

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC 10040

First edition
1992-11-01

Information technology — Open Systems Interconnection — Systems management overview

*Technologies de l'information — Interconnexion de systèmes ouverts
(OSI) — Aperçu général de la gestion-système*



Reference number
ISO/IEC 10040:1992(E)

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Printed in Switzerland

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 participate in the work.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75% of the national bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO/IEC 10040 was prepared by the Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC1, *Information technology*, in collaboration with CCITT. The identical text is published as CCITT Recommendation X.701.

Annex A forms an integral part of ISO/IEC 10040.

Annex B is for information only.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

CCITT RECOMMENDATION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – OPEN SYSTEMS INTERCONNECTION –
SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

1 Scope

This Recommendation | International Standard

- provides an overview to the family of systems management standards;
- establishes the basis for partitioning the systems management standards into separate groups, specifying the scope of each group and identifying the principal components within each group;
- gives guidance on the development of systems management standards and identifies the way they relate to each other;
- defines terms for use by other systems management standards.
- is applicable to the definition of all systems management standards and to all aspects of systems management of whatever scale;
- is applicable to situations in which the responsibility for systems management is centralised and those where it is decentralised;
- establishes a model for systems management, identifies several aspects of systems management (i.e., information, functional, communications, and organizational), and further refines the model to clarify these aspects;
- identifies the principles governing conformance requirements and conformance claims to systems management standards.

There are no conformance requirements on the main body of this Recommendation | International Standard, however it does specify requirements on standards claiming compliance to systems management.

Annex A of this Recommendation | International Standard defines an application context for systems management and specifies the rules for negotiating systems management functional units. There are conformance requirements associated with these rules.

2 Normative references

The following CCITT Recommendations and International Standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation | International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and Standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreement based on this Recommendation | International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the Recommendations and Standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards. The CCITT Secretariat maintains a list of the currently valid CCITT Recommendations.

2.1 Identical CCITT Recommendations | International Standards

- CCITT Recommendation X.720 (1992) | ISO/IEC 10165-1:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Structure of management information: Management information model.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.721 (1992) | ISO/IEC 10165-2:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Structure of management information: Definition of management information.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.722 (1992) | ISO/IEC 10165-4:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Structure of management information: Guidelines for the definition of managed objects.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.730 (1992) | ISO/IEC 10164-1:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Systems Management: Object management function.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.731 (1992) | ISO/IEC 10164-2:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Systems Management: State management function.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.732 (1992) | ISO/IEC 10164-3:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Systems Management: Attributes for representing relationships.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.733 (1992) | ISO/IEC 10164-4:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Systems Management: Alarm reporting function.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.734¹⁾ (1992) | ISO/IEC 10164-5:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Systems Management: Event report management function.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.735¹⁾ (1992) | ISO/IEC 10164-6:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Systems Management: Log control function.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.736 (1992) | ISO/IEC 10164-7:1992, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Systems Management: Security alarm reporting function.*

2.2 Paired Recommendations | International Standards equivalent in technical content

- CCITT Recommendation X.200 (1988), *Reference Model of Open Systems Interconnection for CCITT Applications.*
ISO 7498:1984, *Information processing systems – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.700¹⁾ Management Framework Definition for Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) for CCITT Applications.
ISO/IEC 7498-4:1989, *Information processing systems – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model – Part 4: Management framework.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.209 (1988), *Specification of basic encoding rules for abstract syntax notation one (ASN.1).*
ISO/IEC 8825:1990, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Specification of Basic Encoding Rules for Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1).*
- CCITT Recommendation X.217 (1988), *Association control service definition for Open Systems Interconnection for CCITT Applications.*
ISO 8649:1988, *Information processing systems – Open Systems Interconnection – Service definition of the Association Control Service Element.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.227 (1988), *Association Control Protocol Specification for Open Systems Interconnection for CCITT Applications.*
ISO 8650:1988, *Information processing systems – Open Systems Interconnection – Protocol specification for the Association Control Service Element.*
- CCITT Recommendation X.219 (1988), *Remote Operations: model, notation and service definition.*
ISO/IEC 9072-1:1989, *Information processing – Text communication – Remote Operations – Part 1: Model, notation and service definition.*

¹⁾ Presently at state of draft Recommendation.

- CCITT Recommendation X.229 (1988), *Remote Operations: Protocol specification*.
ISO/IEC 9072-2:1989 Information processing systems – Text communication – Remote Operations – Part 2: *Protocol specification*.
- CCITT Recommendation X.290 (1992), *OSI Conformance testing Methodology and Framework for Protocol Recommendations for CCITT Applications – General Concepts*.
ISO/IEC 9646-1:1991, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Conformance testing methodology and framework – Part 1: General concepts*.
- CCITT Recommendation X.710 (1991), *Common management information service definition for CCITT applications*.
ISO/IEC 9595:1991, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Common management information service definition*.
- CCITT Recommendation X.711 (1991), *Common management information protocol specification for CCITT applications*.
ISO/IEC 9596-1:1991, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Common management information protocol – Part 1: Specification*.

2.3 Additional references

- ISO/IEC 8571:1989, *Information processing systems – Open Systems Interconnection – File Transfer, Access and Management*.
- ISO/IEC 9545:1989, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Application Layer structure*.
- ISO/IEC 10026: ...²⁾, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Distributed Transaction Processing*.

3 Definitions

3.1 Basic reference model definitions

This Recommendation | International Standard is based on the concepts in the Basic Reference Model for Open Systems Interconnection and makes use of the following terms defined in CCITT Rec. X.200 | ISO 7498:

- a) application service element;
- b) systems management.

3.2 Management framework definitions

This Recommendation | International Standard makes use of the following terms defined in CCITT Rec. X.700 | ISO/IEC 7498-4:

- a) managed object;
- b) management information base;
- c) systems management application entity.

3.3 CMISE definitions

This Recommendation | International Standard makes use of the following terms defined in CCITT Rec. X.710 | ISO/IEC 9595:

- a) attribute (of managed object);
- b) common management information service element;
- c) common management information services.

²⁾ To be published.

3.4 Management information model definitions

This Recommendation | International Standard makes use of the following terms defined in CCITT Rec. X.720 | ISO/IEC 10165-1:

- a) attribute type;
- b) naming tree;
- c) managed object boundary.

3.5 OSI conformance testing methodology and framework definitions

This Recommendation | International Standard makes use of the following terms defined in CCITT Rec. X.290 | ISO/IEC 9646-1:

- a) protocol implementation conformance statement (PICS);
- b) PICS proforma;
- c) system conformance statement.

3.6 Systems management overview definitions

For the purposes of this Recommendation | International Standard, the following definitions apply:.

3.6.1 agent: An MIS-User, which for a particular systems management interaction, has taken an agent role.

3.6.2 agent role: A role taken by an MIS-User in which it is capable of performing management operations on managed objects and of emitting notifications on behalf of managed objects.

3.6.3 dependent conformance: Conformance to the elements of protocol associated with a set of services, as specified by a system conformance statement.

3.6.4 general conformance: Conformance to the elements of protocol associated with the kernel set of services, and any additional functional units, as required by the Recommendation | International Standard.

