

---

---

**Information technology — Cloud  
computing — Edge computing  
landscape**





**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO/IEC 2020

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

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](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

# Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
3.1 Edge computing.....	2
3.2 IoT terms.....	2
3.3 Real time.....	3
<b>4 Symbols and abbreviated terms</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Overview of edge computing</b> .....	<b>5</b>
5.1 General.....	5
5.2 Concepts of edge computing.....	6
5.3 Architectural foundations of edge computing.....	6
5.4 The relationship of edge computing to cloud computing.....	8
5.5 The relationship of edge computing to IoT.....	11
<b>6 Networking and edge computing</b> .....	<b>12</b>
6.1 General.....	12
6.1.1 Proximity networks.....	13
6.1.2 Access networks.....	13
6.1.3 Services networks.....	13
6.1.4 User networks.....	13
6.2 Virtual networks.....	14
<b>7 Hardware considerations for edge computing</b> .....	<b>15</b>
7.1 General.....	15
7.2 Hardware capabilities.....	15
<b>8 Software technologies for edge computing</b> .....	<b>16</b>
8.1 General.....	16
8.2 Software classifications.....	16
8.2.1 Firmware.....	16
8.2.2 Platform software.....	17
8.2.3 Services.....	17
8.2.4 Applications.....	17
8.3 Significant software technologies.....	17
8.3.1 General.....	17
8.3.2 Virtual machines.....	18
8.3.3 Containers.....	18
8.3.4 Serverless computing.....	19
8.3.5 Microservices.....	19
<b>9 Deployment models and service capabilities types and service categories for edge computing</b> .....	<b>19</b>
9.1 Deployment models.....	19
9.2 Service model capabilities types.....	20
9.3 Service categories.....	20
<b>10 Data in edge computing</b> .....	<b>21</b>
10.1 General.....	21
10.2 Data flow.....	21
10.3 Data storage.....	23
10.4 Data processing.....	23
<b>11 Management of edge computing</b> .....	<b>24</b>
11.1 Management and orchestration fundamentals.....	24

11.2	Management plane, control plane and data plane .....	26
11.3	Cloud-based management and control of edge tier nodes and device tier devices .....	28
11.3.1	General.....	28
11.3.2	Control of services from a device .....	28
11.3.3	Management of devices and edge nodes from a cloud service .....	29
11.4	Orchestration and maintenance.....	29
11.5	Management of data, rights and resources.....	30
11.6	Security and privacy management .....	30
<b>12</b>	<b>Virtual placement.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Security and privacy in edge computing.....</b>	<b>31</b>
13.1	General.....	31
13.2	Applying foundational security principles.....	32
13.3	Secure nodes and devices.....	32
13.4	Connectivity and network security.....	33
13.5	Organization of security elements.....	34
13.6	Privacy and personally identifiable information in edge computing.....	36
<b>14</b>	<b>Real time in edge computing.....</b>	<b>37</b>
14.1	Overview .....	37
14.2	Factors influencing real time system design.....	38
14.3	Design approaches for real time edge computing.....	41
<b>15</b>	<b>Edge computing and mobile devices.....</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>Bibliography.....</b>	<b>43</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of 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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <http://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 38, *Cloud computing and distributed platforms*.

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).

## Introduction

Edge computing is increasingly used in systems that deal with aspects of the physical world. Edge computing involves the placement of processing and storage near or at the places where those systems interact with the physical world, which is where the "edge" exists. One of the trends in this space is the development of increasingly capable Internet of Things (IoT) devices (sensors and actuators), which generate more data or new types of data. There is significant benefit from moving the processing and storing of this data close to the place where the data is generated.

Cloud computing is commonly used in systems that are based on edge computing approaches. This can include the connection of both devices and edge computing nodes to centralized cloud services. However, it is the case that the locations in which cloud computing is performed are increasingly distributed in nature. The cloud services are being implemented in locations that are nearer to the edge in order to support use cases that demand reduced latency or avoiding the need to transmit large volumes of data over networks with limited bandwidth.

This document aims to describe edge computing and the significant elements which contribute to the successful implementation of edge computing systems, with an emphasis on the use of cloud computing and cloud computing technologies in the context of edge computing, including the virtualization of compute, storage and networking resources.

It is useful to read this document in conjunction with ISO/IEC TR 30164<sup>1)</sup> [27], which takes a view of edge computing from the point of view of IoT systems and the IoT devices which interact with the physical world.

---

1) Under development. Current stage 10.99.

# Information technology — Cloud computing — Edge computing landscape

## 1 Scope

This document examines the concept of edge computing, its relationship to cloud computing and IoT, and the technologies that are key to the implementation of edge computing. This document explores the following topics with respect to edge computing:

- concept of edge computing systems;
- architectural foundation of edge computing;
- edge computing terminology;
- software classifications in edge computing, e.g. firmware, services, applications;
- supporting technologies, e.g. containers, serverless computing, microservices;
- networking for edge systems, including virtual networks;
- data, e.g. data flow, data storage, data processing;
- management, of software, of data and of networks, resources, quality of service;
- virtual placement of software and data, and metadata;
- security and privacy;
- real time;
- mobile edge computing, mobile devices.

## 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 22123-1:—<sup>2)</sup>, *Information technology — Cloud computing — Part 1: Terminology*

ISO/IEC TS 23167, *Information technology — Cloud computing — Common technologies and techniques*

---

2) To be published.