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# Section 2: Terminology and General Requirements

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## 2.1 Conventions

This guide uses the following typographic conventions:

— The *italic* font is used for cross references to defined terms within 1.3, 2.2.1, and 2.2.2.

D

In some cases tabular information is presented ''inline;'' in others it is presented in a separately labeled Table. This arrangement was employed purely for ease of typesetting and there is no normative difference between these two cases.

The typographic conventions listed above are for ease of reading only. Editorial inconsistencies in the use of typography are unintentional and have no normative meaning in this guide.

NOTE s provided as parts of labeled Tables and Figures are integral parts of this guide (normative). Footnotes and NOTE s within the body of the text are for information only (nonnormative).

## 2.2 Definitions

### 2.2.1 Terminology

For the purposes of this guide, the following definitions apply:

**2.2.1.1 implementation defined:** An indication that the implementation shall define and document the requirements for correct program constructs and correct data of a value or behavior.

**2.2.1.2 informative:** Providing or disclosing information; instructive. D

Used in standards to indicate a portion of the text that poses no requirements; the opposite of *normative* . D D

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**2.2.1.3 may:** An indication of an optional feature.

With respect to implementations, the word *may* is to be interpreted as an optional feature that is not required in this guide, but can be provided.

**2.2.1.4 normative:** Of, pertaining to, or prescribing a norm or standard. D

Used in standards to indicate a portion of the text that poses requirements. D

**2.2.1.5 should:** With respect to implementations, an indication of an implementation recommendation, but not a requirement.

**2.2.1.6 POSIX :** The term 'POSIX '' has been evolving recently into a generally positive term with, unfortunately, a number of different meanings. This subclause attempts to define the word and some related terms. The intent is to insure that the term POSIX is used in a useful and predictable manner in this document.

As background, note that POSIX is sometimes used to denote the formal standard IEEE Standard 1003.1-1990, sometimes to denote that standard plus related standards and drafts emerging from IEEE P1003.x working groups, and sometimes to denote the groups themselves. In all those cases, it should be noted, POSIX is used as a noun.

This document will use the term 'POSIX ''only as an adjective, and will use it only in well defined ways. This subclause serves as a preview of the usages in this book of POSIX terms. (These terms are defined, formally, or informally in subsequent clauses, and you will be referred to those clauses as appropriate.)

The original POSIX standard will be referred to by its name, ISO 9945, and not by the term POSIX.

The IEEE groups developing standards related to ISO 9945 are called, in this document, *POSIX working groups* . Examples are the IEEE working groups P1003.2, P1003.3, etc. The groups' names will be abbreviated POSIX. 2, POSIX. 3, etc.

The standards emerging out of the POSIX working groups will be referred to by their formal names (e.g., IEEE P1003.2 Draft 9) and are called either *POSIX Base Standards* or *POSIX Standardized Profiles* (POSIX SP s).

### 2.2.2 General Terms

For the purposes of this guide, the following definitions apply:

**2.2.2.1 application:** The use of capabilities (services/facilities) provided by an information system specific to the satisfaction of a set of user requirements.

NOTE: These capabilities include hardware, software, and data.

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