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Guide to the POSIX Open System s Environment

Section 1: General

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1.1 Scope

This guide identifies parameters for an open system environment using the POSIX operating system/application interface as the platform. These parameters are determined in three basic ways:

(1) By specifying building blocks identified as components

Currently these components are: system services, networking, human/computer interaction (HCI), graphics, system security and privacy, database, data interchange, and language requirements. This guide identifies the standards required within each component to achieve the goals of a POSIX open system.

(2) By identifying intra- and intercomponent issues

These issues involve the relationships that should exist between and among the different components. It is in the attempt to lay out and address these relationships that the concept of profiles (see 2.2.2 and Section 6) arises.

(3) By identifying voids

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A void is determined by the absence, or lack of maturity, of formal standards development efforts. Voids may exist within available standards or may be an entire component. This guide provides assistance to those users who have already constructed, or plan to construct, profiles and to those users who currently use, or plan to use, profiles. The profile concept allows users to identify those standards that address their specific needs. The profile also serves to identify the need for future standards development in a specific area. This guide explains the manner in which these standards relate to each other.

1.2 Normative References

HLJ : A list of referenced standards and other publications needs to be provided, contrasted against the list of interesting background documents that should go into the bibliography, included as Appendix C. I have included some dummy references here, so you can see the style; these standards need not be appropriate normative references.

The following standards contain provisions which, through references in this text, constitute provisions of this guide. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

{1} ISO 8859-1: 1987, *Information processing—8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets—Part 1: Latin alphabet No. 1.* [1)]

{2} ISO/IEC 9945-1: 1990, *Information technology—Portable operating system interface (POSIX)—Part 1: System application programming interface (API) [C Language]*

1) ISO documents can be obtained from the ISO office, 1, rue de Varembe´, Case Postale 56, CH-1211, Genè ve 20, Switzerland/Suisse.

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