), which has been technically revised.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 9594 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.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION 1 – General.....	1
1 Scope.....	1
2 Normative references.....	1
2.1 Identical Recommendations International Standards	1
2.2 Paired Recommendations International Standards equivalent in technical content.....	2
2.3 Recommendations	2
2.4 Other references	2
3 Definitions.....	3
3.1 OSI Reference Model security architecture definitions.....	3
3.2 Baseline identity management terms and definitions	3
3.3 Directory model definitions	3
3.4 Access control framework definitions.....	3
3.5 Public-key and attribute certificate definitions.....	3
4 Abbreviations	7
5 Conventions.....	8
6 Frameworks overview	8
6.1 Digital signatures	9
6.2 Public-key cryptography and cryptographic algorithms.....	10
6.3 Distinguished encoding of basic encoding rules	12
6.4 Applying distinguished encoding.....	12
6.5 Using repositories.....	13
SECTION 2 – PUBLIC-KEY CERTIFICATE FRAMEWORK.....	14
7 Public keys and public-key certificates	14
7.1 Introduction	14
7.2 Public-key certificate.....	14
7.3 Public-key certificate extensions.....	17
7.4 Types of public-key certificates	18
7.5 Trust anchor	18
7.6 Entity relationship	19
7.7 Certification path.....	19
7.8 Generation of key pairs	21
7.9 Public-key certificate creation.....	21
7.10 Certificate revocation list	22
7.11 Uniqueness of names.....	25
7.12 Indirect CRLs	25
7.13 Repudiation of a digital signing	26
8 Trust models.....	27
8.1 Three-cornered trust model	27
8.2 Four cornered trust model	27
9 Public-key certificate and CRL extensions.....	28
9.1 Policy handling.....	29
9.2 Key and policy information extensions	31
9.3 Subject and issuer information extensions	38
9.4 Certification path constraint extensions	41
9.5 Basic CRL extensions	45
9.6 CRL distribution points and delta CRL extensions	52
9.7 Authorization and validation list extensions	57
9.8 Alternative cryptographic algorithms and digital signature extensions.....	58
10 Delta CRL relationship to base.....	59
11 Authorization and validation lists.....	60
11.1 Authorization and validation list concept.....	60

11.2	The authorizer	60
11.3	Authorization and validation list syntax.....	61
11.4	Multiple cryptographic algorithms for authorization and validation list.....	62
12	Certification path processing procedure.....	63
12.1	Path processing inputs.....	63
12.2	Path processing outputs.....	63
12.3	Path processing variables	64
12.4	Initialization step.....	64
12.5	Public-key certificate processing.....	65
13	PKI directory schema	67
13.1	PKI directory object classes and name forms.....	67
13.2	PKI directory attributes	68
13.3	PKI directory matching rules	72
13.4	PKI directory syntax definitions.....	77
SECTION 3 – ATTRIBUTE CERTIFICATE FRAMEWORK		80
14	Attribute certificates	80
14.1	General	80
14.2	Attribute certificate syntax	81
14.3	Multiple cryptographic algorithms for attribute certificates.....	83
14.4	Delegation paths.....	83
14.5	Attribute certificate revocation lists	84
15	Attribute authority, source of authority and certification authority relationship	86
15.1	Privilege in attribute certificates.....	87
15.2	Privilege in public-key certificates.....	87
16	PMI models	87
16.1	General model	87
16.2	Control model.....	89
16.3	Delegation model	90
16.4	Group assignment model.....	90
16.5	Roles model.....	91
16.6	Recognition of Authority Model.....	93
16.7	XML privilege information attribute.....	96
16.8	Permission attribute and matching rule	97
17	Attribute certificate and attribute certificate revocation list extensions	97
17.1	Basic privilege management extensions.....	98
17.2	Privilege revocation extensions.....	101
17.3	Source of authority extensions	107
17.4	Role extensions	109
17.5	Delegation extensions	110
17.6	Recognition of authority extensions.....	114
17.7	Use of alternative digital signature algorithm and digital signature extensions	117
18	Delegation path processing procedure.....	118
18.1	Basic processing procedure.....	118
18.2	Role processing procedure	119
18.3	Delegation processing procedure	119
19	PMI directory schema.....	121
19.1	PMI directory object classes	121
19.2	PMI directory attributes	123
19.3	PMI general directory matching rules	125
Annex A – Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks.....		127
Annex B – Reference definition of cryptographic algorithms		155
Annex C Certificate extension attribute types		162

