Part 0: Overview and vocabulary

Version 3.0
Document control

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1. Foreword

FitSM is a lightweight standards family aimed at supporting the implementation of IT service management (ITSM), including federated scenarios. The FitSM approach is built on four key principles: practicality, consistency, sufficiency and extendibility.

FitSM is and will remain free for everybody. This covers all parts of the standard, including the core parts and implementation aids. All parts of the FitSM standard and related material published by the FitSM working group are licensed under a Creative Commons International License.

The development of FitSM was supported by the European Commission as part of the Seventh Framework Programme. FitSM is maintained by ITEMO e.V., a non-profit partnership of specialists in the field of IT management, including experts from industry and research.

FitSM is designed to be compatible with other ITSM frameworks such as the International Standard ISO/IEC 20000 and ITIL good practices. However, the FitSM process model, requirements, recommended activities and role model target a lightweight and more achievable implementation. The FitSM family is made up of several documents, providing guidance and input on different aspects of ITSM:

- FitSM-0: Overview and vocabulary (this document)
- FitSM-1: Requirements
- FitSM-2: Process activities and implementation
- FitSM-3: Role model
- FitSM-4: Templates and samples *(set of documents under continual development)*
- FitSM-5: Implementation guides *(set of documents under continual development)*
- FitSM-6: Maturity and capability assessment scheme

All documents are available and published in their most recent version through the website [www.fitsm.eu](http://www.fitsm.eu).

2. About this document

This part of FitSM provides an overview of the FitSM family and a common vocabulary used by the other parts of the standard (in particular by FitSM-1). It helps to harmonise and facilitate discussion by those trying to implement IT Service Management using FitSM or any other compatible ITSM approach.

This part of the standard provides:

- an overview of the key principles behind ITSM and FitSM;
- a general overview of the FitSM family of standards;
- an overview of the FitSM process model;
- terms and definitions for use in the FitSM family of standards.

This standard is applicable to all types of organisations (e.g. commercial enterprises, government agencies, non-profit organizations) from which IT services are provided, regardless of type, size and the nature of the services delivered.
3. Key principles for IT service management and FitSM

Seven simple principles stand for the key ideas behind ITSM and the spirit of FitSM.

### The Key Principles of the FitSM approach to managing IT services:

**Practicality**

**Consistency**

**Sufficiency**

**Extendibility**

### The Foundation for systematic IT Service Management:

**Service- and customer-orientation**

**Process-orientation**

**Continual improvement**

3.1 Foundation for systematic IT service management

The first three principles reflect the main ideas behind ITSM as pursued by many organisations providing IT services.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service- and customer-orientation</strong></td>
<td>IT-driven solutions provided to customers and users are arranged as services and provided according to clearly defined service levels. Services are aligned to the needs and expectations of (potential) customers. Both the service provider and customer are aware of agreed service targets.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Process-orientation</strong></td>
<td>Activities required to plan, deliver, operate and control services are carried out as part of well-understood and effective processes.</td>
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<td><strong>Continual improvement</strong></td>
<td>The entire service management system follows the plan-do-check-act approach. All processes and activities necessary to manage IT services as well as the services themselves are subject to evaluation, aimed at identifying opportunities for improvement and taking appropriate follow-up actions.</td>
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3.2 The FitSM approach to managing IT services

In the world of IT service management, FitSM is a unique standard. It is designed towards supporting the implementation of ITSM according to these four key principles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Practicality</strong></td>
<td>Apply simple, proven guidance instead of drowning in theoretical best practices</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consistency</strong></td>
<td>Repeatable performance before detailed documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sufficiency</strong></td>
<td>Good enough and working over seeking the perfect solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extendibility</strong></td>
<td>Leverage many sources of knowledge rather than live in a walled garden</td>
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4. Overview of the FitSM family of standards

The FitSM family is made up of several documents, providing guidance and input on different aspects of ITSM. The following figure shows their relationships.

