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Information technology — Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) — Part 2: Shell and Utilities

Section 1: General

1.1 Scope

This standard defines a standard source code level interface to command interpretation, or ''shell,'' services and common utility programs for application programs. These services and programs are complementary to those specified by ISO/IEC 9945-1: 1990 {8}, hereinafter referred to as ''POSIX.1 {8}.''

The standard has been designed to be used by both application programmers and system implementors. However, it is intended to be a reference document and not a tutorial on the use of the services, the utilities, or the interrelationships between the utilities.

The emphasis of this standard is on the shell and utility functionality required by application programs (including ''shell scripts'') and not on the direct interactive use of the shell command language or the utilities by humans.

Portions of this standard comprise optional language bindings to system service interfaces. See, for example, the C Language Bindings Option in Annex B. This standard is intended to describe language interfaces and utilities in sufficient detail so that an application developer can understand the required interfaces without access to the source code of existing implementations on which they may be based. Therefore, it does not attempt to describe the source programming language or internal design of the utilities; they should be considered ''black boxes'' that exhibit the described functionality.