# IEC 62453-1

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

REDLINE VERSION

**Field device tool (FDT) interface specification -**
**Part 1: Overview and guidance**

ICS 25.040.40; 35.100.05; 35.110

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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# Field device tool (FDT) interface specification - Part 1: Overview and guidance

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1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as “IEC Publication(s)”). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
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This redline version of the official IEC Standard allows the user to identify the changes made to the previous edition IEC 62453-1:2016. A vertical bar appears in the margin wherever a change has been made. Additions are in green text, deletions are in strikethrough red text.

IEC 62453-1 has been prepared by subcommittee 65E: Devices and integration in enterprise systems, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial-process measurement, control and automation. It is an International Standard.

This third edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2016. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) introduction of a new implementation technology (defined in IEC TS 62453-43);
b) introduction of an OPC UA information model for FDT (defined in IEC 62453-71).

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

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Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

A list of all parts of the IEC 62453 series, under the general title *Field Device Tool (FDT) interface specification,* can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

# INTRODUCTION

Enterprise automation ~~requires~~ employs two main data flows: a “vertical” data flow from enterprise level down to the field devices including signals and configuration data, and a “horizontal” communication between field devices operating on the same or different communication technologies.

With the integration of fieldbuses into control systems, there are a few additional tasks to be performed. They ~~may~~ can result in a large number of fieldbus- and device-specific tools in addition to system and engineering tools. Integration of these tools into higher-level system-wide planning or engineering tools is an advantage. In particular, for use in extensive and heterogeneous control systems, typically in the area of the process industry, the unambiguous definition of engineering interfaces that are easy to use for all those involved is of great importance.

Several different manufacturer specific tools are used. The data in these tools are often invisible data islands from the viewpoint of system life-cycle management and plant-wide automation.

To ensure the consistent management of a plant-wide control and automation technology, it is important to fully integrate fieldbuses, devices and sub-systems as a seamless part of a wide range of automation tasks covering the whole automation life cycle.

IEC 62453 provides an interface specification for developers of FDT[1] (Field Device Tool) components to support function control and data access within a client/server architecture. The availability of this standard interface facilitates development of servers and clients by multiple manufacturers and supports open interoperation.

A device or module-specific software component, called a DTM (Device Type Manager) is supplied by a manufacturer with the related device type or software entity type. Each DTM can be integrated into engineering tools via defined FDT interfaces. This approach to integration is in general open for all fieldbusses and thus supports integration of different devices and software modules into heterogeneous control systems.

The IEC 62453 common application interface supports the interests of application developers, system integrators, and manufacturers of field devices and network components. It also simplifies procurement, reduces system costs and helps manage the lifecycle. Significant savings are available in operating, engineering and maintaining the control systems.

The objectives of the IEC 62453 series are to support:

- universal plant-wide tools for life-cycle management of heterogeneous fieldbus environments, multi-manufacturer devices, function blocks and modular sub-systems for all automation domains (e.g. process automation, factory automation and similar monitoring and control applications);
- integrated and consistent life-cycle data exchange within a control system including its fieldbuses, devices, function blocks and modular sub-systems;
- simple and powerful manufacturer-independent integration of different automation devices, function blocks and modular sub-systems into the life-cycle management tools of a control system.

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[1] FDT® is a registered trade name of FDT Group AISBL. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by IEC of the trademark holder or any of its products. Compliance to this document does not require use of the trade name. Use of the trade name requires permission of the trade name holder.

The FDT concept supports planning and integration of monitoring and control applications, it does not provide a solution for other engineering tasks such as "electrical wiring planning", “mechanical planning”. Plant management subjects such as "maintenance planning", “control optimization”, “data archiving”, are not part of this FDT standard. Some of these aspects ~~may~~ can be included in future editions of FDT publications.

## 1 Scope

This part of IEC 62453 presents an overview and guidance for the IEC 62453 series. It

- explains the structure and content of the IEC 62453 series (see Clause 5);
- provides explanations of some aspects of the IEC 62453 series that are common to many of the parts of the series;
- describes the relationship to some other standards;
- provides definitions of terms used in other parts of the IEC 62453 series.

## 2 Normative references

~~The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.~~

~~IEC 61158 (all parts), *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications*~~

~~IEC 61784 (all parts), *Industrial communication networks – Profiles*~~

There are no normative references in this document.

# IEC 62453-1

Edition 3.0 2025-08

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**Part 1: Overview and guidance**

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| 65E/1173/FDIS | 65E/1176/RVD |

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

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The objectives of the IEC 62453 series are to support:

- universal plant-wide tools for life-cycle management of heterogeneous fieldbus environments, multi-manufacturer devices, function blocks and modular sub-systems for all automation domains (e.g. process automation, factory automation and similar monitoring and control applications);
- integrated and consistent life-cycle data exchange within a control system including its fieldbuses, devices, function blocks and modular sub-systems;
- simple and powerful manufacturer-independent integration of different automation devices, function blocks and modular sub-systems into the life-cycle management tools of a control system.

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[1] FDT® is a registered trade name of FDT Group AISBL. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by IEC of the trademark holder or any of its products. Compliance to this document does not require use of the trade name. Use of the trade name requires permission of the trade name holder.

The FDT concept supports planning and integration of monitoring and control applications, it does not provide a solution for other engineering tasks such as "electrical wiring planning", “mechanical planning”. Plant management subjects such as "maintenance planning", “control optimization”, “data archiving”, are not part of this FDT standard. Some of these aspects can be included in future editions of FDT publications.

## 1 Scope

This part of IEC 62453 presents an overview and guidance for the IEC 62453 series. It

- explains the structure and content of the IEC 62453 series (see Clause 5);
- provides explanations of some aspects of the IEC 62453 series that are common to many of the parts of the series;
- describes the relationship to some other standards;
- provides definitions of terms used in other parts of the IEC 62453 series.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.