SOFTWARE SUMMARY
FOR
DESCRIBING COMPUTER PROGRAMS AND AUTOMATED DATA SYSTEMS

CATEGORY: SOFTWARE
SUBCATEGORY: DOCUMENTATION
Foreword

The Federal Information Processing Standards Publication Series of the National Bureau of Standards is the official publication relating to standards adopted and promulgated under the provisions of Public Law 89-306, and Part 6 of Title 15 Code of Federal Regulations. The entire series constitutes the FEDERAL INFORMATION PROCESSING STANDARDS REGISTER.

The series is used to announce Federal Information Processing Standards, and to provide standards information of general interest and an index of relevant standards publications and specifications. Publications that announce adoption of standards provide the necessary policy, administrative, and guidance information for effective standards implementation and use. The technical specifications of the standard are usually attached to the publication, otherwise a reference source is cited.

Comments covering Federal Information Processing Standards and Publications are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Associate Director for ADP Standards, Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234. Such comments will be either considered by NBS or forwarded to the responsible activity as appropriate.

RICHARD W. ROBERTS, Director

Abstract

This publication provides a standard software summary form (SF-185) together with instructions for describing computer programs and/or automated data systems for identification, reference, and dissemination purposes. Federal Information Processing Standard Software Summary Form (SF-185) will be used in documenting summaries or abstracts of programs and/or automated data systems that are developed or acquired by Federal departments and agencies. This form will also be used by the General Services Administration in the establishment of a centralized registry of selected government software.

Key words: Computer programs; computers; computer software; data processing; Federal Information Processing Standards; information processing.


CODEN: FIIPAT
SOFTWARE SUMMARY FOR DESCRIBING COMPUTER PROGRAMS AND AUTOMATED DATA SYSTEMS


Explanation. This publication provides a standard software summary form (SF–185) together with instructions for describing computer programs and/or automated data systems for identification, reference, and dissemination purposes.

Approving Authority. Secretary of Commerce.


Applicability. The standard software summary form will be used in documenting summaries or abstracts of programs and/or automated data systems that are developed or acquired by Federal departments and agencies.

Implementation Schedule. This standard becomes effective upon publication. Federal departments and agencies, based upon their specific operational requirements, will develop and provide implementing instructions for the use of this standard within their organization as appropriate.


Qualifications. The standard form provided in this document is based upon an analysis and selection of relevant data elements which are useful in describing computer programs and/or automated data systems. As ADP technology advances, this standard may require modification to retain its value. Comments or suggestions regarding its content and use are welcomed and should be addressed to the Associate Director for ADP Standards, Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234.


Copies of the Standard Form 185, Federal Information Processing Standard software Summary are available as a GSA Federal Supply stock item, FSN 7540–118–8541. The forms will be issued in units of 50 copies to a pad at a price of $1.25 per pad. Supplies of Standard Form 185 should be obtained from the nearest GSA supply distribution facility.
SOFTWARE SUMMARY FOR DESCRIBING COMPUTER PROGRAMS AND AUTOMATED DATA SYSTEMS

1. **Name of Standard.** Software Summary for Describing Computer Programs and Automated Data Systems.

2. **Category of Standard.** Software, Documentation.

3. **Explanation.** This publication provides a standard software summary form (SF-185) together with instructions for describing computer programs and/or automated data systems for identification, reference, and dissemination purposes.

4. **Definitions.**
   
   a. **Computer program.** An identifiable series of instructions or statements, in a form acceptable to a computer, prepared in order to achieve a certain result.
   
   b. **Automated data system.** A set of logically related computer programs designed to accomplish specific objectives or functions.
   
   c. **Software Summary.** A condensed description or abstract of a computer program or automated data system.

5. **Specifications.** The following pages provide a copy of the referenced Standard Form 185, Federal Information Processing Standard Software Summary, together with instructions for completion. For the purpose of illustration in this FIPS PUB, the instructions for completing this form have been placed on the page opposite the form. However, the actual forms which are to be used will have the instructions printed on the reverse side.
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STANDARD FORM 185
JULY 1974
U.S. DEPT. COMMERCE NBS
(FIBS. PUB. 30)
INSTRUCTIONS

01. Summary Date. Enter date summary prepared. Use Year, Month, Day format: YYMMDD.

02. Summary Prepared By. Enter name and phone number (including area code) of individual who prepared this summary.

03. Summary Action. Mark the appropriate box for new summary, replacement summary or deletion of summary. If this software summary is a replacement, enter under "Previous Internal Software ID" the internal software identification as reported in item 07 of the original summary, and enter the new internal software identification in item 07 of this form; complete all other items as for a new summary. If a software summary is to be deleted, enter under "Previous Internal Software ID" the internal software identification as reported in item 07 of the original summary; complete only items 01, 02, 03 and 11 on this form.

04. Software Date. Enter date software was completed or last updated. Use Year, Month, Day format: YYMMDD.

05. Software Title. Make title as descriptive as possible.

06. Short Title. (Optional) Enter commonly used abbreviation or acronym which identifies the software.

07. Internal Software ID. Enter a unique identification number or code.

08. Software Type. Mark the appropriate box for an Automated Data System (set of computer programs), Computer Program, or Subroutine/Module, whichever best describes the software.

09. Processing mode. Mark the appropriate box for an Interactive, Batch, or Combination mode, whichever best describes the software.