C.1	Certificate extension attribute concept	162
C.2	Formal specification for certificate extension attribute types.....	162
Annex D	– External ASN.1 modules	171
Annex E	– CRL generation and processing rules	180
E.1	Introduction	180
E.2	Determine parameters for CRLs.....	181
E.3	Determine CRLs required	182
E.4	Obtain CRLs.....	183
E.5	Process CRLs	183
Annex F	– Examples of delta CRL issuance.....	187
Annex G	– Privilege policy and privilege attribute definition examples	189
G.1	Introduction	189
G.2	Sample syntaxes	189
G.3	Privilege attribute example.....	193
Annex H	– An introduction to public key cryptography ²⁾	194
Annex I	– Examples of use of certification path constraints	196
I.1	Example 1: Use of basic constraints.....	196
I.2	Example 2: Use of policy mapping and policy constraints	196
I.3	Use of name constraints extension	196
Annex J	– Guidance on determining for which policies a certification path is valid.....	205
J.1	Certification path valid for a user-specified policy required	205
J.2	Certification path valid for any policy required	206
J.3	Certification path valid regardless of policy	206
J.4	Certification path valid for a user-specific policy desired, but not required	206
Annex K	– Key usage certificate extension issues	207
Annex L	– Deprecated extensions	208
L.1	CRL scope extension.....	208
Annex M	– Directory concepts.....	211
M.1	Scope.....	211
M.2	The directory attribute concept.....	211
M.3	Basic directory concepts.....	211
M.4	Subtrees	212
M.5	Directory distinguished names	212
M.6	Directory schema	213
Annex N	– Considerations on strong authentication	214
N.1	Introduction	214
N.2	One-way authentication.....	215
N.3	Two-way authentication.....	215
N.4	Three-way authentication.....	216
N.5	Five-way authentication (initiated by A).....	217
N.6	Five-way authentication (initiated by B).....	218
Annex O	– Alphabetical list of information item definitions	220
Annex P	– Amendments and corrigenda	223
Bibliography	224

Introduction

Many applications have requirements for security to protect against threats to the communication of information. Virtually all security services are dependent upon the identities of the communicating parties being reliably known, i.e., authenticated.

This Recommendation | International Standard defines a framework for public-key certificates. This framework includes the specification of data objects used to represent the public-key certificates themselves, as well as revocation notices for issued public-key certificates that should no longer be trusted. It defines some critical components of a public-key infrastructure (PKI), but it does not define a PKI in its entirety. However, this Recommendation | International Standard provides the foundation upon which full PKIs and their specifications can be built.

Similarly, this Recommendation | International Standard defines a framework for attribute certificates. This framework includes the specification of data objects used to represent the attribute certificates themselves, as well as revocation notices for issued attribute certificates that should no longer be trusted. It defines some critical components of a privilege management infrastructure (PMI), but it does not define a PMI in its entirety. However, this Recommendation | International Standard provides the foundation upon which full PMIs and their specifications can be built.

Directory schema definitions allow PKI and PMI information to be represented in a directory according to the specification found in the Directory Specifications (Rec. ITU-T X.500 | ISO/IEC 9594-1, Rec. ITU-T X.501 | ISO/IEC 9594-2, Rec. ITU-T X.511 | ISO/IEC 9594-3, Rec. ITU-T X.518 | ISO/IEC 9594-4, Rec. ITU-T X.519 | ISO/IEC 9594-5, Rec. ITU-T X.520 | ISO/IEC 9594-6, Rec. ITU-T X.521 | ISO/IEC 9594-7 and Rec. ITU-T X.525 | ISO/IEC 9594-9) or according to the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP) specification.

This Recommendation | International Standard provides the foundation frameworks upon which industry profiles can be defined by other standards groups and industry forums. Many of the features defined as optional in these frameworks may be mandated for use in certain environments through profiles. This ninth edition technically revises and enhances the eighth edition of this Recommendation | International Standard.

This ninth edition specifies versions 1, 2 and 3 of public-key certificates, versions 1 and 2 of certificate revocation lists and version 2 of attribute certificates.

The extensibility function was added in an earlier edition with version 3 of the public-key certificate and with version 2 of the certificate revocation list and was incorporated into the attribute certificate from its initial inception.

Annex A, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides the ASN.1 modules which contain all of the definitions associated with the frameworks.

Annex B, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, lists object identifiers assigned to cryptographic algorithms defined by other specifications. It is provided for easy reference and import into other ASN.1 modules.

Annex C, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides definitions for how certificate extension types may be represented by directory attribute types.

Annex D, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, includes extracts of external ASN.1 modules referenced by this Recommendation | International Standard.

Annex E, which is an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides rules for generating and processing certificate revocation lists (CRLs).

Annex F, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides examples of delta certificate revocation list (CRL) issuance.

Annex G, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides examples of privilege policy syntaxes and privilege attributes.

Annex H, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, is an introduction to public-key cryptography.

Annex I, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, contains examples of the use of certification path constraints.

Annex J, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides guidance for public-key infrastructure (PKI) enabled applications on the processing of certificate policy while in the certification path validation process.

Annex K, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides guidance on the use of the **contentCommitment** bit in the **keyUsage** certificate extension.

Annex L, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, includes public-key and attribute certificate extensions that have been deprecated.

Annex M, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, gives a short introduction to directory and distinguished name concepts.

