

MEDIA RELEASE



23 March 2015

2015 EDITION OF ISO/IEC 38500 PUBLISHED

Key Points

- Australia plays key role in new International Standard for IT governance
- Key document for managing business risks in IT in the knowledge economy
- Expanded scope, applicability and international terminology for IT governance

The International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission have jointly published on 12 February 2015 the updated edition of ISO/IEC 38500:2015, *Information technology – governance of IT for the organization*.

The Standard provides guiding principles for members of governing bodies of organizations (which can comprise owners, directors, partners, executive managers, or similar) on the effective, efficient, and acceptable use of information technology (IT) within their organizations.

Standards Australia runs the secretariat of Sub-Committee 40 of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC 1) of ISO and IEC, JTC1/SC 40 *IT Service Management and IT Governance*, which was responsible for producing the publication. SC 40 is also chaired by an Australian, John Sheridan, Australian Government Chief Technology Officer & Procurement Coordinator. Alongside Australia were 27 participating member nations from around the world which all contributed to the development of the standard.

ISO/IEC 38500 has its origins in an Australian Standard for IT governance AS 8015, developed by Standards Australia in 2005. This Australian Standard was then adopted as an international standard by ISO and IEC in 2008.

With the evolution of thinking in the field of IT governance, ISO/IEC 38500 was revised in 2015. The main changes include the title of the standard, from 'Corporate governance of IT' to 'Governance of IT for the organization', which reflects the wider applicability of the standard. Terminology and definitions have also been updated and refined throughout the document to reflect the widened scope and to make the standard more applicable across different international jurisdictions, cultures and languages.

Another Australian, John Graham, played an instrumental role in the development of this edition. Mr Graham is a member of the Standards Australia Technical Committee IT-030 and the editor for this project. He spearheaded the two-year effort to work with other project editors to update the terminology and definitions to ensure a common and consistent vocabulary for the field of governance of IT. The definitions across the entire set of ISO/IEC documents on IT governance have also been brought into accord.

“Australia has played a key role in shaping the thinking behind ISO/IEC 38500, from its origins as an Australian Standard to creating a common vocabulary of terms that can be used internationally,” said Dr Bronwyn Evans, Chief Executive Officer of Standards Australia. “We are proud to have led the world in the development and revision of such an important standard in the governance of IT.”

John Sheridan said that effective governance programs in IT are increasingly important for business risk management in today’s knowledge-driven economy.

“Most organizations use IT as a fundamental business tool and few can function effectively without it. This standard aims to provide organizations with principles, definitions and a model for good governance of IT, and emphasises the use of IT in a whole-of-business context,” stated Mr Sheridan.

Mr Sheridan also said, “We thank Standards Australia for the support provided by in running the secretariat and appreciate the lead role taken by Australian stakeholders in developing this standard.”

ENDS.

Media Contact: Kerri Major, Communications and Media Manager, 02 9237 6159

About Standards Australia

Founded in 1922, Standards Australia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, recognised by the Commonwealth Government as the peak non-government Standards development body in Australia. It is charged by the Commonwealth Government to meet Australia's need for contemporary, internationally-aligned Standards and related services. The work of Standards Australia enhances the nation's economic efficiency, international competitiveness and contributes to community demand for a safe and sustainable environment. Visit <http://www.standards.org.au>