10. Application Area. General: Mark the appropriate box which best describes the general area of application from among:

   - Computer Systems Support/Utility
   - Management/Business
   - Scientific/Engineering
   - Other

   Specific: Specify the sub-area of application, e.g.: "COBOL optimizer" if the general area is "Computer Systems Support/Utility"; "Payroll" if the general area is "Management/Business"; etc. Elaborate here if the general area is "Other."

11. Submitting Organization and Address. Identify the organization responsible for the software as completely as possible, to the Branch or Division level, but including Agency, Department (Bureau/Administration), Service, Corporation, Commission, or Council. Fill in complete mailing address, including mail code, street address, city, state, and ZIP code.

12. Technical Contacts and Phone. Enter person(s) or office(s) to be contacted for technical information on subject matter and/or operational aspects of software. Include telephone area code. Provide organization name and mailing address, if different from that in item 11.

13. Narrative. Describe concisely the problem addressed and methods of solution. Include significant factors such as special operating system modifications, security concerns, relationships to other software, input and output media, virtual memory requirements, and unique hardware features. Cite references, if appropriate.

14. Keywords. List significant words or phrases which reflect the functions, applications and features of the software. Separate entries with semicolons.

15. Computer Manufacturer and Model. Identify mainframe computer(s) on which software is operational.

16. Computer Operating System. Enter name, number, and release under which software is operating. Identify enhancements in the Narrative (item 13).

17. Programming Language(s). Identify the language(s) in which the software is written, including version, e.g., ANSI COBOL, FORTRAN V, SIMSCRIPT II.5, SLEUTH II.

18. Number of Source Program Statements. Include statements in this software, separate macros, called subroutines, etc.

19. Computer Memory Requirements. Enter minimum internal memory necessary to execute software, exclusive of memory required for the operating system. Specify words, bytes, characters, etc., and number of bits per unit. Identify virtual memory requirements in the Narrative (item 13).

20. Tape Drives. Identify number needed to operate software. Specify, if critical, manufacturer, model, tracks, recording density, etc.

21. Disk/Drum Units. Identify number and size (in same units as "Memory": item 19) needed to operate software. Specify, if critical, manufacturer, model, etc.

22. Terminals. Identify number of terminals required. Specify, if critical, type, speed, character set, screen/line size, etc.

23. Other Operational Requirements. Identify peripheral devices, support software, or related equipment not indicated above, e.g., optical character devices, facsimile, computer-output microfilm, graphic plotters.

24. Software Availability. Mark the appropriate box which best describes the software availability from among: Available to the Public, Limited Availability (e.g., for government use only), and For In-house Use Only. If the software is "Available", include a mail or phone contact point, as well as the price and form in which the software is available, if possible.

25. Documentation Availability. Mark the appropriate box which best describes the documentation availability from among: Available to the Public, Inadequate for Distribution, and For In-house Use Only. If documentation is "Available", include a mail or phone contact point, as well as the price and form in which the documentation is available, if possible. If documentation is presently "Inadequate", show the expected availability date.

26. For Submitting Organization Use. This area is provided for the use of the organization submitting this summary. It may contain any information deemed useful for internal operation.
PERIODICALS

JOURNAL OF RESEARCH reports National Bureau of Standards research and development in physics, mathematics, and chemistry. Comprehensive scientific papers give complete details of the work, including laboratory data, experimental procedures, and theoretical and mathematical analyses. Illustrated with photographs, drawings, and charts. Includes listings of other NBS papers as issued.

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DIMENSIONS, NBS

The best single source of information concerning the Bureau's measurement, research, developmental, cooperative, and publication activities, this monthly publication is designed for the layman and also for the industry-oriented individual whose daily work involves intimate contact with science and technology—for engineers, chemists, physicists, research managers, product-development managers, and company executives. Annual subscription: Domestic, $6.50; Foreign, $8.25.

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**Liquefied Natural Gas.** A literature survey issued quarterly. Annual subscription: $20.00.


NONPERIODICALS

**Applied Mathematics Series.** Mathematical tables, manuals, and studies.

**Building Science Series.** Research results, test methods, and performance criteria of building materials, components, systems, and structures.

**Handbooks.** Recommended codes of engineering and industrial practice (including safety codes) developed in cooperation with interested industries, professional organizations, and regulatory bodies.

**Special Publications.** Proceedings of NBS conferences, bibliographies, annual reports, wall charts, pamphlets, etc.

**Monographs.** Major contributions to the technical literature on various subjects related to the Bureau's scientific and technical activities.

**National Standard Reference Data Series.** NSRDS provides quantitative data on the physical and chemical properties of materials, compiled from the world's literature and critically evaluated.

**Product Standards.** Provide requirements for sizes, types, quality, and methods for testing various industrial products. These standards are developed cooperatively with interested Government and industry groups and provide the basis for common understanding of product characteristics for both buyers and sellers. Their use is voluntary.

**Technical Notes.** This series consists of communications and reports (covering both other-agency and NBS-sponsored work) of limited or transitory interest.

**Federal Information Processing Standards Publications.** This series is the official publication within the Federal Government for information on standards adopted and promulgated under the Public Law 89–306, and Bureau of the Budget Circular A–86 entitled, Standardization of Data Elements and Codes in Data Systems.

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