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**Linux Standard Base (LSB) core  
specification 3.1 —**

Part 1:  
**Generic specification**

*Spécifications 3.1 relatives au noyau de base normalisé Linux (LSB) —  
Partie 1: Spécifications génériques*

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**Linux Standard Base Core Specification 3.1**

ISO/IEC 23360-1:2006(E)

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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 2.

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 document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO/IEC 23360-1 was prepared by the Free Standards Group and was adopted, under the PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 22, *Programming languages, their environments and system software interfaces*.

ISO/IEC 23360 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Linux Standard Base (LSB) core specification 3.1*:

- *Part 1: Generic specification*
- *Part 2: Specification for IA32 architecture*
- *Part 3: Specification for IA64 architecture*
- *Part 4: Specification for AMD64 architecture*
- *Part 5: Specification for PPC32 architecture*
- *Part 6: Specification for PPC64 architecture*
- *Part 7: Specification for S390 architecture*
- *Part 8: Specification for S390X architecture*



## Introduction

The LSB defines a binary interface for application programs that are compiled and packaged for LSB-conforming implementations on many different hardware architectures. Since a binary specification includes information specific to the computer processor architecture for which it is intended, it is not possible for a single document to specify the interface for all possible LSB-conforming implementations. Therefore, the LSB is a family of specifications, rather than a single one.

This document should be used in conjunction with the documents it references. This document enumerates the system components it includes, but descriptions of those components may be included entirely or partly in this document, partly in other documents, or entirely in other reference documents. For example, the section that describes system service routines includes a list of the system routines supported in this interface, formal declarations of the data structures they use that are visible to applications, and a pointer to the underlying referenced specification for information about the syntax and semantics of each call. Only those routines not described in standards referenced by this document, or extensions to those standards, are described in detail. Information referenced in this way is as much a part of this document as is the information explicitly included here.

The specification carries a version number of either the form  $x.y$  or  $x.y.z$ . This version number carries the following meaning:

- The first number ( $x$ ) is the major version number. All versions with the same major version number should share binary compatibility. Any addition or deletion of a new library results in a new version number. Interfaces marked as `deprecated` may be removed from the specification at a major version change.
- The second number ( $y$ ) is the minor version number. Individual interfaces may be added if all certified implementations already had that (previously undocumented) interface. Interfaces may be marked as `deprecated` at a minor version change. Other minor changes may be permitted at the discretion of the LSB workgroup.
- The third number ( $z$ ), if present, is the editorial level. Only editorial changes should be included in such versions.

Since this specification is a descriptive Application Binary Interface, and not a source level API specification, it is not possible to make a guarantee of 100% backward compatibility between major releases. However, it is the intent that those parts of the binary interface that are visible in the source level API will remain backward compatible from version to version, except where a feature marked as `deprecated` in one release may be removed from a future release.

Implementors are strongly encouraged to make use of symbol versioning to permit simultaneous support of applications conforming to different releases of this specification.

This is version 3.1 of the Linux Standard Base Core Specification. This specification is part of a family of specifications under the general title "Linux Standard Base (LSB) core specification 3.1". Developers of applications or implementations interested in using the LSB trademark should see the Free Standards Group Certification Policy for details.

# I Introductory Elements

# Linux Standard Base (LSB) core specification 3.1 —

## Part 1: Generic specification

### 1 Scope

#### 1.1 General

The Linux Standard Base (LSB) defines a system interface for compiled applications and a minimal environment for support of installation scripts. Its purpose is to enable a uniform industry standard environment for high-volume applications conforming to the LSB.

These specifications are composed of two basic parts: A common specification ("LSB-generic" or "generic LSB"), ISO/IEC 23360-1, describing those parts of the interface that remain constant across all implementations of the LSB, and an architecture-specific part ("LSB-arch" or "archLSB") describing the parts of the interface that vary by processor architecture. Together, the LSB-generic and the relevant architecture-specific part of ISO/IEC 23360 for a single hardware architecture provide a complete interface specification for compiled application programs on systems that share a common hardware architecture.

ISO/IEC 23360-1, the LSB-generic document, should be used in conjunction with an architecture-specific part. Whenever a section of the LSB-generic specification is supplemented by architecture-specific information, the LSB-generic document includes a reference to the architecture part. Architecture-specific parts of ISO/IEC 23360 may also contain additional information that is not referenced in the LSB-generic document.

