

# The IEEE standard for requirements documents

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The most widely known requirements document standard is [IEEE/ANSI 830-1998](#) (IEEE, 1998). This IEEE standard suggests the following structure for requirements documents:

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Purpose of the requirements document
- 1.2 Scope of the product
- 1.3 Definitions, acronyms and abbreviations
- 1.4 References
- 1.5 Overview of the remainder of the document

## 2. General description

- 2.1 Product perspective
- 2.2 Product functions
- 2.3 User characteristics
- 2.4 General constraints
- 2.5 Assumptions and dependencies

**3. Specific requirements**, covering functional, non-functional and interface requirements. This is obviously the most substantial part of the document but because of the wide variability in organisational practice, it is not appropriate to define a standard structure for this section. The requirements may document external interfaces, describe system functionality and performance, and specify logical database requirements, design constraints, emergent system properties and quality characteristics.

## 4. Appendices

## 5. Index

Although the IEEE standard is not ideal, it contains a great deal of good advice on how to write requirements and how to avoid problems. It is too general to be an organisational standard in its own right. It is a general framework that can be tailored and adapted to define a standard geared to the needs of a particular organisation.

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