

Notes on ISO terminology

Decoding ISO definitions is both an art and science.

ISO definitions use the 'replacement rule' approach - this means that wherever a defined term appears in text, the reader can directly substitute the definition and the resulting text shall make sense.

Or, in ISO Directives-speak: "The definition shall be written in such a form that it can replace the term in its context."

So, when you read the following description of Identity Assurance, these defined terms come into play:

SC 27/WG 5 describes Identity Assurance as:

1. **identity assurance** is the term used to describe an **assured process** where:
 - a. An identity is established through verification of a set of identity attributes using acceptable evidence or validated systemically against an authoritative data source; then
 - b. This identity is bound to the entity.
 - c. The outcome of the process is one or more assured identifiers that can be used as the basis for authentication.
 - d. The process and the organization operating the process are assured in accordance with a defined policy that includes:
 - i. A governance body or authority;
 - ii. A policy specification that is systemized in a process;
 - iii. One or more organizations that operate the process;
 - iv. The detection of policy violations, anomalies and indicators of compromise, and actions to address them;
 - v. One or more organizations that assure and enforce the process and the processing organizations.

Definitions from ISO 27460-1 - A framework for identity management - Part 1: Terminology and concepts

| Term | Definition |
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| identity assurance | level of assurance in the result of identification NOTE Identity assurance expresses the level of confidence in provenance, integrity and applicability of identity information including confidence in identity information maintenance. |
| identification | process of recognizing an entity in a particular domain as distinct from other entities |
| identity | set of attributes related to an entity |
| verification | process to determine that presented identity information associated with a particular entity is applicable for the entity to be recognized in a particular domain at some point in time |
| attribute | characteristic or property of an entity that can be used to describe its state, appearance, or other aspects |
| identity information | set of values of attributes optionally with any associated metadata in an identity |
| identity evidence | identity information for an entity required for authentication of that entity |
| authenticated identity | identity information for an entity created to record the result of authentication |
| entity | item inside or outside an information and communication technology system, such as a person, an organization, a device, a subsystem, or a group of such items that has recognizably distinct existence |
| identifier | identity information that unambiguously distinguishes one entity from another one in a given domain |
| authentication | formalized process of verification that, if successful, results in an authenticated identity for an entity |
| enrolment | process to make an entity known within a particular domain NOTE 1 Enrolment leads to identity registration. Identity proofing is typically performed to establish the identity information to be registered for a particular entity. |
| identity proofing or initial entity authentication | particular form of authentication based on identity evidence that is performed as the condition for enrolment |
| domain | environment where an entity can use a set of attributes for identification and other purposes |
| Related Terms | Definition |
| identity information authority | entity related to a particular domain that can make provable statements on the validity and/or correctness of one or more attribute values in an identity |

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| identity information provider | entity that makes available identity information |
| identity registration | process of recording an entity's identity information in an identity register |