3.6.5 generic definitions: Definitions of managed object classes, attribute types, notification types or management operation types, made available for general use.

3.6.6 (management) interaction: A single management operation or a single notification or an identified set of logically related management operations and notifications during which the manager and agent role do not change.

3.6.7 managed object class: A named set of managed objects sharing the same (named) sets of attributes, notifications, management operations (packages), and which share the same conditions for presence of those packages.

NOTE 1 – The following two definitions are aligned with the corresponding definitions in OSI Conformance Testing Methodology and Framework CCITT Rec. X.290 | ISO/IEC 9646-1 for PICS and PICS proforma.

3.6.8 managed object conformance statement (MOCS): A statement made by a supplier of a managed object implementation, stating the capabilities and options which have been implemented, and any features which have been omitted.

3.6.9 MOCS proforma: A document, in the form of a questionnaire, designed by the managed object definer or conformance test suite specifier, which when completed for a managed object implementation becomes the MOCS.

3.6.10 managed (open) system: A real open system containing an MIS-User which can take the agent role.

3.6.11 management domain: A set of managed objects, to which a common systems management policy applies.

3.6.12 management information: The information within an open system which may be transferred by OSI management protocols.

3.6.13 management support object: A systems managed object defined specifically to support a systems management function (e.g. log, discriminator).

3.6.14 manager: An MIS-User, which for a particular systems management interaction, has taken a manager role.

3.6.15 manager role: A role taken by an MIS-User in which it is capable of issuing management operations and of receiving notifications.

- 3.6.16 managing (open) system:** A real open system containing an MIS-User which can take the manager role.
- 3.6.17 MIS-User:** An application making use of systems management services.
- 3.6.18 notification:** Information emitted by a managed object relating to an event that has occurred within the managed object.
- 3.6.19 notification type:** A named data-type defining a specific kind of notification.
- 3.6.20 (N)-layer managed object:** A managed object specific to the (N)-layer.
- 3.6.21 (N)-layer management protocol:** A (N)-layer protocol for the exchange of (N)-layer management information supported solely by protocols of the layers (N-1) and below.
- NOTE 2 – This Recommendation | International Standard neither specifies nor requires the use of (N)-layer management protocols. The definition is included here for the sake of completeness.
- 3.6.22 (systems management) operation:** An operation on a managed object to effect systems management.
- 3.6.23 systems managed object:** A managed object relevant to more than one layer, to the system as a whole, or to specific management functions.
- 3.6.24 systems management application process:** An application process participating in systems management.
- 3.6.25 systems management application service element:** An application service element providing systems management services.
- 3.6.26 systems management function:** A part of systems management activities which satisfy a set of logically related user requirements.
- 3.6.27 systems management functional area:** A category of systems management user requirements.
- 3.6.28 systems management functional unit:** A named non-empty set of systems management services defined for the purpose of identifying specific sets of functionality where there is a requirement to establish or negotiate the use of such functionality between end systems or for reference purposes in other standards.
- 3.6.29 systems management functional unit package:** A named non-empty set of systems management functional units, defined for the purposes of negotiation of functional units on an association.
- 3.6.30 systems management (application) protocol:** An application layer protocol supporting systems management services.
- 3.6.31 systems management service:** A named set of service primitives that provide a service for use in systems management.

4 Abbreviations

ASN.1	Abstract Syntax Notation One
ACSE	association control service element
ASE	application service element
B-ISDN	broadband integrated services digital network
CMIP	common management information protocol
CMIPDU	common management information protocol data unit
CMIS	common management information service
CMISE	common management information service element
CSPDN	circuit switched public data network
FTAM	file transfer, access and management
Id	identifier
ISDN	integrated services digital network
LAN	local area network
MAPDU	management application protocol data unit

MHS	message handling system
MOTIS	message oriented text interchange system
MIB	management information base
MIS	management information service
MOCS	managed object conformance statement
OSI	open systems interconnection
PICS	protocol implementation conformance statement
PSPDN	packet switched public data network
ROSE	remote operations service element
SACF	single association control function
SMAE	systems management application entity
SMAPM	systems management application protocol machine
SMASE	systems management application service element
SMFA	systems management functional area
SMFU	systems management functional unit
SMI	structure of management information
TMN	telecommunication management network
TP	transaction processing
VT	virtual terminal
WAN	wide area network

5 Systems management

Systems management provides mechanisms for the monitoring, control and coordination of resources within the OSI environment and OSI protocol standards for communicating information pertinent to those resources. In order to describe management operations on resources in the OSI environment, the resources are viewed as managed objects with defined properties. Information required for systems management purposes in any open system may be provided through local input, may result from input from other open systems through systems management (application layer) communication or may be a result of lower layer protocol exchanges.

In particular, systems management applies to but is not limited to, (e.g. use of CCITT Rec. M.30 TMN is also considered a valid application of systems management)

- OSI Layer 1 (Dedicated lines/leased lines, satellite connections);
- OSI Layer 2 (LAN, WAN, etc.);
- OSI Layer 3 (CSPDN, PSPDN, ISDN, B-ISDN, CCITT Rec. X.300 subnetwork, etc.);
- OSI Layer 4 (Transport Layer Entities);
- OSI Layer 5 (Session Layer Entities);
- OSI Layer 6 (Presentation layer Entities);
- OSI Layer 7 (MHS | MOTIS, FTAM, VT, TP, Directory).

NOTE – While the principal impetus for the development of these standards has been the need to managed OSI resources, they also have broader applicability. Furthermore, it is possible that in the future, standards development may be undertaken to specifically address additional areas.

Systems management is applicable to a wide range of distributed processing and communications environments. These environments range from local area networks interconnecting small systems, to interconnected corporate and national networks on a global scale. Small scale environments may be managed by appropriate small scale management systems, consisting of a single manager capable of controlling and coordinating the open communication environment through a number of agents. The standards and concepts are also applicable to large scale environments supporting multiple managers.

There are three main groupings within the set of systems management standards. They are

- a) a set of standards specifying systems management functions;
- b) a set of standards relating to the specification of managed objects;
- c) a set of application layer service and protocol standards for communicating information relating to management functions.

The requirements to be satisfied by systems management activities can conveniently be grouped into five areas, each of which gives rise to one or more standards covering one or more functions. These areas as defined by the OSI Management Framework (CCITT Rec. X.700 | ISO/IEC 7498-4) are

- fault management;
- configuration management;
- accounting management;
- performance management;
- security management.

However, many items of information, their associated management operations and the communication protocols are known to be common to more than one area. And, in performing management activities, sets of management functions may be combined to effect a particular management policy.

For these reasons, systems management standards form a closely interrelated set of standards.

6 Systems management model

6.1 Introduction

This clause identifies a number of concepts of systems management and provides a model to clarify these concepts and their relationships.

The following subclauses describe the various aspects of the systems management model:

- information aspects;
- functional aspects;
- OSI communications aspects;
- organizational aspects.

Management of a communications environment is an information processing application. Because the environment being managed is distributed, the individual components of the management activities are themselves distributed. Management applications perform the management activities in a distributed manner, by establishing associations between systems management application entities.