**Core Standard**
- FitSM-0: Overview and vocabulary
- FitSM-1: Requirements
- FitSM-2: Process activities and implementation
- FitSM-3: Role model

**Implementation Aids**
- FitSM-4: Templates and samples
- FitSM-5: Implementation guides
- FitSM-6: Maturity and capability assessment scheme

5. Overview of the FitSM process model

All parts of FitSM are based on an understanding of the following 14 core processes for IT service management (ITSM).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Service portfolio management (SPM)</td>
<td>To maintain the service portfolio and to manage services through their lifecycle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service level management (SLM)</td>
<td>To maintain service catalogues, and to define and evaluate agreements on service quality with customers and suppliers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service reporting management (SRM)</td>
<td>To specify reports on services and processes and ensure they are produced and delivered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service availability and continuity management (SACM)</td>
<td>To ensure sufficient service availability and continuity to meet service targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process Description</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity management (CAPM)</strong></td>
<td>To ensure sufficient capacity and service performance to meet service targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information security management (ISM)</strong></td>
<td>To preserve confidentiality, integrity and availability of information related to managing and delivering services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Customer relationship management (CRM)</strong></td>
<td>To establish and maintain good relationships with customers receiving services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplier relationship management (SUPPM)</strong></td>
<td>To establish and maintain healthy relationships with internal and external suppliers and to monitor their performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incident and service request management (ISRM)</strong></td>
<td>To restore agreed service operation after the occurrence of an incident and to respond to user service requests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problem management (PM)</strong></td>
<td>To identify and investigate problems in order to reduce their impact or prevent them from causing further incidents</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Configuration management (CONFM)</strong></td>
<td>To provide and maintain a logical model of configuration items in support of other service management activities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change management (CHM)</strong></td>
<td>To plan, approve and review changes in a controlled manner to avoid adverse impact on services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Release and deployment management (RDM)</strong></td>
<td>To bundle changes into appropriate types of releases and to effectively deploy them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continual service improvement management (CSI)</strong></td>
<td>To plan, implement and review improvements to services and processes</td>
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For each of these processes, as well as for a number of general aspects in the context of ITSM, FitSM-1 defines a small number of implementation requirements, while FitSM-2 provides guidelines on the activities to set up and implement ITSM using these processes. FitSM-3 describes the proposed roles to be assigned to execute the ITSM processes as part of a service management system.
6. Terms and definitions
For the purpose of the FitSM family of standards, the following terms and definitions apply:

6.1 Activity
Set of actions carried out within a process

6.2 Assessment
Set of actions to evaluate the capability level of a process or the overall maturity level of a management system

6.3 Audit
Systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the audit criteria are fulfilled

Note 1: Audit evidence is typically based on documented information, information provided during an audit interview, and information gathered through observation.

Note 2: Audit criteria may be based on requirements from a management system (including policies, processes and procedures), agreements (including service level agreements and underpinning agreements), contracts, standards or legislation.

Note 3: An audit may be an internal audit, if it is conducted under the direct responsibility of the organisation or federation that is subject to the audit, or an external audit, if it is conducted by an external party.

Note 4: Both internal and external audits should be conducted by skilled and experienced auditors, and auditors should not audit their own work or areas of responsibilities to ensure the impartiality of the results.

6.4 Availability
Ability of a service or service component to fulfil its intended function at a specific time or over a specific period of time

6.5 Availability of information
Property of information being available to and usable by an authorized party

Note: Availability of information may also be referred to as accessibility of information.

6.6 Capability level
Achieved level of effectiveness of an individual process or general aspect of management

6.7 Capacity
Maximum extent to which a certain element of the infrastructure (such as a configuration item) can be used

Note: This might mean the total disk capacity or network bandwidth. It could also be the maximum transaction throughput of a system.
6.8 Change
Alteration (such as addition, removal, modification, replacement) of a configuration item (CI) or another entity that requires change control.

6.9 Classification
Assignment of items to defined groups based on common attributes, relations or other criteria.

Note 1: Items that are subject to classification may include documents, records (such as incident records or change records), services, configuration items (CIs), etc. Defined groups may include categories (such as incident categories or change categories) or priority levels.

Note 2: The act of classification often comprises the application of more than one classification scheme. For instance, an incident record might be assigned to a technical incident category such as ‘software related’, ‘network related’, etc., and also to a priority level like ‘low priority’, ‘medium priority’, etc. The assignment of various incidents, service requests, changes and problems to an affected CI is also a classification.

Note 3: Besides the presentation and analysis of relationships, classification is often used as input for controlling the workflow of a process, e.g. by assigning a priority level to an incident.

