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**Information technology — Big data  
reference architecture —**

**Part 3:  
Reference architecture**

*Technologies de l'information — Architecture de référence des  
mégadonnées —*

*Partie 3: Architecture de référence*





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## 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. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

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)).

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 42, *Artificial intelligence*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 20547 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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The ISO/IEC 20547 series is intended to provide users with a standardized approach to developing and implementing big data architectures and provide references for approaches. ISO/IEC TR 20547-1 provides users with an overview of the reference architecture framework described in this document and a process for applying that framework in developing an architecture. ISO/IEC TR 20547-2 provides a collection of big data use cases and decomposes those use cases into technical considerations that big data architects and system implementers can consider. This document describes the reference architecture in terms of User and Functional views. Those views can be used by the big data architect to describe their specific system. ISO/IEC 20547-4 describes the security and privacy aspects unique to big data. ISO/IEC TR 20547-5 provides a list of standards and their relationship to the reference architecture that architects and implementers can consider as part of the design and implementation of their system.

Each of these parts is built on the common vocabulary and concepts described in ISO/IEC 20546.

In general terms, reference architecture provides an authoritative source of information about a specific subject area that guides and constrains the instantiations of multiple architectures and solutions (see 3.2). Reference architectures generally serve as a reference foundation for solution architectures and can also be used for comparison and alignment purposes.

The key goal of this reference architecture is to facilitate a shared understanding across multiple products, organizations, and disciplines about current architectures and future direction.

The reference architecture presented in this document provides an architecture framework for describing the big data components, processes, and systems to establish a common language for the various stakeholders named as big data reference architecture (BDRA). It does not represent the system architecture of a specific big data system. Instead, it is a tool for describing, discussing, and developing system-specific architectures using an architecture framework of reference. It provides generic high-level architectural views that are an effective tool for discussing the requirements, structures, and operations inherent to big data. The model is not tied to any specific vendor products, services or reference implementation, nor does it define prescriptive solutions that inhibit innovation.

# Information technology — Big data reference architecture —

## Part 3: Reference architecture

### 1 Scope

This document specifies the big data reference architecture (BDRA). The reference architecture includes concepts and architectural views.

The reference architecture specified in this document defines two architectural viewpoints:

- a user view defining roles/sub-roles, their relationships, and types of activities within a big data ecosystem;
- a functional view defining the architectural layers and the classes of functional components within those layers that implement the activities of the roles/sub-roles within the user view.

The BDRA is intended to:

- provide a common language for the various stakeholders;
- encourage adherence to common standards, specifications, and patterns;
- provide consistency of implementation of technology to solve similar problem sets;
- facilitate the understanding of the operational intricacies in big data;
- illustrate and understand the various big data components, processes, and systems, in the context of an overall big data conceptual model;
- provide a technical reference for government departments, agencies and other consumers to understand, discuss, categorize and compare big data solutions; and
- facilitate the analysis of candidate standards for interoperability, portability, reusability, and extendibility.

### 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 8000-2, *Data quality — Part 2: Vocabulary*

ISO/TS 8000-60, *Data quality — Part 60: Data quality management: Overview*

ISO 8000-61, *Data quality — Part 61: Data quality management: Process reference model*

ISO/IEC 38500, *Information technology — Governance of IT for the organization*

ISO/IEC 38505-1, *Information technology — Governance of IT — Governance of data — Part 1: Application of ISO/IEC 38500 to the governance of data*