As shown in Figure 1 the interactions which take place between systems management application entities are abstracted in terms of management operations and notifications issued by one entity to the other; these are communicated using systems management services and protocols.

Management activities are effected through the manipulation of managed objects. For the purposes of systems management, management applications are categorised as MIS-Users. Each interaction takes place between two MIS-Users, one taking the manager role, the other the agent role.

An MIS-User taking the role of an agent is that part of a distributed application that manages the managed objects within its local system environment. An agent performs management operations on managed objects as a consequence of management operations communicated from a manager. An agent may also forward notifications emitted by managed objects to a manager.

An MIS-User taking the role of a manager is that part of a distributed application which has responsibility for one or more management activities, by issuing management operations and receiving notifications.

The concept of a manager is not limited to applications participating solely in systems management; other applications needing access to management information may use management information services.

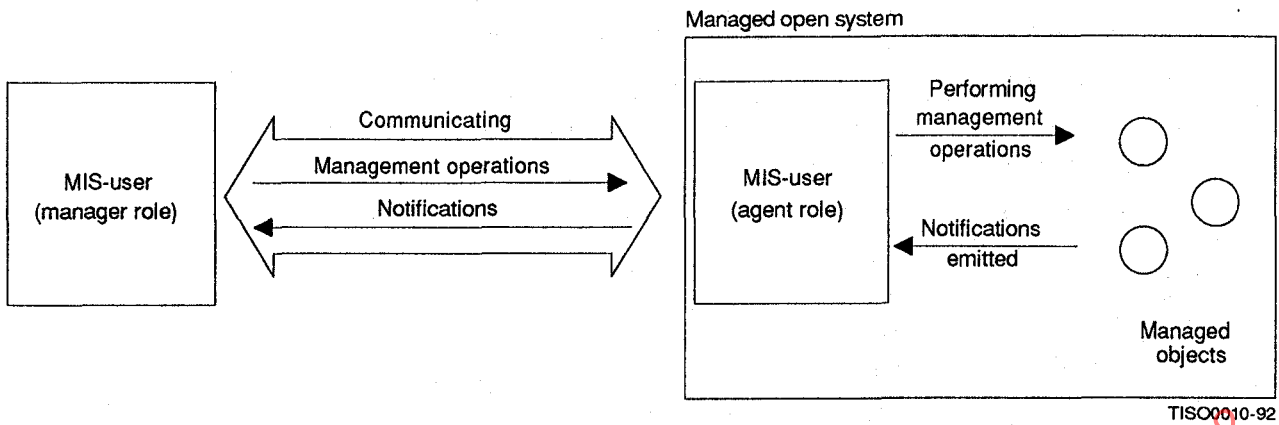


Figure 1 – Systems management interactions

Roles are not permanently assigned to MIS-Users. Some MIS-Users can be restricted to only taking an agent role, some to only taking a manager role while other MIS-Users are allowed to take an agent role in one interaction and to take a manager role in a separate interaction.

NOTE 1 – When a management interaction between open systems pertains to more than one managed object, the specification of how the agent distributes the management operation amongst its managed objects is not subject to standardization.

NOTE 2 – A managed object can itself represent a resource outside of the managed system. The relationship between the managed system and the outside resource may also be one of manager/agent. If the communication between these systems follows OSI Management standards, then management operations on a managed object in the original managed system might result in further manager/agent exchanges, operating on a "remote" managed object. No limits are imposed upon the number of such cascaded management operations that are permitted.

It is important to recognise that this Recommendation | International Standard only establishes a conceptual model that describes the structure and contents of the information actually communicated by the use of standardized management information services. Whenever management information is communicated, it is done in terms of this model.

Whether, where and how systems represent and store the real data from which the management information is derived is a local matter, and therefore not subject to standardization.

NOTE 3 – Figure 2 represents a particular way of viewing certain aspects of the system management model and is given for information only. The figure has been of value during the development of this specification. In particular it differentiates the mapping to standardized communication (following the rules introduced in 6.2) from local mapping, which illustrates that a method of viewing the real management information in terms of the model must exist within the systems management application process. Furthermore, the method exists in the local environment and is therefore an implementation matter not subject to standardization.

Figure 2 does not show the complete model, nor does it show all the details in full. In particular it does not imply that there is necessarily only one subtree of the naming tree related to a specific layer, nor does it imply that the term "systems management information model space" is a defined term.

6.2 Information aspects

This subclause introduces the information aspects of the systems management model. The definitive specification of the information model is given in CCITT Rec. X.720 | ISO/IEC 10165-1. It refines the concept of Managed Objects defined in CCITT Rec. X.700 | ISO/IEC 7498-4. It deals with their attributes, the management operations that may be performed upon them, and the notifications that they may emit. The set of managed objects in a system, together with their attributes, constitutes that system's Management Information Base (MIB).

Standardised managed objects are expected to be specified by the standardization organisations responsible for standardizing the resources represented by the managed objects (e.g., the group responsible for standardising an (N)-layer protocol entity is also responsible for standardising the managed object that represents the management view of that protocol entity). Guidelines and tools to support the definition of managed objects are provided, as are a collection of definitions of management information to support the definitions of managed objects and the definition of systems management functions.

6.2.1 Managed objects

A managed object is the OSI Management view of a resource that is subject to management, such as a layer entity, a connection or an item of physical communications equipment. Thus, a managed object is the abstraction of such a resource that represents its properties as seen by (and for the purpose of) management. An essential part of the definition of a managed object is the relationship between these properties and the operational behaviour of the resource. This relationship is not modelled in a general way.

Managed objects can be specific to an individual layer, in which case they are known as (N)-layer managed objects. Those managed objects that are relevant to more than one layer, to a specific systems management function (management support object) or to the system as a whole are known as systems managed objects.

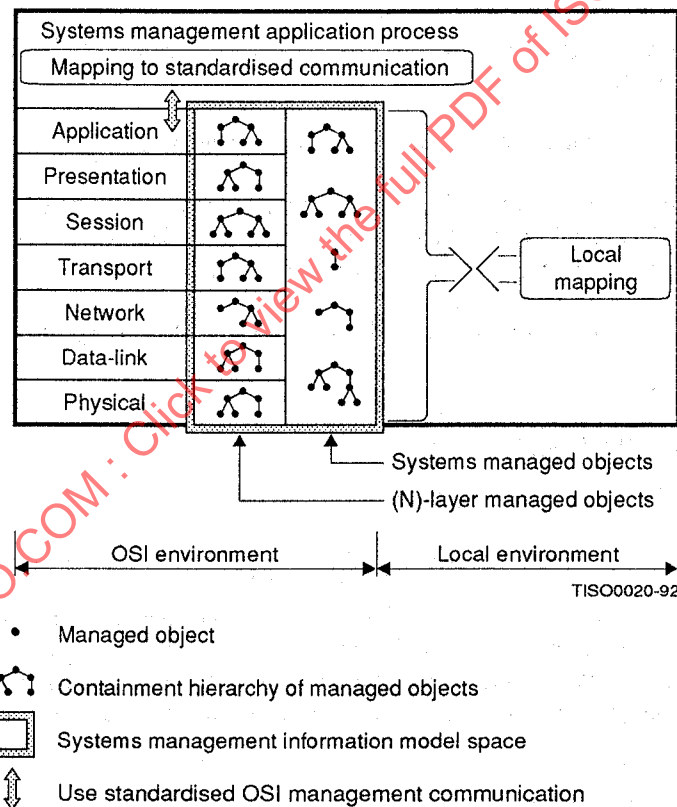


Figure 2 – Relationship between information and communication aspects of the systems management model

6.2.2 Attributes

Attributes are properties of managed objects. An attribute has an associated value, which may have a simple or a complex structure.

