BS ISO/IEC 23736-6:2020

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Information technology — Digital publishing — EPUB 3.0.1

Part 6: Canonical fragment identifiers

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO/IEC 23736-6:2020.

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) (as EPUB Canonical Fragment Identifiers 1.1) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was adopted, under the JTC 1 PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 23736 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.

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Status of this Document

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. Other documents might supersede this document.

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This document was produced by the EPUB Working Group under the EPUB Working Group Charter approved on 8 July 2015.

This document has been reviewed by the IDPF membership and is endorsed by the IDPF Board as a Recommended Specification. This document is considered stable and can be referenced from other specifications and documents.

Feedback on this document can be provided to the EPUB Working Group's mailing list or issue tracker.

This document is governed by the IDPF Policies and Procedures.

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› 1 Overview

› 1.1 Purpose and Scope

This section is informative

This specification, EPUB Canonical Fragment Identifier (epubcfi), defines a standardized method for referencing arbitrary content within an EPUB® Publication through the use of fragment identifiers.

The Web has proven that the concept of hyperlinking is tremendously powerful, but EPUB Publications have been denied much of the benefit that hyperlinking makes possible

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because of the lack of a standardized scheme to link into them. Although proprietary schemes have been developed and implemented for individual Reading Systems, without a commonly-understood syntax there has been no way to achieve cross-platform interoperability. The functionality that can see significant benefit from breaking down this barrier, however, is varied: from reading location maintenance to annotation attachment to navigation, the ability to point into any Publication opens a whole new dimension not previously available to developers and Authors.

This specification attempts to rectify this situation by defining an arbitrary structural reference that can uniquely identify any location, or simple range of locations, in an EPUB Publication: the EPUB CFI. The following considerations have strongly influenced the design and scope of this scheme:

- The mechanism used to reference content should be interoperable: references to a reading position created by one Reading System should be usable by another.
- Document references to EPUB content should be enabled in the same way that existing hyperlinks enable references throughout the Web.
- Each location in an EPUB file should be able to be identified without the need to modify the document.
- All fragment identifiers that reference the same logical location should be equal when compared.
- Comparison operations, including tests for sorting and comparison, should be able to be performed without accessing the referenced files.
- Simple manipulations should be possible without access to the original files (e.g., given a reference deep in a file, it should be possible to generate a reference to the start of the file).
- Identifier resolution should be reasonably efficient (e.g., processing of the first chapter is not necessary to resolve a fragment identifier that points to the last chapter).
- References should be able to recover their target locations through parser variations and document revisions.
- Expression of simple, contiguous ranges should be supported.
- An extensible mechanism to accommodate future reference recovery heuristics should be provided.

In the case of both Standard EPUB CFIs and Intra-Publication EPUB CFI, this specification conforms with the guidelines expressed by W3C in Section 6. Best Practices for Fragid Structures [FragIDBestPractices].

In other words, both standard CFI URIs (e.g., "`book.epub#epubcfi(…)`", referred media type "`application/epub+zip`") and intra-publication CFI URIs (e.g., "`package.opf#epubcfi(…)`", referred media type "`application/oebps-package+xml`") make use of a fragment identifier syntax that does not overlap with existing schemes in the context of the aforementioned media types' suffix registrations (i.e., "`-xml`" and "`-zip`").

› 1.2 Terminology

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