6.10 Closure
Final activity in a workflow of a process to indicate no further action is required for a specific case.

Note: Cases that are subject to closure may include incidents, problems, service requests or changes. The activity of closure puts the connected record (such as the incident record, problem record, service request record or change record) in its final status, usually called ‘closed’.

6.11 Competence
Sum of knowledge, skills and experience that an individual or group needs to effectively take on a specific role.

6.12 Confidentiality of information
Property of information not being accessible to unauthorized parties.

6.13 Conformity
Extent to which requirements are met in some context.

Note: In the context of FitSM, the term compliance is generally used as a synonym for conformity. However, sometimes conformity is used in the context of adherence to internal regulations and requirements as defined by policies, processes and procedures, while compliance is used in the context of adherence to external requirements, such as laws, standards and contracts.

6.14 Configuration
State of a specified set of attributes, relationships and other relevant properties of one or more configuration items (CIs).
Note: The documented configuration of a number of CIs at a given point in time is called a configuration baseline, which is usually taken prior to the deployment of one or more changes to these CIs in the live environment.

6.15 Configuration item (CI)
Element that contributes to the delivery of one or more services or service components, therefore requiring control of its configuration

Note 1: CIs can vary widely, from technical components (e.g. computer hardware, network components, software) to non-technical items such as documents (e.g. service level agreements, manuals, license documentation).

Note 2: The data necessary for effective control of a CI is stored in a CI record. In addition to attributes of the CI, the CI record likely includes information on relationships it has with other CIs, service components and services. CI records are stored in a configuration management database (CMDB).

6.16 Configuration management database (CMDB)
Store for data about configuration items (CIs)

Note: A CMDB is not necessarily a single database covering all configuration items (CIs). It may rather be composed of multiple data stores.

6.17 Continuity
Property of a service to maintain all or parts of its functionality, even in exceptional circumstances

Note: Exceptional circumstances include emergencies, crises or disasters which affect the ability to provide services over extended periods of time.

6.18 Customer
Organisation or part of an organisation that commissions a service provider in order to receive one or more services

Note: A customer usually represents a number of users.

6.19 Demand
Potential or identified desire of customers for a service

6.20 Document
Information and its supporting medium

Note: Examples of documents include policies, plans, process descriptions, procedures, service level agreements, contracts or records of activities performed.

6.21 Effectiveness
Extent to which goals and expectations are met

Note: In a management system, effectiveness is mostly measured against the defined goals of the processes that are subject to this system.
6.22 Efficiency
Degree of ability to meet goals and expectations with minimum consumption of resources

Note 1: In a management system, efficiency is mostly considered in the context of the processes that are subject to this system.

Note 2: Resources may be human, technical, informational or financial.

6.23 Emergency change
Change with a very high urgency to being implemented in order to avoid negative consequences

6.24 Escalation
Change of responsibility for a case (such as an incident, service request, problem or change) or activity to another individual or group

Note: There are two basic types of escalation: Hierarchical escalation transfers responsibility (temporarily) to someone with a higher level of authority. Functional escalation transfers responsibility to someone with a different set of competencies or privileges required to handle the case or activity.

6.25 Federation
Situation in which multiple parties, the federation members, jointly contribute to the delivery of services to customers without being organised in a strict hierarchical setup or supply chain.

6.26 Federation member
Individual, organisation or body that works together with other federation members in a federation to provide one or more services

Note: Often, federation members will not be bound together by strict contractual agreements.

6.27 Federator
Body that acts to coordinate a set of federation members

6.28 Improvement
Action or set of actions carried out to increase the level of conformity, effectiveness or efficiency of a management system, process or activity, or to increase the quality or performance of a service or service component

Note: An improvement is usually implemented after an opportunity for improvement has been identified, for instance during a service review, audit or management review.

6.29 Incident
Unplanned disruption of operation in a service or service component, or degradation of service quality versus the expected or agreed service level or operational level according to service level agreements (SLAs), operational level agreements (OLAs) and underpinning agreements (UAs).
6.30 Information security
Preservation of confidentiality, integrity and availability of information

6.31 Information security control
Means of controlling or treating one or more risks to information security

6.32 Information security event
Occurrence or previously unknown situation indicating a possible breach of information security

Note: An occurrence or situation is considered a potential breach of information security if it may lead to a negative impact on the confidentiality, integrity and/or availability of information of one or more information assets.