6.2.3 Management operations and notifications

Part of the definition of a managed object is the specification of the set of management operations that can be performed upon it and the effect that these management operations have upon the managed object and its attributes. The definition may also specify the effect, if any, on related managed objects. The execution of a management operation may also be conditional upon the state of the managed object or its attributes. An essential part of the definition of a management operation is the set of possible ways in which it can fail.

Managed objects may also emit notifications, which contain information concerning the occurrence of an event associated with the managed object.

Whereas the mechanisms for communicating management operations and notifications are subject to OSI management standardization, the mechanisms for performing management operations and notifications are not. No corresponding internal systems interface is subject to standardization. The relationship between management operations at the managed object boundary and what is communicated in protocol between open systems is described in 6.4.

6.3 Functional aspects

This subclause describes functional aspects of the systems management model.

A systems management function may satisfy more than one requirement and to satisfy some requirements, more than one function may be applicable. Therefore, a many-to-many relationship between functions and requirements exists.

The specification of a systems management function defines the management activities and information that are necessary to meet the requirements.

Management functions may be combined to accomplish a specific management activity.

Since not all services are always required on a given association, a systems management function's services may be subgrouped into one or more functional units, which are basic units of negotiation between MIS-Users. In addition, functional units spanning services from more than one function may be defined.

Functional units that cross function boundaries are provided to support the following sets of capabilities:

- a) notifications only;
- b) management operations only;
- c) notifications and management operations.

NOTE – Other functional units are defined that allow negotiation of subsets of these capabilities (e.g. monitor, control).

The agent cannot in general determine the purpose of the management operations it receives or the notifications it emits. For example, an open system cannot in general determine whether its responses to read error counters requests will be used for the purpose of fault management or performance management. The agent responds to requests from a manager individually, without needing any wider context within which to carry out the request.

6.4 OSI communications aspects

The interactions between MIS-Users acting in the role of manager and agent respectively are realised through the exchange of management information. This communication is accomplished using OSI protocols.

The general OSI communication service for systems management is CMIS. Subclause 6.4.1 describes how CMIS is used to support communications concerning the management operations and notifications applicable to managed objects in a managed system. Subclauses 6.4.2 through 6.4.5 explain how communications support fits into the application layer structure.

MIS-Users may make use of other OSI services (such as TP or FTAM) which may or may not support the manager/agent role distinction, however the MIS-Users shall still support the manager/agent role distinction.

NOTE – MIS-Users may make use of other services.

6.4.1 Support for management operations and notifications

There are two aspects to communications support for management operations and notifications:

- a) support for the transfer of requests for management operations and notifications between MIS-Users;
- b) support for the control of access to managed objects and the external dissemination of notification information.

The major components are shown in Figure 3.

The systems management services have primitives for the communication of requests for the various types of management operations defined in CCITT Rec. X.720 | ISO/IEC 10165-1, and primitives for the transfer of notification information. In this way, the systems management services mirror the exchange defined at the managed object boundary. The systems management services provide additional support for the selection of appropriate managed objects by scoping and filtering.

CCITT Rec. X.730 | ISO/IEC 10164-1 defines how the systems management services are mapped onto CMIS services.

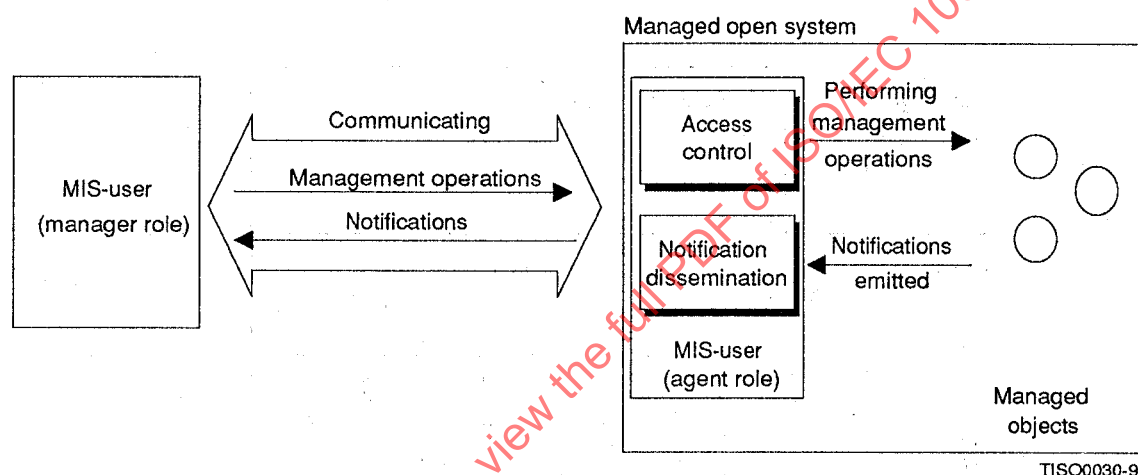


Figure 3 – Communication support for notifications and managements operations

There is a strict correspondence between the types of exchange defined (in the information model) at the managed object boundary and communications support in systems management services; however, in individual exchanges (or potential exchanges) of information, these mechanisms may intervene to control information flow.

Access control mechanisms may deny management operation requests from specified managers on selected managed objects.

For the external communication of a management notification emitted by a managed object, a mechanism is defined to identify destinations for external communications and matching criteria that the notification information shall satisfy. Independently of this, another mechanism is defined that can cause the information to be logged for subsequent retrieval.

6.4.2 Systems management application entity

The Systems Management Application Entity (SMAE) consists of the Systems Management Application Service Element (SMASE) and the Association Control Service Element (ACSE, CCITT Rec. X.217 | ISO 8649). Other OSI application service elements required within the SMAE are described below.

Figure 4 shows how systems management components fit into the application layer structure.

The SMASE defines the semantics and abstract syntaxes of the information transferred as relevant to OSI management in Management Application Protocol Data Units (MAPDUs). The MAPDU is the OSI protocol realisation of the abstract notion of management operations and notifications exchanged between systems management application entities (see 6.1). For each MAPDU defined, the mapping to supporting services is also specified.

The services provided by the SMASE may be grouped for the purpose of negotiation using functional units. The SMASE specifies management information to be exchanged between the systems management application entities. The communications service used by the SMASE may be provided by the Common Management Information Service Element (CMISE) ASE or other ASEs such as File Transfer, Access and Management (FTAM, ISO 8571) or Transaction Processing (TP, ISO/IEC 10026). The use of CMISE also implies the presence of the Remote Operation Service Element (ROSE, CCITT Rec. X.219 | ISO/IEC 9072). CMISE specifies the service and procedures for transfer of Common Management Information Protocol Data Units (CMIPDUs). CMISE provides a means for the exchange of information in management operations and notifications for management purposes in a common manner. Other ASEs can be used to communicate management information.

