BS ISO/IEC 19778-3:2015

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Information technology — Learning, education and training — Collaborative technology — Collaborative workplace

Part 3: Collaborative group data model

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National foreword

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ISO/IEC 19778-3

Second edition
2015-10-15

Information technology — Learning, education and training — Collaborative technology — Collaborative workplace —

Part 3: Collaborative group data model

Technologies de l'information — Apprentissage, éducation et formation — Technologies collaboratives — Lieu de travail collaboratif —

Partie 3: Modèle de données du groupe collaboratif

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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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 36, *Information technology for learning, education and training*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 19778-3:2008), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

ISO/IEC 19778 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Learning, education and training — Collaborative technology — Collaborative workplace*:

— *Part 1: Collaborative workplace data model*

— *Part 2: Collaborative environment data model*

— *Part 3: Collaborative group data model*

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Introduction

ISO/IEC 19778 provides *Data Models* for specifying *collaborative workplaces* and their components. ISO/IEC 19778-1 provides general information for all parts, and specifies a *Data Model* which, by reference, composes the *Data Model instantiations* of the two main components of a *collaborative workplace*: the *collaborative environment* and the *collaborative group*. ISO/IEC 19778-2 provides the *Data Model* for the *collaborative environment* and specifies information related to the service aspects of a *collaborative workplace*. This part of ISO/IEC 19778 provides the *Data Model* for the *collaborative group* and specifies information related to the *roles* and the membership of a *collaborative workplace*.

The main accomplishment of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 is to specify the composition of the *roles* which can be played by the *participants* of a *collaborative group*, to declare the intended *role* holders (positions for playing a particular *role*) for each *role*, and (at least during the life-span of the *collaborative workplace*) to assign *participants* to these *role* holders.

The purposes of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 are the following:

— to provide a standardized way of defining and instantiating, as an independent entity, the composition of a collaborative group in terms of *roles* and *role* holders (this is done by associating this composition with a *collaborative group* identifier unique within a particular domain or application context);

— to specify the membership requirements of a *collaborative workplace* for the purpose of set-up, employment, management, administration, and evaluation of its *collaborative group.*

The detailed specification of the *roles* is not provided in this part of ISO/IEC 19778; however, it may be linked to the *collaborative group Data Model instantiations* by referring to "potential further specifications or standards" that are not identified and possibly do not yet even exist. (One of the intentions of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 is to encourage adopters to develop and harmonize such specifications.)

No reference to detailed specification of *participants* is provided in this part of ISO/IEC 19778 as multiple-purpose user management provisions are currently already in place and will be used.

Linkages to "potential further specifications or standards" are constituted by employing a "source/value" approach, where the value (e.g. the name of a *role*) is taken from a "source", a specification or standard, which declares the names and specifies the details of *roles*. The "source" itself is specified by reference, using a URL. The intention of this "source/value" approach is to provide a simple method for linking developing specifications or standards to the *Data Model* of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 without needing to identify them beforehand. This highly flexible method reflects the fact that ISO/IEC 19778-3 is a part of a multipart standard that represents prospective technology. Figure 1 illustrates how this is achieved.

