



FEDERAL INFORMATION
PROCESSING STANDARDS PUBLICATION

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / National Bureau of Standards



**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.

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Processing Standards Publication 30**

June 30, 1974



ANNOUNCING THE STANDARD FOR

**SOFTWARE SUMMARY FOR DESCRIBING COMPUTER
PROGRAMS AND AUTOMATED DATA SYSTEMS**

Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are issued by the National Bureau of Standards pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended, Public Law 89-306 (79 Stat. 1127), and as implemented by Executive Order 11717 (38 FR 12315, dated May 11, 1973), and Part 6 of Title 15 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations).

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

Category of Standard. Software, Documentation.

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.

Maintenance Agency. Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, National Bureau of Standards.

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.

Specifications. Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 30, Software Summary for Describing Computer Programs and Automated Data Systems (affixed).

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.

Where to Obtain Copies. Copies of this publication are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB).

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.



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SPECIFICATIONS FOR



**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.

FEDERAL INFORMATION PROCESSING STANDARD SOFTWARE SUMMARY

01. Summary date Yr. Mo. Day			02. Summary prepared by (<i>Name and Phone</i>)			03. Summary action New Replacement Deletion <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Internal Software ID _____ 07. Internal Software ID _____		
04. Software date Yr. Mo. Day			05. Software title					
06. Short title								
08. Software type <input type="checkbox"/> Automated Data System <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Program <input type="checkbox"/> Subroutine/Module		09. Processing mode <input type="checkbox"/> Interactive <input type="checkbox"/> Batch <input type="checkbox"/> Combination		10. <u>General</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Systems Support/Utility <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliographic/Textual		Application area <u>Specific</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Management/Business <input type="checkbox"/> Process Control <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
11. Submitting organization and address					12. Technical contact(s) and phone			
13. Narrative								
14. Keywords								
15. Computer manuf'r and model		16. Computer operating system		17. Programming language(s)		18. Number of source program statements		
19. Computer memory requirements		20. Tape drives		21. Disk/Drum units		22. Terminals		
23. Other operational requirements								
24. Software availability Available <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> In-house only <input type="checkbox"/>				25. Documentation availability Available <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate <input type="checkbox"/> In-house only <input type="checkbox"/>				
26. FOR SUBMITTING ORGANIZATION USE								

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
Process Control
Bibliographic/Textual
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 Contact(s) 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.

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