
**Information technology — Software process
assessment —**

**Part 9:
Vocabulary**

*Technologies de l'information — Évaluation des procédés du logiciel —
Partie 9: Vocabulaire*



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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 main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards, but in exceptional circumstances a technical committee may propose the publication of a Technical Report of one of the following types:

- type 1, when the required support cannot be obtained for the publication of an International Standard, despite repeated efforts;
- type 2, when the subject is still under technical development or where for any other reason there is the future but not immediate possibility of an agreement on an International Standard;
- type 3, when a technical committee has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard ("state of the art", for example).

Technical Reports of types 1 and 2 are subject to review within three years of publication, to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards. Technical Reports of type 3 do not necessarily have to be reviewed until the data they provide are considered to be no longer valid or useful.

ISO/IEC TR 15504-9, which is a Technical Report of type 2, was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software engineering*.

ISO/IEC TR 15504 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Software process assessment*:

- *Part 1: Concepts and introductory guide*
- *Part 2: A reference model for processes and process capability*
- *Part 3: Performing an assessment*
- *Part 4: Guide to performing assessments*
- *Part 5: An assessment model and indicator guidance*
- *Part 6: Guide to competency of assessors*
- *Part 7: Guide for use in process improvement*
- *Part 8: Guide for use in determining supplier process capability*
- *Part 9: Vocabulary*

Information technology — Software process assessment —

Part 9: Vocabulary

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC TR 15504 defines the terms used throughout ISO/IEC TR 15504.

The terms are first presented as an alphabetically ordered list for ease of reference. The same terms are then defined in logical groupings as an aid to understanding. The groupings are arranged to bring together terms which are related to each other.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO/IEC TR 15504. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of ISO/IEC TR 15504 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 8402:1994, *Quality management and quality assurance — Vocabulary*.

ISO/IEC 2382-1:1993, *Information technology — Vocabulary — Part 1: Fundamental terms*.

ISO/IEC 2382-20:1990, *Information technology — Vocabulary — Part 20: System development*.

ISO/IEC 12207:1995, *Information technology — Software life cycle processes*.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO/IEC TR 15504, the terms and definitions given in ISO 8402, ISO/IEC 2382-1, ISO/IEC 2382-20 and ISO/IEC 12207 apply, together with the following definitions.

3.1

assessed capability

the output of one or more recent, relevant process assessments conducted in accordance with the provisions of ISO/IEC TR 15504

3.2

assessment constraints

restrictions placed on the freedom of choice of the assessment team regarding the conduct of the assessment and the use of the assessment outputs