The LSB contains both a set of Application Program Interfaces (APIs) and Application Binary Interfaces (ABIs). APIs may appear in the source code of portable applications, while the compiled binary of that application may use the larger set of ABIs. A conforming implementation provides all of the ABIs listed here. The compilation system may replace (e.g. by macro definition) certain APIs with calls to one or more of the underlying binary interfaces, and may insert calls to binary interfaces as needed.

The LSB is primarily a binary interface definition. Not all of the source level APIs available to applications may be contained in this specification.

#### 1.2 Module Specific Scope

This is the Core module of the Linux Standard Base (LSB), ISO/IEC 23360-1. This module provides the fundamental system interfaces, libraries, and runtime environment upon which all conforming applications and libraries depend.

Interfaces described in this part of ISO/IEC 23360 are mandatory except where explicitly listed otherwise. Core interfaces may be supplemented by other modules; all modules are built upon the core.

## 2 References

### 2.1 Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

**Note:** Where copies of a document are available on the World Wide Web, a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is given for informative purposes only. This may point to a more recent copy of the referenced specification, or may be out of date. Reference copies of specifications at the revision level indicated may be found at the Free Standards Group's Reference Specifications (<http://refspecs.freestandards.org>) site.

Table 2-1 Normative References

Name	Title	URL
Filesystem Hierarchy Standard	Filesystem Hierarchy Standard (FHS) 2.3	<a href="http://www.pathname.com/fhs/">http://www.pathname.com/fhs/</a>
ISO C (1999)	ISO/IEC 9899: 1999, <i>Programming Languages — C</i>	
ISO POSIX (2003)	ISO/IEC 9945-1:2003, <i>Information technology — Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) — Part 1: Base Definitions</i> ISO/IEC 9945-2:2003, <i>Information technology — Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) — Part 2: System Interfaces</i> ISO/IEC 9945-3:2003, <i>Information technology — Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) — Part 3: Shell and Utilities</i> ISO/IEC 9945-4:2003, <i>Information technology — Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX) — Part 4: Rationale</i>	<a href="http://www.unix.org/version3/">http://www.unix.org/version3/</a>

Name	Title	URL
Itanium™ C++ ABI	Itanium™ C++ ABI (Revision 1.83)	<a href="http://refspecs.freestdards.org/cxxabi-1.83.html">http://refspecs.freestdards.org/cxxabi-1.83.html</a>
Large File Support	Large File Support	<a href="http://www.UNIX-systems.org/version2/whatsnew/lfs20mar.html">http://www.UNIX-systems.org/version2/whatsnew/lfs20mar.html</a>
SUSv2	CAE Specification, January 1997, System Interfaces and Headers (XSH), Issue 5 (ISBN: 1-85912-181-0, C606)	<a href="http://www.opengroup.org/publications/catalog/un.htm">http://www.opengroup.org/publications/catalog/un.htm</a>
SVID Issue 3	American Telephone and Telegraph Company, System V Interface Definition, Issue 3; Morristown, NJ, UNIX Press, 1989. (ISBN 0201566524)	
SVID Issue 4	System V Interface Definition, Fourth Edition	
System V ABI	System V Application Binary Interface, Edition 4.1	<a href="http://www.caldera.com/developers/devspecs/gabi41.pdf">http://www.caldera.com/developers/devspecs/gabi41.pdf</a>
System V ABI Update	System V Application Binary Interface - DRAFT - 17 December 2003	<a href="http://www.caldera.com/developers/gabi/2003-12-17/contents.html">http://www.caldera.com/developers/gabi/2003-12-17/contents.html</a>
X/Open Curses	CAE Specification, May 1996, X/Open Curses, Issue 4, Version 2 (ISBN: 1-85912-171-3, C610), plus Corrigendum U018	<a href="http://www.opengroup.org/publications/catalog/un.htm">http://www.opengroup.org/publications/catalog/un.htm</a>

## 2.2 Informative References/Bibliography

In addition, the specifications listed below provide essential background information to implementors of this specification. These references are included for information only.