6.4.3 Application context

Two systems management application entities establish an association by agreeing on an application context, which identifies the initial shared management knowledge for that association, including the various application service elements used.

For the purpose of systems management, a name has been allocated to a systems management application context in Annex A of this Recommendation | International Standard. This application context is for use in cases where only systems management is used. Other names may be allocated in the future, implying the use of a different set of ASEs.

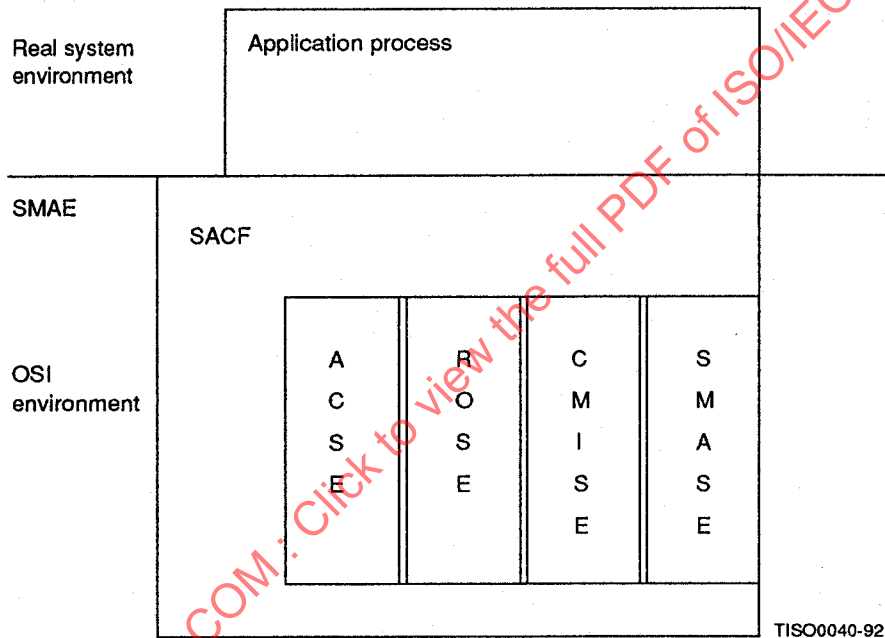


Figure 4 – Management and the application layer

6.4.4 Shared management knowledge

NOTE – This subclause describes aspects of the model which are of an informative nature.

In order to perform systems management, shared management knowledge must exist between the manager and the agent.

Management knowledge for systems management communication includes (but is not limited to)

- protocol knowledge (e.g. application context);
- function knowledge (e.g. functions and functional units);
- managed object knowledge (e.g. classes and instances and identification of managed objects and their attributes);
- constraints on functions supported and relationships between those functions and managed objects. In particular the relevant managed objects in an open system shall be present in order for specific functions to be supported.

Shared management knowledge manifests itself in terms of distributed management applications, and hence the respective views of each end system may be different if managed objects contained within the associated open systems are dissimilar (see Figure 5). The shared management knowledge refers to the common knowledge between the two systems, i.e., the shared management schema.

As specified in 6.1 there is a need to be able to establish and modify the shared management knowledge that exists between two systems engaging in management information exchange.

Management knowledge can be established at any time, specifically

- prior to any communication taking place (e.g. established at system design or build time, or "remembered" from a previous association);
- during the association establishment phase;
- subsequently, during the lifetime of the association.

A priori knowledge to enable management communication is an example of the establishment of management knowledge.

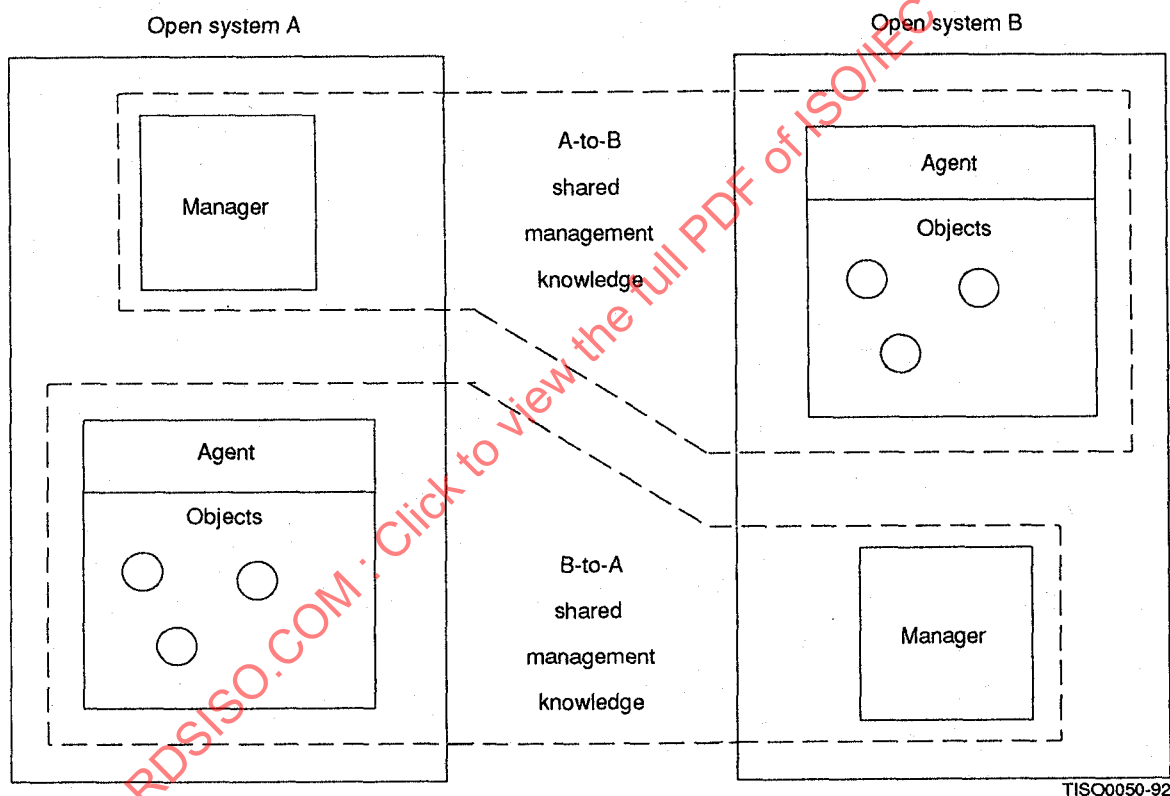


Figure 5 – Views of shared management knowledge

At association establishment time it should be possible to either establish or modify the management knowledge.

Having set up an association for the purposes of systems management, a mechanism may be used to modify the management knowledge. For example a knowledge discovery mechanism may be supported by systems supporting the agent role, to enable the capabilities of a system to be examined. (The use of such a mechanism by managers should be left optional.)

Any modifications to the shared management knowledge after association time might be made by means of a knowledge update mechanism.

6.4.5 Use of supporting services

Different functions require different communication services, for example, certain functions may require file-oriented management operations, while others may only require a simple request/reply protocol.

