

IEEE Standard for Software User Documentation

IEEE Standards Board

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Sponsor

**Software Engineering Technical Committee
of the
IEEE Computer Society**

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of IEEE Std 1063-1987, IEEE Standard for Software User Documentation.)

Two factors motivated the development of this standard: The concern of the software user communities over the poor quality of much user documentation, and a need for requirements expressed by producers of documentation.

This standard applies only to traditional documentation, either printed on paper or stored in some other medium in the format of a printed document and used in a manner analogous to the way a printed document is used. On-line documentation is not addressed (documentation designed for interactive access via computer) because such information is processed and used differently from printed documents.

This standard does not cover the actual writers and publishers of user documentation. The responsibility for ensuring that satisfactory software user documentation is produced rests with the organization that generates the software. Responsibility for ensuring that software user documentation is satisfactorily updated rests with the organization that repairs or modifies the software. Configuration management of the documentation is outside the scope of this standard.

Sections 4 and 5 are written as directions. An audit checklist for compliance with this standard can be compiled by identifying each direction and setting up a “yes/no/nonapplicable” condition for the direction. For example, this standard states “identify and describe all data required for the correct processing of each function,” in 5.7.2.4 . A checklist entry for this condition would then be as follows:

All data is identified and described:		
yes	no	nonapplicable

A successful user document is the result of proper audience determination, careful document planning, and good writing style, in addition to the contents requirement addressed by this standard. However, the ultimate test of any software document is that it is easily usable by its intended audience for its intended purpose.

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