Table 2-2 Other References

Name	Title	URL
DWARF Debugging Information Format, Revision 2.0.0	DWARF Debugging Information Format, Revision 2.0.0 (July 27, 1993)	<a href="http://refspecs.freestdards.org/dwarf/dwarf-2.0.0.pdf">http://refspecs.freestdards.org/dwarf/dwarf-2.0.0.pdf</a>
DWARF Debugging Information Format, Revision 3.0.0 (Draft)	DWARF Debugging Information Format, Revision 3.0.0 (Draft)	<a href="http://refspecs.freestdards.org/dwarf/">http://refspecs.freestdards.org/dwarf/</a>
IEC 60559/IEEE 754 Floating Point	IEC 60559:1989, <i>Binary floating-point arithmetic for microprocessor systems</i>	<a href="http://www.ieee.org/">http://www.ieee.org/</a>
ISO/IEC TR 14652	ISO/IEC TR 14652:2004, <i>Information technology — Specification method for cultural conventions</i>	
ITU-T V.42	International Telecommunication Union Recommendation V.42 (2002): Error-correcting procedures for DCEs using asynchronous-to-synchronous conversion ITUV	<a href="http://www.itu.int/rec/recommendation.asp?type=folders&amp;lang=e&amp;parent=T-REC-V.42">http://www.itu.int/rec/recommendation.asp?type=folders&amp;lang=e&amp;parent=T-REC-V.42</a>
Li18nux Globalization Specification	LI18NUX 2000 Globalization Specification, Version 1.0 with Amendment 4	<a href="http://www.li18nux.org/docs/html/LI18NUX-2000-amd4.htm">http://www.li18nux.org/docs/html/LI18NUX-2000-amd4.htm</a>
Linux Allocated Device Registry	LINUX ALLOCATED DEVICES	<a href="http://www.lanana.org/docs/device-list/devices.txt">http://www.lanana.org/docs/device-list/devices.txt</a>
PAM	Open Software Foundation, Request For Comments: 86.0, October 1995, V. Samar & R.Schemers (SunSoft)	<a href="http://www.opengroup.org/tech/rfc/mirror-rfc/rfc86.0.txt">http://www.opengroup.org/tech/rfc/mirror-rfc/rfc86.0.txt</a>

Name	Title	URL
RFC 1321: The MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm	IETF RFC 1321: The MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1321.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1321.txt</a>
RFC 1831/1832 RPC & XDR	IETF RFC 1831 & 1832	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/">http://www.ietf.org/</a>
RFC 1833: Binding Protocols for ONC RPC Version 2	IETF RFC 1833: Binding Protocols for ONC RPC Version 2	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1833.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1833.txt</a>
RFC 1950: ZLIB Compressed Data Format Specification	IETF RFC 1950: ZLIB Compressed Data Format Specification	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1950.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1950.txt</a>
RFC 1951: DEFLATE Compressed Data Format Specification	IETF RFC 1951: DEFLATE Compressed Data Format Specification version 1.3	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1951.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1951.txt</a>
RFC 1952: GZIP File Format Specification	IETF RFC 1952: GZIP file format specification version 4.3	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1952.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1952.txt</a>
RFC 2440: OpenPGP Message Format	IETF RFC 2440: OpenPGP Message Format	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2440.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2440.txt</a>
RFC 2821: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	IETF RFC 2821: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2821.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2821.txt</a>
RFC 2822: Internet Message Format	IETF RFC 2822: Internet Message Format	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2822.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2822.txt</a>
RFC 791: Internet Protocol	IETF RFC 791: Internet Protocol Specification	<a href="http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc791.txt">http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc791.txt</a>
RPM Package Format	RPM Package Format V3.0	<a href="http://www.rpm.org/max-rpm/s1-rpm-file-format-rpm-file-format.html">http://www.rpm.org/max-rpm/s1-rpm-file-format-rpm-file-format.html</a>
SUSv2 Commands and Utilities	The Single UNIX Specification(SUS) Version 2, Commands and Utilities (XCU), Issue 5 (ISBN: 1-85912-191-8, C604)	<a href="http://www.opengroup.org/publications/catalog/un.htm">http://www.opengroup.org/publications/catalog/un.htm</a>
zlib Manual	zlib 1.2 Manual	<a href="http://www.gzip.org/zlib/">http://www.gzip.org/zlib/</a>