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**Information technology - Security techniques – Electronic discovery - Part 1: Overview and concepts (ISO/IEC 27050-1:2016)**

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**Information technology — Security  
techniques — Electronic discovery —**

**Part 1:  
Overview and concepts**

*Technologies de l'information — Techniques de sécurité —  
Découverte électronique —*

*Partie 1: Aperçu général et concepts*



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# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Symbols and abbreviated terms</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Overall ISO/IEC 27050 structure and overview</b> .....	<b>5</b>
5.1 Purpose and structure.....	5
5.2 Overview of ISO/IEC 27050-1: Overview and concepts.....	5
5.3 Overview of ISO/IEC 27050-2: Guidance for governance and management of electronic discovery.....	5
5.4 Overview of ISO/IEC 27050-3: Code of practice for electronic discovery.....	6
5.5 Overview of ISO/IEC 27050-4: ICT readiness for electronic discovery.....	6
<b>6 Overview of electronic discovery</b> .....	<b>6</b>
6.1 Background.....	6
6.2 Basic concepts.....	6
6.3 Objectives of electronic discovery.....	7
6.4 Electronic discovery foundation.....	8
6.4.1 General.....	8
6.4.2 Competency.....	8
6.4.3 Candour.....	8
6.4.4 Cooperation.....	8
6.4.5 Completeness.....	8
6.4.6 Proportionality.....	8
6.5 Governance and electronic discovery.....	9
6.5.1 General.....	9
6.5.2 Risk and environmental factors.....	9
6.5.3 Compliance and review.....	9
6.5.4 Privacy and data protection.....	9
6.6 ICT readiness for electronic discovery.....	10
6.6.1 General.....	10
6.6.2 Long-term retention of ESI.....	10
6.6.3 Maintaining ESI confidentiality.....	10
6.6.4 Destruction of ESI.....	10
6.7 Planning and budgeting an electronic discovery project.....	10
<b>7 Electronically Stored Information (ESI)</b> .....	<b>11</b>
7.1 Background.....	11
7.2 Common types of ESI.....	12
7.2.1 General.....	12
7.2.2 Active data.....	12
7.2.3 Inactive data.....	12
7.2.4 Residual data.....	12
7.2.5 Legacy data.....	13
7.3 Common sources of ESI.....	13
7.3.1 General.....	13
7.3.2 Custodian data sources.....	13
7.3.3 Non-custodian data sources.....	13
7.3.4 Potentially excluded sources of ESI.....	14
7.4 ESI representations.....	14
7.4.1 General.....	14
7.4.2 Native formats.....	14
7.4.3 Near-native formats.....	15

**ISO/IEC 27050-1:2016(E)**

	7.4.4	Image (near-paper) formats .....	15
	7.4.5	Hardcopy .....	15
	7.5	Non-ESI as part of discovery .....	15
<b>8</b>		<b>Electronic discovery process .....</b>	<b>16</b>
	8.1	Overview .....	16
	8.2	ESI identification .....	18
	8.3	ESI preservation .....	18
	8.4	ESI collection .....	18
	8.5	ESI processing .....	19
	8.6	ESI review .....	19
	8.7	ESI analysis .....	19
	8.8	ESI production .....	19
<b>9</b>		<b>Additional considerations .....</b>	<b>20</b>
	9.1	Presentation of ESI .....	20
	9.2	Chain of custody and provenance .....	20
		<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>21</b>

## 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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *IT Security techniques*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 27050 series can be found on the ISO website.

**ISO/IEC 27050-1:2016(E)****Introduction**

This document provides an overview of electronic discovery and describes related terminology, concepts, and processes that are intended to be leveraged by other parts of ISO/IEC 27050.

Electronic discovery often serves as a driver for investigations as well as evidence acquisition and handling activities (covered in ISO/IEC 27037). In addition, the sensitivity and criticality of the data sometimes necessitate protections like storage security to guard against data breaches (covered in ISO/IEC 27040).

This document is not a reference or normative document for regulatory and legislative security requirements. Although it emphasizes the importance of these influences, it cannot state them specifically, since they are dependent on the country, the type of business, etc.



# Information technology — Security techniques — Electronic discovery —

## Part 1: Overview and concepts

### 1 Scope

Electronic discovery is the process of discovering pertinent Electronically Stored Information (ESI) or data by one or more parties involved in an investigation or litigation, or similar proceeding. This document provides an overview of electronic discovery. In addition, it defines related terms and describes the concepts, including, but not limited to, identification, preservation, collection, processing, review, analysis, and production of ESI. This document also identifies other relevant standards (e.g. ISO/IEC 27037) and how they relate to, and interact with, electronic discovery activities.

This document is relevant to both non-technical and technical personnel involved in some or all of the electronic discovery activities, and it is not intended to contradict or supersede local jurisdictional laws and regulations, so exercise care to ensure compliance with the prevailing jurisdictional requirements.

### 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 27000 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org.obp>

#### 3.1 chain of custody

demonstrable possession, movement, handling, and location of material from one point in time until another

#### 3.2 custodian

person or entity that has custody, control or possession of *Electronically Stored Information* (3.9)

#### 3.3 data breach

compromise of security that leads to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure of, or access to protected data transmitted, *stored* (3.26) or otherwise processed

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27040:2015, 3.7]