Annex N, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, provides some general considerations on strong authentication.

Annex O, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, contains an alphabetical list of information item definitions in this Recommendation | International Standard.

Annex P, which is not an integral part of this Recommendation | International Standard, lists the amendments and defect reports that have been incorporated to form this edition of this Recommendation | International Standard.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
ITU-T RECOMMENDATION**

**Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection –
The Directory: Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks**

SECTION 1 – GENERAL

1 Scope

This Recommendation | International Standard addresses some of the security requirements in the areas of authentication and other security services through the provision of a set of frameworks upon which full services can be based. Specifically, this Recommendation | International Standard defines frameworks for:

- public-key certificates; and
- attribute certificates.

The public-key certificate framework defined in this Recommendation | International Standard specifies the information objects and data types for a public-key infrastructure (PKI), including public-key certificates, certificate revocation lists (CRLs), trust broker and authorization and validation lists (AVLs). The attribute certificate framework specifies the information objects and data types for a privilege management infrastructure (PMI), including attribute certificates, and attribute certificate revocation lists (ACRLs). This Recommendation | International Standard also provides the framework for issuing, managing, using and revoking certificates. An extensibility mechanism is included in the defined formats for both certificate types and for all revocation list schemes. This Recommendation | International Standard also includes a set of extensions, which is expected to be generally useful across a number of applications of PKI and PMI. The schema components (including object classes, attribute types and matching rules) for storing PKI and PMI information in a directory, are included in this Recommendation | International Standard.

This Recommendation | International Standard specifies the framework for strong authentication, involving credentials formed using cryptographic techniques. It is not intended to establish this as a general framework for authentication, but it can be of general use for applications which consider these techniques adequate.

Authentication (and other security services) can only be provided within the context of a defined security policy. It is a matter for users of an application to define their own security policy.

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.

2.1 Identical Recommendations | International Standards

- Recommendation ITU-T X.411 (1999) | ISO/IEC 10021-4:2003, *Information technology – Message Handling Systems (MHS) – Message Transfer System: Abstract Service Definition and Procedures*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.500 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-1:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Overview of concepts, models and services*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.501 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-2:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Models*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.511 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-3:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Abstract service definition*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.518 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-4:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Procedures for distributed operation*.
- Recommendation ITU-T X.519 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-5:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Protocol specifications*.

- Recommendation ITU-T X.520 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-6:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Selected attribute types.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.521 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-7:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Selected object classes.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.525 (2019) | ISO/IEC 9594-9:2020, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – The Directory: Replication.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.660 (2011) | ISO/IEC 9834-1:2012, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Procedures for the operation of OSI Registration Authorities: General procedures and top arcs of the International Object Identifier tree.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.680 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-1:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Specification of basic notation.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.681 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-2:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Information object specification.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.682 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-3:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Constraint specification.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.683 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8824-4:2015, *Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Parameterization of ASN.1 specifications.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.690 (2015) | ISO/IEC 8825-1:2015, *Information technology – ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Basic Encoding Rules (BER), Canonical Encoding Rules (CER) and Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER).*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.812 (1995) | ISO/IEC 10181-3:1996, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Security frameworks for open systems: Access control framework.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.813 (1996) | ISO/IEC 10181-4:1997, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Security frameworks for open systems: Non-repudiation framework.*
- Recommendation ITU-T X.841 (2000) | ISO/IEC 15816:2002, *Information technology – Security techniques – Security information objects for access control.*

2.2 Paired Recommendations | International Standards equivalent in technical content

- Recommendation ITU-T X.800 (1991), *Security architecture for Open Systems Interconnection for CCITT applications.*
ISO 7498-2:1989, *Information processing systems – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model – Part 2: Security Architecture.*

2.3 Recommendations

- Recommendation ITU-T X.1252 (2010), *Baseline identity management terms and definitions.*

2.4 Other references

- IETF RFC 791 (1981), *Internet Protocol.*
- IETF RFC 822 (1982), *Standard for the Format of ARPA Internet Text Messages.*
- IETF RFC 1630 (1994), *Universal Resource Identifiers in WWW: A Unifying Syntax for the Expression of Names and Addresses of Objects on the Network as used in the World-Wide Web.*
- IETF RFC 3492 (2003), *Punycode: A Bootstring encoding of Unicode for Internationalized Domain Names in Applications (IDNA).*
- IETF RFC 4511 (2006), *Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP): The Protocol.*
- IETF RFC 4523 (2006), *Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) Schema Definitions for X.509 Certificates.*
- IETF RFC 5280 (2008), *Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile.*
- IETF RFC 5890 (2010), *Internationalized Domain Names for Applications (IDNA): Definitions and Document Framework.*
- IETF RFC 5914 (2010), *Trust Anchor Format.*

- IETF RFC 6960 (2013), *X.509 Internet Public Key Infrastructure Online Certificate Status Protocol – OCSP*.