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Information technology — Keyboard layouts for text and office systems —

Part 9: Groups and mechanisms for multilingual and multiscript input

Technologies de l'information — Disposition des claviers conçus pour la bureautique —

Partie 9: Groups et mécanismes pour la saisie multilingue et multi-écritures

Reference number
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Foreword

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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 or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 35, *User interfaces*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 9995-9:2016), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO/IEC 9995-9:2016/Amd. 1:2019.

The main changes are as follows:

— conformant keyboards now are required to have separate keys for digits, so miniature hardware keyboards are no longer supported;

— the descriptions of the groups defined in this document and of specific mechanisms to access these are separated, so other standards can reference specific groups without having to reference the mechanisms;

— the groups containing Latin letters and symbols are reorganized, minor changes are made to other groups, and some characters and three new groups for variants of the Georgian script were added;

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— all references to characters which are not included in ISO/IEC 10646 (Unicode), and therefore have to be encoded in the PUA (Private Use Area) in specific fonts, were deleted;

— the optional special key which was named “Secondary Superselect” is now named “Special Character Select”;

— the formal recommendations for the positioning of the “Superselect” key and of a “Special Character Select” keys are dropped and only mentioned in informative notes.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 9995 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Information technology — Keyboard layouts for office systems —

Part 9:
Groups and mechanisms for multilingual and multiscript input

1 Scope

Within the general scope described in ISO/IEC 9995-1, this document defines mappings of different sets of graphic characters onto the uppercase and lowercase forms of the 26 basic Latin characters (A–Z and a–z) and the digits 0–9, each of these mappings constituting a "group" as defined in ISO/IEC 9995-2.

A detailed synopsis is contained in the informative Annex C.

This document is primarily intended for word-processing and text-processing applications, to be used with keyboards which have at least 26 dedicated keys to enter letters and 10 additional keys to enter decimal digits.

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.

ISO/IEC 9995-1, *Information technology — Keyboard layouts for text and office systems — Part 1: General principles governing keyboard layouts*

ISO/IEC 10646, *Information technology — Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 9995-1 and the following apply.

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

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

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3.1
alphanumeric keyboard
keyboard having at least the following 39 different keys: 26 keys usable for the Latin letters A–Z (even if this is not their primary use), 10 keys for the digits 0–9, a *Space key* (3.12), an *Enter key* (3.5); and a level 2 selector key

Note 1 to entry: The digit keys typically enter the digits in level 1 or 2 of group 1.

Note 2 to entry: The level 2 selector key is usually called "shift key".

3.2
associated with
key or key combination used to enter a specific character

Note 1 to entry: Any group and/or level selection prerequisite for this action must be done for the actuation of a key to enter the intended character or call the intended function.

3.3
base mode
mode in which keys have their usual function such as selecting characters according to the active group and level

3.4
digit key
key *associated with* (3.2) any digit 0–9

3.5
Enter key
key *associated with* (3.2) an enter or return function

3.6
Latin keyboard
keyboard with a layout which has all Latin lowercase letters a–z (U+0061–U+007A) in group 1 level 1, and all Latin uppercase letters A–Z (U+0041–U+005A) in group 1 level 2, each uppercase letter being *associated with* (3.2) the same key as its lowercase counterpart, and which has a level 2 selector key which is either to be pressed simultaneously with the letter key or separately immediately before pressing the letter key, to select level 2

3.7
Latin conformant keyboard
keyboard with a layout which has all Latin letters a–z and A–Z in a single group other than Group 1, where that group can be selected permanently, and which otherwise behaves as a *Latin keyboard* (3.6) as long as that group is selected

3.8
mode
state which determines the effects of all the keys of a keyboard

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3.9
reference group
group that is switched to, or reverted to after the actuation of a key has disengaged a group previously *single-selected* (3.11) to

3.10
reference group switching mode
special mode where the next actuation of a key either switches to a new group or has the sole effect of generating an error signal to the user, when there is no group to be switched to when pressing that key

3.11
single-select
select a group or level in such a manner that only the next actuation of a key is affected, with the group reverting to the previously selected group (reference group) afterwards

3.12
Space key
key *associated with* (3.2) character U+0020 SPACE

3.13
special mode
mode which is not the *base mode* (3.3), and where the functions of the keys are defined by the description of the *mode* (3.8)

3.14
superselect
function which, upon simultaneous or consecutive actuation of any key *associated with* (3.2) a Latin letter A–Z (without the Shift key, thus effectively actuating the lowercase variant of the letter), *single-selects* (3.11) or switches to a specific group

EXAMPLE Superselect can be a key, a combination of keys, or another function.

3.15
switch to
select a group or a mode which then stays in effect until another group or *mode* (3.8) is selected, be it by switching to another group or selecting another *reference group* (3.9)

3.16
symbol
graphical symbol which is neither a letter nor a digit

Note 1 to entry: This definition does not apply to the term "symbol" as part of the phrase "graphical symbol" as defined in ISO/IEC 9995-1.

4 Conformance

4.1 General

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