6.5 Organizational aspects

The organizational aspects of the model describe the distributed nature of OSI management. Many of the concepts pertinent to systems management organizational aspects (e.g. manager, agent) have been introduced earlier (see 6.1). This subclause identifies further organizational aspects.

6.5.1 Management domains

NOTE – This subclause describes aspects of the model which are of an informative nature.

The organizational requirements for managing a collection of managed objects include the following:

- to partition the OSI management environment for a number of functional purposes (or "policies"), such as for security, accounting, fault management, etc., or to partition the OSI management environment for other management purposes, such as according to geographical, technological, or organizational structure;
- to temporarily assign and possibly modify the roles of manager and agent for each of the purposes within each collection of managed objects;
- to exercise forms of control (e.g. a security policy) in a consistent manner.

When managed objects are organised into sets to meet the above requirements, these sets are called management domains. These concepts are illustrated in Figure 6.

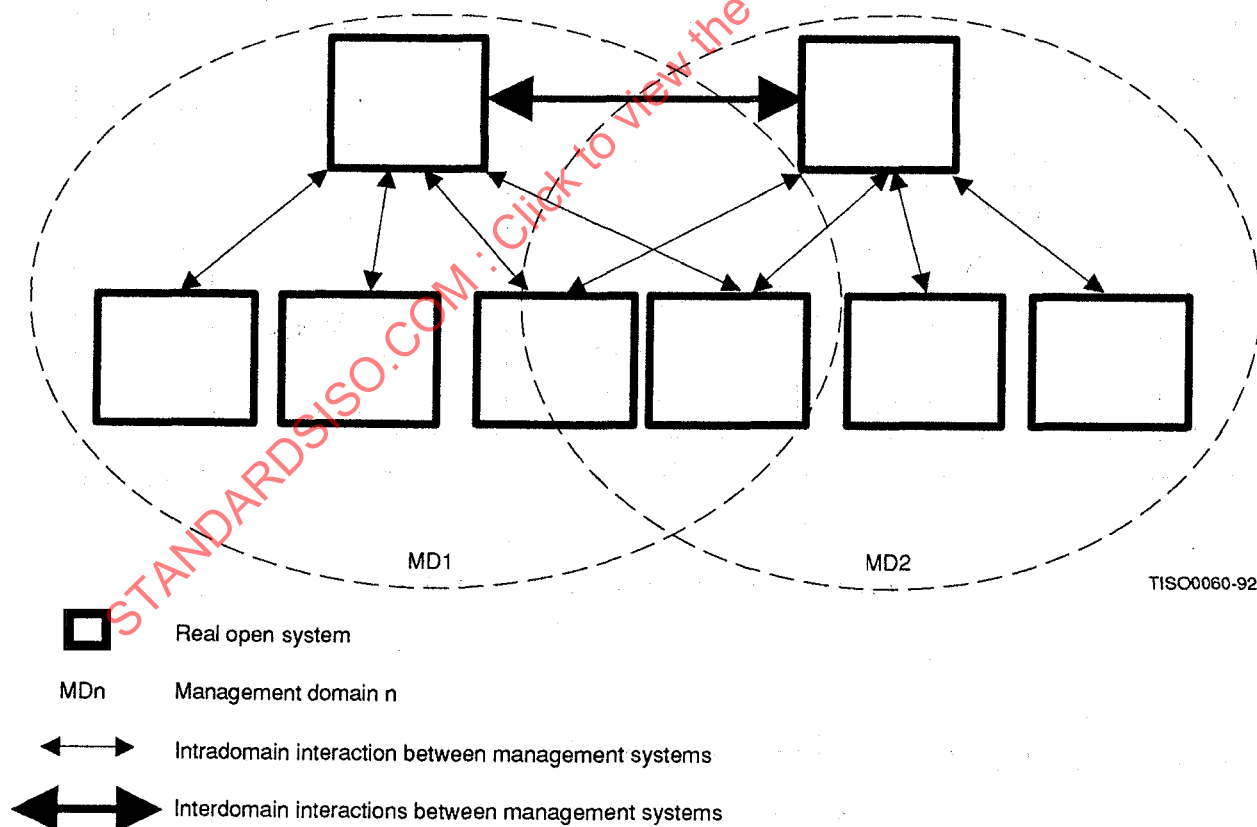


Figure 6 – Concept of management domains

Management domains, when used for system management purposes, may be represented by managed objects. A management domain possesses at least the following properties:

- a name which uniquely identifies that management domain;
- identification of a collection of managed objects which are members of the domain;
- identification of the interdomain relationships applicable to the domains relationships with other domains.

Management domains may or may not overlap. When management domains created for the same purpose do overlap, special conditions may apply.

6.5.2 Administration of management domains

In addition to the organisational requirements, administrative requirements exist. These include the following:

- to establish and maintain the respective authorities of each management domain, to apply modifications to their boundaries, and to organise the way in which some of them may overlap;
- to manage the transfer of control from one management domain to another one.

To meet the above requirements, a special kind of management domain called management administrative domain is defined. A management administrative domain is a management domain where the managed objects in the domain are all under the responsibility of one and only one administrative authority.

An administrative authority of a management administrative domain may be an administration (a public telecommunications administration or other organization offering communication services) or a private organization. The organization concerned may or may not elect to make use of systems management to control the managed objects and the management domains which are wholly within its management administrative domain.

Therefore the concept of management domains is not subject to standardization. However the interactions relating to management domains can be the subject to standardization.

NOTE – One example of a management domain is a security management domain which describes the extent of a particular security policy within one administrative management domain. Two different administrative authorities may support the same security policy within the same or across multiple security management domains.

7 Systems management standards

The model introducing the concepts of systems management is given in clause 6. This clause describes the various standards documents, and their relationships to each other and to the model in clause 6. Figure 7 illustrates these relationships. It also indicates other standards that contain specific management information and how they relate to the systems management standards.

The standards relevant to systems management can be categorised as

- standards specifying the structure;
- standards for communication of management information;
- standards relating to management information;
- standards for systems management functions.

7.1 Architecture and structure

CCITT Rec. X.700 | ISO 7498-4 provides a framework for the coordinated development of standards for OSI Management, by defining terminology, providing a structure and describing OSI Management activities.

This Recommendation | International Standard provides an overview to OSI Systems Management, as described in clause 1 of this Recommendation | International Standard.

The Systems Management Tutorial provides an informative introduction to systems management and captures the rationale and requirements which underlie the development of the set of systems management standards.

7.2 Communication of management information

CCITT Rec. X.710 | ISO/IEC 9595 defines an Application Service Element (The Common Management Information Service Element), which may be used by an application process (in a centralised or decentralised management environment) to exchange information in management operations and notifications for the purpose of systems management.

CCITT Rec. X.710 | ISO/IEC 9595 defines a set of service primitives (that constitute the application service element), the related parameters and any necessary information for the semantic description of each service primitive. The CMIS service primitives convey requests for management operations, results of management operations and event reports, corresponding to the operations and notifications defined in the Management Information Model, between open systems.

