

Government of Ontario

Information
&
Technology
Standards



Government of Ontario IT Standard (GO-ITS)

Number 30.2

OPS Middleware Software for Java Platform

Version #: 1.0

Status: Approved

Prepared for the Information Technology Standards Council (ITSC) under the delegated authority of the Management Board of Cabinet

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1. Foreword

Government of Ontario Information Technology Standards (GO-ITS) are the official publications on the guidelines, preferred practices, standards and technical reports adopted by the Information Technology Standards Council (ITSC) under delegated authority of the Management Board of Cabinet (MBC). These publications support the responsibilities of the Ministry of Government Services (MGS) for coordinating standardization of Information & Information Technology (I&IT) in the Government of Ontario. Publications that set new or revised standards provide enterprise architecture guidance, policy guidance and administrative information for their implementation. In particular, GO-ITS describe where the application of a standard is mandatory and specify any qualifications governing the implementation of standards.

2. Introduction

2.1. Background and Purpose

The intended purpose of selecting a product brand standard for the OPS Enterprise middleware software is to meet the technological needs of the Government of Ontario while positioning the government for service delivery improvements by reducing system complexity and costs.

Product standardization is established to limit the number of software products in use within the OPS. The nature of product standards means that they are the primary products deployed within the OPS. Future procurement activities may or may not change the product standard on a go-forward basis.

In general terms, 'middleware software' can be defined as computer software that connects software components.

For the purpose of this standard the definition utilized for 'middleware' is limited to the application server¹, i.e. application server software associated with the Java component model (see GO-ITS 20.1 for Java Platform).

This standard declares a middleware software product brand standard for enterprise-wide use.

2.2. Scope

2.2.1. In Scope

- All new three-tier development planned for hosting within the OPS Standardized Java Platform.

2.2.2. Out of Scope

- Solutions hosted on the OPS Standardized .NET Platform are excluded.

2.3. Applicability Statements

2.3.1. Organization

Government of Ontario IT Standards and Enterprise Solutions and Services apply (are mandatory) for use by all ministries/clusters and to all former Schedule I and IV provincial government agencies under their present classification (Advisory, Regulatory, Adjudicative, Operational Service, Operational Enterprise, Trust or Crown Foundation) according to the current agency classification system.

Additionally, this applies to any other new or existing agencies designated by Management Board of Cabinet as being subject to such publications, i.e. the GO-ITS publications and enterprise solutions and services - and particularly applies to Advisory, Regulatory, and Adjudicative Agencies (see also procurement link, OPS paragraph). Further included is any agency which, under the terms of its Memorandum of Understanding with its responsible Minister, is required to satisfy the mandatory requirements set out in any of the Management Board of Cabinet Directives (cf. Operational Service, Operational Enterprise, Trust, or Crown Foundation Agencies).

¹ "Application Server" means a container for Middle Tier application Components, which requires that Components adhere to a well-defined Component Model. It handles transaction semantics, security, clustering, and other functions for all its Components.

As new GO-IT standards are approved, they are deemed mandatory on a go-forward basis (Go-forward basis means at the next available project development or procurement opportunity).

When implementing or adopting any Government of Ontario IT standards or IT standards updates, ministries and I&IT Cluster must follow their organization's pre-approved policies and practices for ensuring that adequate change control, change management and risk mitigation mechanisms are in place and employed.

For the purposes of this document, any reference to ministries or the Government includes applicable agencies.

2.3.2. Other Applicability

Private-sector vendors who are contracted to develop new applications for OPS clients must also conform to this standard.

2.4. Requirements Levels

Within this document, certain wording conventions are followed. There are precise requirements and obligations associated with the following terms:

Must	This word, or the terms "REQUIRED" or "SHALL", means that the statement is an absolute requirement.
Should	This word, or the adjective "RECOMMENDED", means that there may exist valid reasons in particular circumstances to ignore the recommendation, but the full implications (e.g., business functionality, security, cost) must be understood and carefully weighed before

2.5. Contact Information

2.5.1. Roles and Responsibilities for this GO-ITS Document

Accountable Role Definition

The individual ultimately accountable for the process of developing this standard. There must be exactly one accountable role identified. The accountable person also signs off as the initial approver of the proposed standard before it is submitted for formal approval to ITSC and ARB. (Note: in the OPS this role is at a CIO/Chief or other senior executive level).

