
**Information technology — Coding of
audio-visual objects —**

**Part 5:
Reference software**

*Technologies de l'information — Codage des objets audiovisuels —
Partie 5: Logiciel de référence*

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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 take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO/IEC 14496 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 14496-5 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 29, *Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 14496-5:2000), which has been technically revised.

ISO/IEC 14496 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Coding of audio-visual objects*:

- *Part 1: Systems*
- *Part 2: Visual*
- *Part 3: Audio*
- *Part 4: Conformance testing*
- *Part 5: Reference software*
- *Part 6: Delivery Multimedia Integration Framework (DMIF)*
- *Part 7: Optimized software for MPEG-4 visual tools*

Annexes A, B and C of this part of ISO/IEC 14496 are for information only.

Introduction

This part of ISO/IEC 14496 contains simulation software for tools defined in parts 1, 2, 3 and 6 of ISO/IEC 14496. This software has been derived from verification models used in the process of developing the standard. Due to the delay between acceptance of a tool and its availability in source code form, the source for some tools described in other parts of ISO/IEC 14496 may not be present.

Where bitstream encoding software is provided, attention is called to the fact that these encoders are provided for the purpose of creating bitstreams with normative syntax. The performance of these encoders should not be taken as indicative of that which can be obtained from implementations where quality and computational optimization are given priority. The techniques used for encoding are not specified by this specification.

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Information technology — Coding of audio-visual objects —

Part 5: Reference software

1 Scope

Reference software is normative in the sense that any conforming implementation of the software, taking the same conformant bitstreams, using the same output file format, will output the same file. Complying ISO/IEC 14496 implementations are not expected to follow the algorithms or the programming techniques used by the reference software. Although the decoding software is considered normative, it cannot add anything to the textual technical description included in parts 1, 2, 3 and 6 of ISO/IEC 14496.

The software contained in this part of ISO/IEC 14496 is divided into three categories:

- a) **Elementary stream decoding software** is catalogued in clauses 3, 4 and 5. This software accepts elementary streams encoded according to the normative specification in parts 1, 2, 3 and 6 of ISO/IEC 14496 and decodes the streams into the media types associated with each elementary stream. While this software appears in the normative part of this specification, attention is drawn to the fact that the implementation techniques used in this software are not considered normative – several different implementations could produce the same result – but the software is considered normative in that it correctly implements the decoding processes described in parts 1, 2, 3 and 6 of ISO/IEC 14496.
- b) **Elementary stream encoding software** is catalogued in Annex A (informative). This software creates elementary streams from associated media types. The encoders are provided as a means to obtain elementary streams with the normative syntax described in parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO/IEC 14496. The techniques used for encoding are not specified by this specification, and the quality and complexity of these encoders has not been optimized.
- c) **Utility software** is catalogued in Annex B (informative). This software was found useful by the developers of the standard, but may not conform to the normative specifications given in parts 1, 2, 3 and 6 of ISO/IEC 14496.

File locations given in this part of ISO/IEC 14496 are expressed relative to its location in the source tree.

2 Copyright disclaimer for software modules

Each source code module in this specification contains copyright disclaimer which shall not be removed from the source code module.

In the text of each copyright disclaimer, <MPEG standard> is replaced with a reference to its associated specification, e.g. MPEG-2 AAC (ISO/IEC 13818-7), MPEG-4 System (ISO/IEC 14496-1), MPEG-4 Video (ISO/IEC 14496-2), MPEG-4 Audio (ISO/IEC 14496-3).

"This software module was originally developed by <FN1> <LN1> (<CN1>)¹⁾ and edited by <FN2> <LN2> (<CN2>), <FN3> <LN3> (<CN3>), ... in the course of development of the <MPEG standard>. This software module is an implementation of a part of one or more <MPEG standard> tools as specified by the <MPEG standard>. ISO/IEC gives users of the <MPEG standard> free license to this software module or modifications thereof for use in hardware or software products claiming conformance to the <MPEG standard>. Those intending to use this software module in hardware or software products are advised that its use may infringe existing patents. The

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