ISO TC184 SC4

STEP on a Page

ISO 10303

STEP on a Page provides a graphic summary of the progress of STEP, Standard for the Exchange of Product Model Data, the familiar name for ISO 10303. ISO TC184 SC4, Industrial-Automation Systems and Integration/Industrial Data develops the STEP standard.

Status of STEP Parts

Every part shown in the STEP on a Page has its status shown beside it. The status designators vary from "O" (the ISO preliminary stage) to "I" (International Standard--the stage in which the standard is published). Parts designated as "E, F" (levels of Draft International Standard) and "I" are considered advanced enough to allow software vendors to prepare implementations. The legend at the bottom of the page lists the corresponding ISO-project stage numbers next to the letter code.

Architecture of STEP

STEP on a Page attempts to show the STEP architecture by grouping the STEP parts into five main categories: description methods, implementation and conformance methodology, common resources, abstract-test suites, and application protocols.

Description Methods

From an architectural perspective, the description methods group forms the underpinning of the STEP standard. This includes part 1, Overview, which also contains definitions that are universal to the STEP. Also in that group, part 11, EXPRESS Language Reference Manual, describes the data-modeling language that is employed in STEP. Parts in the descriptive-methods group are numbered from 1 to 19.

Implementation & Conformance

The STEP implementation-methods group, the 20s series, describes the mapping from STEP formal specifications to a representation used to implement STEP.

The conformance-testing-methodology-framework group, the 30s series, provides information on methods to test software-product conformance to the STEP standard, guidance for creating abstract-test suites, and the responsibilities of testing laboratories. The STEP standard is unique in that it places a very high emphasis on testing, and actually includes these methods in the standard itself.

Common Resources (IR, AIC, and AM)

At the next level is the common-resources group, the parts that contain the generic-STEP-data models. The common resources were formerly called integrated-information resources. These data models can be considered the building blocks of STEP, and they can help AP integration and interoperability because entities in the common-resources group are shareable across the application protocols that need them.

Categories of common resources are generic resources, application resources, and application-interpreted constructs, application modules, plus the Logical model of ISO 13584-20 and the Time model of ISO 15531-42. Integrated-generic resources are generic entities that are used as needed by application protocols (AP below). Parts within generic resources have numbers between 40 and 60, and are used across the entire spectrum of STEP APs. The integrated-application resources contain entities that have slightly more context than the generic entities. The parts in the integrated-application resources are numbered in the 100s.

The 500 series are application-interpreted constructs, AICs. These are reusable groups of information-resource entities that make it easier to express identical semantics in more than one AP.

Application Modules are reusable groups of functional information requirements of applications that extend the AIC capability. The functional groups, defined in enterprise-application terms, are aligned with groups of integrated-generic resources. The application modules comprise the 1000 series of parts, which are technical specifications that achieve consensus at the Committee stage. AMs offer an opportunity to represent functional capability in multiple APs with a lower standards-development cost.

Abstract-Test Suites (ATS)

The 300 series of parts, abstract-test suites, consists of test data and criteria that are used to assess the conformance of a STEP software product to the associated AP. SC4 requires that every AP contain or be associated with an abstract-test suite. The numbers assigned to ATSs exceed the AP numbers by exactly 100. Therefore, ATS 303 applies to AP203. On the graphic, the ATS status is shown in brackets, [ ], following the AP name.

Application Protocols (AP)

At the top level of the STEP hierarchy are the more complex data models used to describe specific product-data applications. These parts are known as application protocols and describe not only what data is to be used in describing a product, but also how the data is to be used in the model. The APs use the integrated-information resources in well-defined combinations and configurations to represent a particular data model of some phase of product life. APs are numbered in the 200s. APs currently in use are the Explicit Draughting AP 201 and the Configuration Controlled Design AP 203.

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