Accountable Role:

Title: Head, Technology Adoption Branch

Ministry/Cluster: Ministry of Government Services

Division: Office of the Corporate Chief Technology Officer

Responsible Role Definition

The organization responsible for the development of this standard. There may be more than one responsible organization identified if it is a partnership/joint effort. (Note: the responsible organization provides the resource(s) to develop the standard).

Responsible Organization:

Ministry/Cluster: Ministry of Government Services

Division: Office of the Corporate Chief Technology Officer

Branch: Technology Adoption Branch

Support Role Definition

The support role is the resource(s) to whom the responsibility for actually completing the work and developing the standard has been assigned. If there is more than one support role, the first role identified should be that of the editor – the resource responsible for coordinating the overall effort.

Support Role:

Ministry/Cluster: MGS

Division: OCCTO

Branch: Technology Adoption Branch

Section: ITSM Program and I&IT Standards

Job Title: Standards Coordinator

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Consulted

Organization Consulted (Ministry/Cluster)	Division	Branch	Date
MGS	OCCTO	Technology Adoption Branch	2009
MGS	Supply Chain Management	I&IT Procurement Branch	2009

Committee/Working Group Consulted	Date
ITELC	2008
Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet	March 2009
IT Standards Council	May 20, 2009
OPS .NET Centre of Excellence	May 20, 2009
Solutions Delivery Leadership Committee	June 3, 2009

Informed

Organization Informed (Ministry/Cluster)	Division	Branch	Date
MGS	OCCTO	Applied Architecture Branch (AAB)	2009
	OCCTO	Corporate Architecture Branch (CAB)	2009

Committee/Working Group Informed	Date
Corporate ACT (All Clusters) – minutes dated June 11, 2009	

2.6. Recommended Versioning and/or Change Management

Changes (i.e. all revisions, updates, versioning) to the standard require authorization from the “responsible” organization.

Once a determination has been made by the responsible organization to proceed with changes, the Standards Section, Technology Adoption Branch, OCCTO, will coordinate and provide assistance with respect to the approvals process.

The approval process for changes to standards will be determined based on the degree and impact of the change. The degree and impact of changes fall into one of two categories:

Minor changes - requiring communication to stakeholders. No presentations required. No ITSC or ARB approvals required. Changes are noted in the “Document History” section of the standard;

Major changes - requiring a presentation to ITSC for approval and ARB for approval (Note: ARB reserves the right to delegate their approval to ITSC)

Below are guidelines for differentiating between minor and major changes:

Major:

- represents a major version change to one or more specifications
- impacts procurement
- requires configuration changes to current solutions
- impacts other standards
- responds to legislative, policy or procurement changes

Minor:

- represents incremental version changes to one or more specifications
- does not impact procurement (other than informational)
- does not require configuration changes to current solutions
- does not impact other standards
- is not related to legislative, policy, or procurement changes

2.7. Publication Details

All approved Government of Ontario IT Standards (GO-ITS) are published on the ITSC Intranet web site. Please indicate with a checkmark below if this standard is also to be published on the public, GO-ITS Internet Site.

Standard to be published on both the OPS Intranet and the GO-ITS Internet web site (available to the public, vendors etc.)	☑
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2.8. Compliance Requirements

All projects/solutions which are planning to utilize the OPS standardized Java platform (and employing three-tier architecture designs) must use or plan for the product standard listed in section 3.

If for some reason this product does not meet requirements, a justification for exemption must be developed and presented to their Cluster CIO. The Cluster CIO formally requests an exemption from ITELC. If an exemption is granted, the ministry/cluster proceeds with a separate procurement.

Technical specifications (TS) and version control information for the latest products will be published on an ongoing basis. This set of specifications must be used for the evaluations.

3. Mandatory Requirements

This standard declares that the following product has been selected by the Government of Ontario for Enterprise-wide middleware software:

- IBM Websphere

4. Related Standards

4.1. Impacts to Existing Standards

Identify any Standards that reference or are referenced by this Standard and describe the impact.

GO-IT Standard	Impact	Recommended Action
GO-ITS 20.1 <i>Platform Software Standard</i>	GO-ITS 20.1 requires that further middleware version numbering be added for related components/service areas, e.g. especially the 'application server' component in the GO-ITS 20.1 Appendix (a.k.a. the Technology Reference Model for platform software)	Maintain alignment with GO-ITS 20.1

4.2. Impacts to Existing Environment

Impacted Infrastructure	Impact	Recommended Action
None	None	N/A

5. Copyright Information

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