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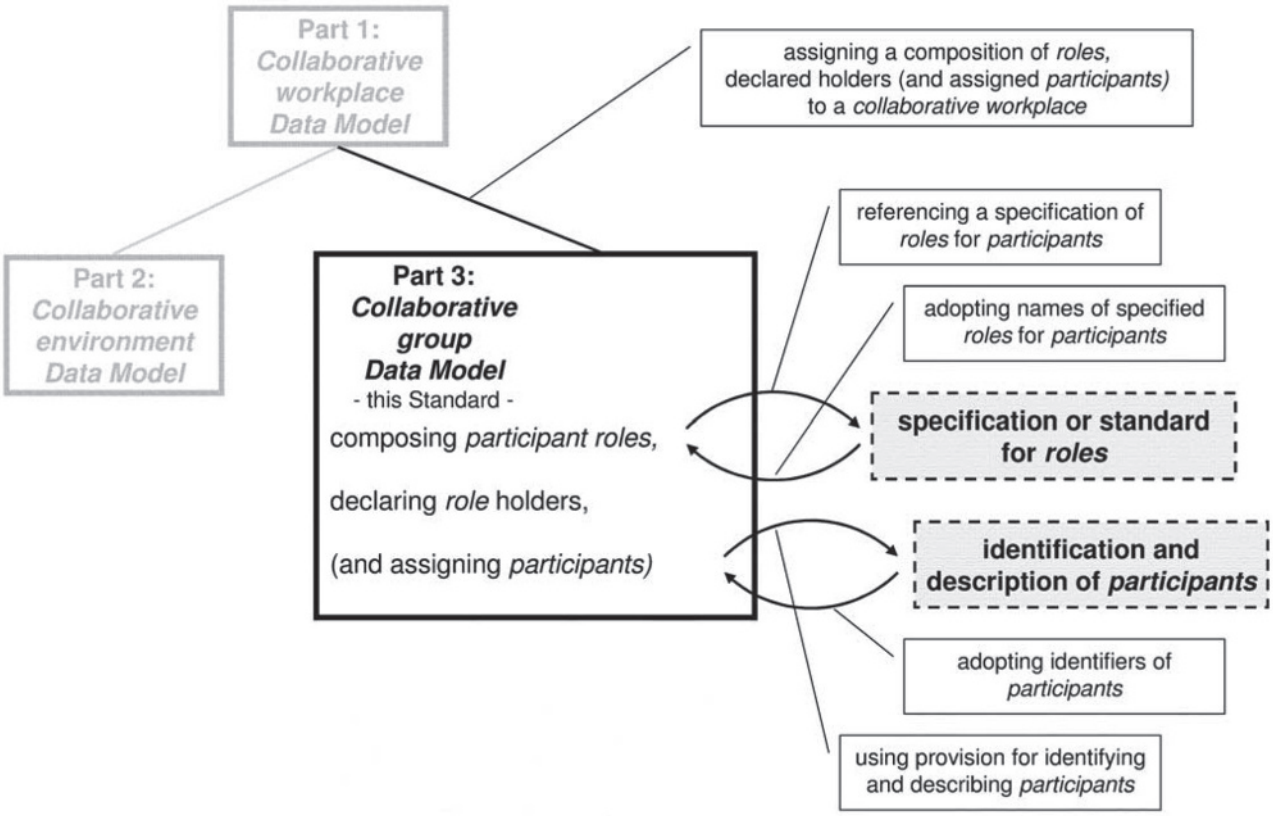

Figure 1 — Composing *roles*, declaring *role* holders, and assigning *participants* in this part of ISO/IEC 19778

In this part of ISO/IEC 19778, "composing *roles*" and "assigning *participants* to *role* holders" are generally performed by specifying names of *roles* and identifiers of *participants*. Further information on these *roles* and *participants* may be specified in "potential further specifications or standards" or in user management provisions which are not included in this part of ISO/IEC 19778. The adopters of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 may decide whether or not to use such "potential further specifications or standards" or provisions. If no "potential further specifications or standards" or *participant* identification provisions are used, the names and properties of *roles* and the identifiers of *participants* need to be consistently known in the user community. This, however, also means that the interoperability of *Data Model instantiations* of this kind is limited to this "harmonized" user community.

It should be noted that, where no *participants* are assigned to the *role* holders, the respective *collaborative group Data Model instantiation* can be reused as a template for setting up further *collaborative groups* of the same dedication. Also, due to the provision of *role* holder identifiers, anonymizing a *collaborative group Data Model instantiation* by removing the assigned *participant* identifiers does not affect the differentiation between *role* holders. This is important in cases where *role* holders of the *collaborative group Data Model instantiation* are referenced by other data objects.

Where the need for broader interoperability exists, external "specifications or standards" are required. They would at least define a set of *roles* or a method for identifying *participants* and information on them, provide names for *roles*, and describe their properties. Of course, "specifications or standards" for *roles* could be very simple and general. However, they could be highly sophisticated and detailed as well. Where a *collaborative group Data Model instantiation* makes use of such an external "specification or standard" for *roles*, it references it and adopts the *role* names as shown in Figure 1.

Using this first edition of this part of ISO/IEC 19778 provides utmost flexibility at the risk of a low level of interoperability. It allows adopters to experiment with diverse specifications for *roles* or methods for identifying *participants* and providing information on them. It is intended as a step towards broader harmonization of such specifications or provisions. This expected progress in harmonization will be

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