CCITT Rec. X.711 | ISO/IEC 9596-1 specifies the protocol that provides the Common Management Information Service. It is used by application layer entities to exchange management information.

CCITT Rec. X.711 | ISO/IEC 9596-1 specifies procedures for the transmission of management information between application entities, the abstract syntax of the CMIP, procedures for the correct interpretation of protocol control information, and the conformance requirements for implementations.

In case of specific needs, other ASEs (such as TP or FTAM) may be used in addition for the communication of management information.

7.3 Structure of management information

The standards relating to management information fall into two groups: definitions of managed object classes, and standards which support the definition of managed object classes. Most managed object class definitions will be defined by layer groups and liaison organisations; but some managed objects are required to support OSI Management itself. Specific examples are the managed objects representing event forwarding discriminators and management logs. Standards for these form part of the set of systems management standards.

The standards that present guidelines on how to define managed object classes include

- CCITT Rec. X.720 | ISO/IEC 10165-1, which defines the model for managed objects covering their attributes, the management operations that can be performed on them, the notifications they may emit and the appropriate naming schemes so that managed objects and attributes can be identified in protocol;
- CCITT Rec. X.721 | ISO/IEC 10165-2, which defines system managed objects, and templates that can be imported into a variety of managed object class definitions, to support the consistent definition of attributes, notifications, and management operations including their parameters;
- CCITT Rec. X.722 | ISO/IEC 10165-4, which provides guidance, methods and notational techniques for specifying managed object classes and other management information;

NOTE – Other management information documents (e.g. standards, technical reports or registers containing registration of information objects, generic managed objects or classification of managed objects) may be required.

7.4 Systems management functions

The standards related to systems management functions include one or more of the following components:

- a) Definition of a set of systems management services that address particular requirements. In standards which include this component, functionality that represents added value beyond that available from CMISE (or other ASEs used to support management activity) is documented as a service. Added value services are defined whenever restrictions are placed on the information content of a supporting ASE service primitive (e.g. restricting the parameter types that may occur in the primitive, or restricting the primitive to operate on a particular support object class). Added value services are also defined whenever a particular ordering or procedural use of supporting services is required.

This component consists of one or more of

- 1) user requirements;
- 2) models that relate the systems management services to user requirements;
- 3) a service definition that lists systems management services that are required and their semantics;

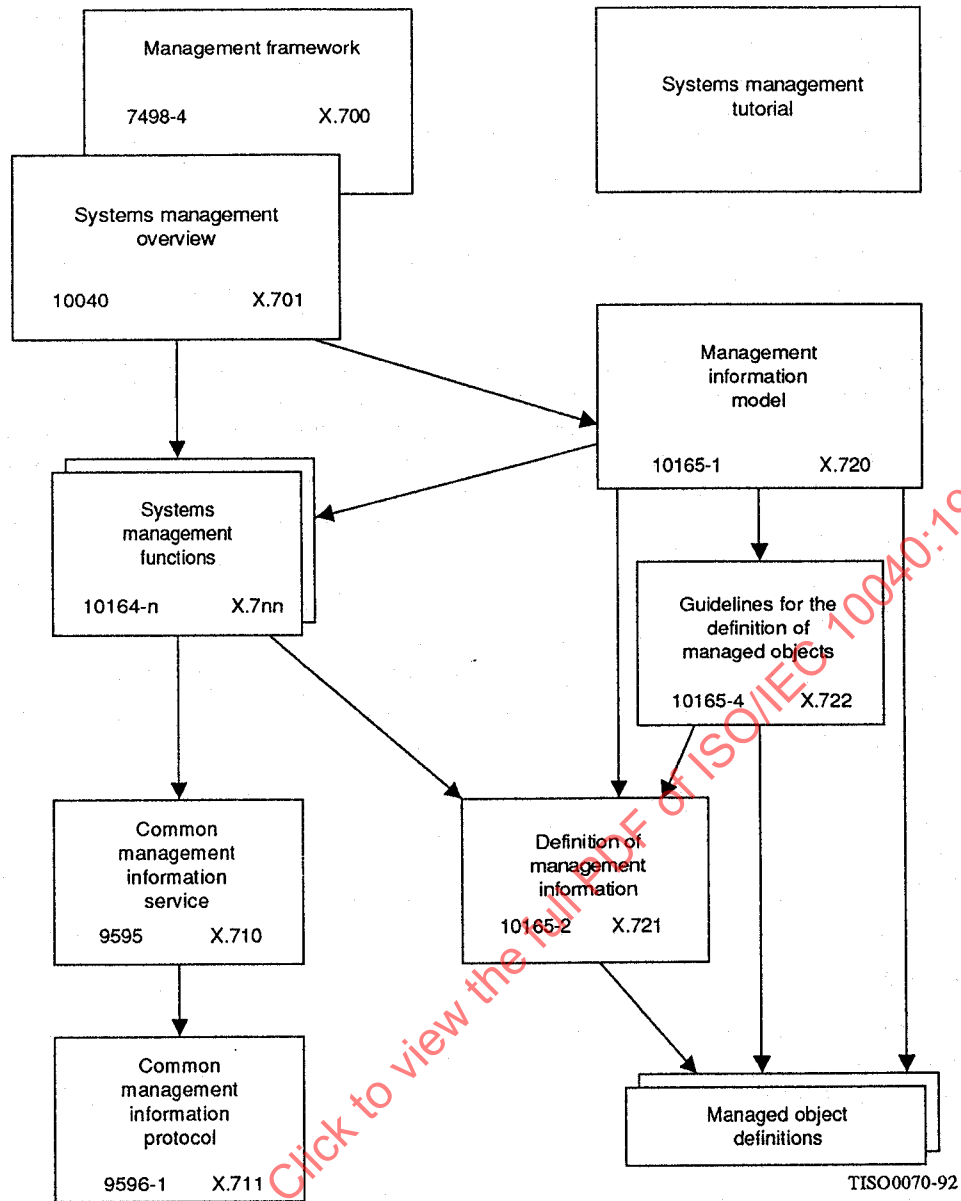


Figure 7 – Relationship between standards

- 4) a protocol specification that specifies the mapping of systems management services and their parameters onto underlying services;
- 5) definitions of the relationship between systems management services and SMI management operations and notifications;
- 6) relationships with other systems management functions;
- 7) conformance requirements.

Standards which include this component may contain or call for the use of particular generic definitions, and may also define systems management functional units.

- b) Requirements and models for generic definitions. Such components of systems management function standards are concerned solely with the provision of generic definitions of managed objects, attributes, management operations and notifications that address particular functional requirements.

The managed objects, attributes, management operations and notifications required by standards which include this component are available for use on the Pass-through service defined in CCITT Rec. X.730 | ISO/IEC 10164-1.

This component consists of

- 1) user requirements;
- 2) models that relate the generic definitions to user requirements;
- 3) statements of the compliance requirements placed on other standards that make use of the generic definitions.

NOTE – The generic definitions required by these functions are documented in accordance with the guidelines for the definition of managed objects, and they are documented in the SMI documents that contain generic definitions (see 7.3).

- c) Definition of systems management functional units. Standards which include this component identify specific sets of systems management services where there is a requirement to establish knowledge of the use of such functionality on an association as part of the establishment of management knowledge. A single functional unit may include services defined in more than one standard, and may define the use of services in conjunction with managed object classes.

