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**ITU-T**

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SERIES Z: LANGUAGES AND GENERAL SOFTWARE  
ASPECTS FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Formal description techniques (FDT) – Testing and Test  
Control Notation (TTCN)

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**Testing and Test Control Notation version 3:  
TTCN-3 core language**

Recommendation ITU-T Z.161

ITU-T



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# Recommendation ITU-T Z.161

## Testing and Test Control Notation version 3: TTCN-3 core language

### Summary

Recommendation ITU-T Z.161 defines TTCN-3 (Testing and Test Control Notation 3) intended for specification of test suites that are independent of platforms, test methods, protocol layers and protocols. TTCN-3 can be used for specification of all types of reactive system tests over a variety of communication ports. Typical areas of application are protocol testing (including mobile and Internet protocols), service testing (including supplementary services), module testing, testing of CORBA based platforms and APIs. The specification of test suites for physical layer protocols is outside the scope of this Recommendation.

The core language of TTCN-3 can be expressed in a variety of presentation formats. While this Recommendation defines the core language, Recommendation ITU-T Z.162 defines the tabular format for TTCN (TFT) and Recommendation ITU-T Z.163 defines the graphical format for TTCN (GFT). The specification of these formats is outside the scope of this Recommendation. The core language serves three purposes:

- a) as a generalized text-based test language;
- b) as a standardized interchange format of TTCN test suites between TTCN tools;
- c) as the semantic basis (and where relevant, the syntactical basis) for the various presentation formats.

The core language may be used independently of the presentation formats. However, neither the tabular format nor the graphical format can be used without the core language. Use and implementation of these presentation formats shall be done on the basis of the core language.

This revision of the Recommendation contains amendments, clarifications, corrigenda and editorial corrections.

### History

Edition	Recommendation	Approval	Study Group	Unique ID*
1.0	ITU-T Z.140	2001-07-22	10	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/5475">11.1002/1000/5475</a>
2.0	ITU-T Z.140	2003-04-22	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/6241">11.1002/1000/6241</a>
3.0	ITU-T Z.140	2006-03-16	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/8640">11.1002/1000/8640</a>
4.0	ITU-T Z.161	2007-11-13	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/9265">11.1002/1000/9265</a>
5.0	ITU-T Z.161	2011-03-16	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11065">11.1002/1000/11065</a>
6.0	ITU-T Z.161	2012-05-29	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11598">11.1002/1000/11598</a>
7.0	ITU-T Z.161	2013-07-14	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11957">11.1002/1000/11957</a>
8.0	ITU-T Z.161	2014-11-13	17	<a href="http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/12346">11.1002/1000/12346</a>

\* To access the Recommendation, type the URL <http://handle.itu.int/> in the address field of your web browser, followed by the Recommendation's unique ID. For example, <http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/1000/11830-en>.

## FOREWORD

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The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

## NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

Compliance with this Recommendation is voluntary. However, the Recommendation may contain certain mandatory provisions (to ensure, e.g., interoperability or applicability) and compliance with the Recommendation is achieved when all of these mandatory provisions are met. The words "shall" or some other obligatory language such as "must" and the negative equivalents are used to express requirements. The use of such words does not suggest that compliance with the Recommendation is required of any party.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, ITU had not received notice of intellectual property, protected by patents, which may be required to implement this Recommendation. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the TSB patent database at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/ipr/>.

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# Recommendation ITU-T Z.161

## Testing and Test Control Notation version 3: TTCN-3 core language

### 1 Scope

Recommendation ITU-T Z.161 defines the core language of TTCN-3. TTCN-3 can be used for the specification of all types of reactive system tests over a variety of communication ports. Typical areas of application are protocol testing (including mobile and Internet protocols), service testing (including supplementary services), module testing, testing of CORBA based platforms, APIs, etc. TTCN-3 is not restricted to conformance testing and can be used for many other kinds of testing including interoperability, robustness, regression, system and integration testing. The specification of test suites for physical layer protocols is outside the scope of this Recommendation.

TTCN-3 is intended to be used for the specification of test suites which are independent of test methods, layers and protocols. Various presentation formats are defined for TTCN-3 such as a tabular presentation format and a graphical presentation format. The specification of these formats is outside the scope of this Recommendation.

While the design of TTCN-3 has taken the eventual implementation of TTCN-3 translators and compilers into consideration the means of realization of Executable Test Suites (ETS) from Abstract Test Suites (ATS) is outside the scope of this Recommendation.

### 2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

[ETSI ES 201 873-1 V4.6.1] ETSI ES 201 873-1 V4.6.1 (2014-06), *Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 1: TTCN-3 Core Language*.

### 3 Definitions

#### 3.1 Terms defined elsewhere

None.

#### 3.2 Terms defined in this Recommendation

None.

### 4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

API	Application Programming Interface
CORBA	Common Object Request Broker Architecture
TTCN	Testing and Test Control Notation

## **5 Conventions**

None.

## **6 Endorsement**

[ETSI ES 201 873-1 V4.6.1] was approved by ITU-T as the basis for Recommendation ITU-T Z.161.





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