Copyright © 1991 by the
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.
345 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017, USA
All rights reserved as an unpublished work.

This is an unapproved and unpublished IEEE Standards Draft, subject to change. The publication, distribution, or copying of this draft, as well as all derivative works based on this draft, is expressly prohibited except as set forth below.

Permission is hereby granted for IEEE Standards Committee participants to reproduce this document for purposes of IEEE standardization activities only, and subject to the restrictions contained herein.

Permission is hereby also granted for member bodies and technical committees of ISO and IEC to reproduce this document for purposes of developing a national position, subject to the restrictions contained herein.

Permission is hereby also granted to the preceding entities to make limited copies of this document in an electronic form only for the stated activities.

The following restrictions apply to reproducing or transmitting the document in any form: 1) all copies or portions thereof must identify the document's IEEE project number and draft number, and must be accompanied by this entire notice in a prominent location; 2) no portion of this document may be redistributed in any modified or abridged form without the prior approval of the IEEE Standards Department.

Other entities seeking permission to reproduce this document, or any portion thereof, for standardization or other activities, must contact the IEEE Standards Department for the appropriate license.

Use of information contained in this unapproved draft is at your own risk.

IEEE Standards Department
Copyright and Permissions
445 Hoes Lane, P.O. Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331, USA
+1 (908) 562-3800
+1 (908) 562-1571 [FAX]

Annex C
(inform ative)

Standards Infrastructure Description

Responsibility: Wendy Rauch

C.1 Introduction

This annex provides a brief summary of the major national and international organizations working on the standardization of information technology.

There are two major categories of open standards organizations. One consists of formally-recognized standards bodies, responsible for definition and dissemination of public standards. Their specifications are known as formal or de jure standards. International, national, and regional standards groups, and some professional and technical organizations' standards groups are examples of formal standards bodies. Organizations specifying standards for open system usually give precedence to international standards first, then regional, national, and finally professional group standards.

The other standards organization category consists of informal bodies. Informal standards bodies are typically created by suppliers or users of information technology, usually using a consensus method, to enable the implementation of standards. They produce specifications known as industry standards or de facto standards. Certain trade associations, industry groups, vendor consortia, and user groups are examples of informal standards bodies. For informal specifications to be approved as formal standards (e.g., international or national standards) informal standards groups typically submit their specifications to formal standards organizations.

The term ''de facto standard'' is sometimes applied to popular vendor-defined systems. Such systems, however, are closed systems, often controlled in a proprietary fashion. Although they have value, closed de facto standards are not the subject of this guide.

Most standards bodies support three types of status for their standards or specifications—approved, draft, and work item. An approved standard is one that has been fully ratified by whatever means the approving standards body uses. A draft standard is one that has yet to be fully ratified, such as an ISO DIS (Draft International Standard) or a CEN ENV. Work item is a catch-all phrase for

Copyright © 1991 IEEE. All rights reserved.
This is an unapproved IEEE Standards Draft, subject to change.