This component consists of

- 1) user requirements;
- 2) models that relate the systems management functional units to the user requirements;
- 3) lists of systems management services that are required by the functional unit, along with any managed object class restrictions associated with any of these services as they pertain to a functional unit;
- 4) definitions of functional units;
- 5) the abstract syntax necessary to identify the functional unit in protocol;
- 6) descriptions of any relationships between functional units;
- 7) descriptions of any relationships between functional units and systems management functions;
- 8) conformance requirements.

Each of these components can appear alone in a systems management function standard. They can also be combined in any manner except that a generic definition component and a functional unit component cannot be combined without reference to or inclusion of a service definition component.

8 Conformance and compliance

This clause specifies

- compliance requirements placed by this Recommendation | International Standard on other standards;
- compliance requirements for systems claiming conformance to systems management;
- conformance requirements for systems claiming conformance to this Recommendation | International Standard.

8.1 Compliance to this Recommendation | International Standard

8.1.1 Introduction

Three categories of systems management standards are identified in clause 7:

- standards for communication of management information;
- standards relating to management information;
- standards related to systems management functions.

Standards claiming compliance with CCITT Rec. X.701 | ISO/IEC 10040 shall identify the category of standard for which compliance is claimed and shall comply with any requirements defined in clause 7 and clause 8 that apply to the category identified.

Standards for communication and standards relating to systems management functions shall identify two classes of conformance claim, general conformance and dependent conformance.

It is a requirement that any standard specifying conformance requirements for the dependent conformance class shall require that claims to conform to that class shall be accompanied by a System Conformance Statement that specifies all uses of the services that are supported, in the form of references to Implementation Conformance Statements (ICS).

8.1.2 Requirements for communication standards

Standards that specify protocols to be used for the communication of management information shall state the requirements for static and dynamic conformance to the protocol and shall provide a PICS proforma that identifies all the information that shall be provided in claims of conformance. These standards shall state that as a minimum requirement for conformance to systems management, the support of the ASN.1 Basic Encoding Rules (CCITT Rec. X.209 | ISO/IEC 8825) is required for abstract syntaxes defined for systems management.

Two classes of conformance claim shall be defined for communications standards, general conformance and dependent conformance.

A system claiming conformance to one of these classes shall both

- a) support the set of elements of protocol that provide the services and/or functional units required by the standardised use of the supporting services;
- b) support the elements of procedure to which conformance is claimed.

8.1.3 Requirements for management information standards

Standards that define managed object classes shall state the requirements for static and dynamic conformance to the managed object definition and shall provide a MOCS proforma that identifies all the information that shall be provided in claims of conformance.

The requirements for conformance to a managed object class shall be specified in terms of the behaviour definitions associated with the class, its attributes, management operations and notifications. A claim of conformance to a managed object class requires that a managed object instance identified as being a member of that class conforms to the managed object class definition; i.e. to have the structure defined for the class, to be able to perform the operations and emit the notifications defined for the class, and to have the attributes defined for the class with their expected type and operations.

There can be a relationship between the behaviour of a resource visible at the managed object boundary and the behaviour of the resource visible at any other boundary defined by OSI standards. If and only if such a relationship is specified, then the nature of that relationship shall be stated as part of the definition of the managed object class. Such specified relationships are subject to a claim from the supplier describing how the relationship appears in a particular implementation, with a statement of implementation restrictions (for example, the maximum delay between a management interaction and its effect on other externally visible behaviour, or vice versa). This claim may be specified in the MOCS, or in a document referenced by the MOCS.

NOTE – Such a relationship may be part of the conformance requirement to the managed object as specified in the relevant standard. It is not always feasible to express such a relationship in a deterministic way which is subject to conformance testing without at the same time over-constraining implementations. For example, internal synchronisation delays within a system could cause indefinite delays between interactions. Should it be feasible in some particular case, these relationships would be part of the conformance requirements of the managed object definition. In doing so, it is especially important not to over-constrain implementations nor create undesirable over-specification of their operation.

The existence of a conformance requirement in a standard does not necessarily imply testability of the requirement.

Where a standard claims to provide support for a function or makes use of a generic definition within a managed object definition, the standard shall satisfy the compliance requirement stated in the function or generic definition standard.

8.1.4 Requirements for standards related to management functions

Standards that define systems management functions shall state the static and dynamic conformance requirements associated with the protocol defined in the function standard and shall provide a PICS proforma that identifies all the information that shall be provided in claims of conformance. Where support of a function requires the use of particular generic definitions, the function standard shall identify the set of generic definitions that it requires.

Standards that contain generic definitions shall state the compliance requirements that are placed upon managed object standards or other standards that make use of the definitions it contains.

Standards that define systems management functional units shall state the conformance requirements associated with the support of each functional unit and shall provide a PICS proforma that identifies all the information that shall be provided in claims of conformance.

Where a function standard defines the use of a management support object, that standard shall specify the conformance requirements for that managed object in a MOCS proforma.

A systems management function standard shall specify the mapping to the supporting services.

NOTE – A systems management application protocol machine (SMAPM) is an abstraction within a systems management function that maps the parameters of request and response primitives into MAPDUs and maps the information received in MAPDUs into parameters of indication and confirmation primitives.

Two classes of conformance claim shall be defined for systems management function standards, general conformance and dependent conformance.

A general conformance claim shall express the fact that a system is capable of supporting the function for any managed object whose definition imports management information that was defined to support the function. A function standard can define general claims of conformance in terms of specific sets of functional units.

A dependent conformance claim shall express the fact that a system conforms to the function standard for the transfer of management information that is both

- a) defined in the managed objects that the system claims to support; and
- b) specifically identified as using the systems management function in question for its transfer.

8.1.5 Guidelines for claims to conform to OSI management

Systems claiming conformance to systems management standards shall document the following:

- a) the set of systems management application contexts supported. The set shall include at least the systems management application context as defined in Annex A of this Recommendation | International Standard;
- b) the set of management information protocols (e.g. CMIP) that the system claims to support, in the form of a PICS for each management information protocol, in the format required by the protocol standard. Support for this set of protocols shall include the ability to support ASN.1 Basic Encoding Rules (CCITT Rec. X.208 | ISO/IEC 8825) for abstract syntaxes defined for systems management. This set of protocols shall include
 - 1) all protocols required for the support of any systems management functional unit for which support is claimed;
 - 2) all protocols required for the support of the application context(s) for which support is claimed;
 - 3) all protocols required for the support of the management operations and notifications specified by the set of managed object classes for which support is claimed.
- c) the set of systems management functions (which may be expressed in terms of systems management functional units) that the system claims to support, in the form of a PICS for each function, in the format required by the function standard;
- d) the set of managed object classes that the system claims to support, in the form of a MOCS for each managed object class, in the format required by the managed object class standard. This set of managed objects classes shall include any managed object classes that are required for the support of the systems management functional units for which support is claimed.

8.2 Conformance to this Recommendation | International Standard

The only conformance requirements specified by this Recommendation | International Standard are those related to the application context for systems management specified in Annex A.