6.33 Information security incident
Single information security event or a series of information security events with a significant probability of having a negative impact on the delivery of services to customers, and therefore on the customers’ business operations

6.34 Integrity of information
Property of information not being subject to unauthorized modification, duplication or deletion

6.35 IT service
Service that is enabled by the use of information technology (IT)

6.36 IT service management (ITSM)
Entirety of activities performed by an IT service provider to plan, deliver, operate and control IT services offered to customers

Note: The activities carried out in the ITSM context should be directed by policies and structured and organised by processes and supporting procedures.

6.37 Key performance indicator (KPI)
Metric that is used to track the performance, effectiveness or efficiency of a service or process

Note: KPIs are generally important metrics that will be aligned to critical success factors and important goals. KPIs are therefore a subset of all possible metrics, intended to allow for monitoring a service or process.

6.38 Known error
Problem which has not (yet) been resolved, but for which there are documented workarounds or measures to reduce or prevent negative impact on services

6.39 Major change
Change that (may) have a significant impact on one or more services
6.40 Major incident

*Incident* that (may) have significant impact on the *customer*

6.41 Management review

Periodic evaluation of the suitability, *maturity* and *efficiency* of the entire *management system* by its accountable owner(s), from which opportunities for *improvement* are identified and follow-up actions are determined

Note: The accountable owner of a *management system* is usually a *top management* representative of the organisation operating the *management system*. In a *federation*, the accountable owner is usually one person nominated by *top management* representatives of all organisations (i.e. *federation members*) involved.

6.42 Management system

*Entirety* of *policies*, *processes*, *procedures* and related resources and capabilities aiming at effectively performing management tasks in a given context and for a given subject

Note 1: A management system is generally intangible. It is based on the idea of a systematic, structured and *process*-oriented way of managing.

Note 2: While documentation (such as *process* definitions, *procedures* and *records*) and tools (such as workflow support and monitoring tools) can be parts of a management system, management system considerations are not limited to the questions of documentation and tool support.

Note 3: With respect to *(IT) service management* and the FitSM standard series, the idea of a *service management system (SMS)* is a central concept, where the context of the management system is the organisational context of the *service provider*, and the subject is to plan, deliver, operate and control *(IT) services*.

6.43 Maturity level

*Achieved overall effectiveness* of a *service management system*, based on the combination of the *capability levels* of its processes and general aspects of management

6.44 Nonconformity

Case or situation where a requirement is not fulfilled

Note: This may also be referred to as noncompliance.

6.45 Operational level agreement (OLA)

Documented agreement between a *service provider* and an internal *supplier* that specifies the underpinning *service(s)* or *service component(s)* to be provided by the internal *supplier* or *federation member*, together with the related *service targets*

Note: In a *federation*, OLAs may be agreed between the *federator* and *federation members*. 
6.46 Operational target
Reference / target value for a parameter used to measure the performance of a service component, listed in an operational level agreement (OLA) or underpinning agreement (UA) related to this service component

Note: Typical operational targets might include availability or allowed resolution times for incidents.

6.47 Policy
Documented set of intentions, expectations, goals, rules and requirements, often formally expressed by top management representatives in an organisation or federation

Note: Policies are then realised in processes, which are in turn made up of activities that people carry out according to defined procedures.

6.48 Post implementation review (PIR)
Review after the implementation of a change that determines if the change was successful

Note: Depending on the specific type and complexity of the change, the post implementation review may vary widely in its depth.

6.49 Priority
Relative importance of a target, object or activity

Note: Often incidents, service requests, problems and changes are given a priority. In the case of incidents and problems, priority is usually based on the specific impact and urgency of the situation.

6.50 Problem
Underlying cause of one or more incidents that requires further investigation to prevent incidents from recurring or reduce the negative impact on services

6.51 Procedure
Specified set of steps or instructions to be carried out by an individual or group to perform one or more activities of a process

6.52 Process
Structured set of activities, with clearly defined responsibilities, that bring about a specific objective or set of results from a set of defined inputs

Note: Generally, a process consists of a number of activities used to manage services, if the process is part of a service management system (SMS).

6.53 Record
Documentation of an event or of the results of performing a process or activity

6.54 Release
Set of one or more changes that are grouped together and deployed as a logical unit
6.55 Release and deployment strategy
Approach taken to manage releases and their deployment for a given set of service components and related configuration items (CIs), including organisational and technical aspects of planning, building, testing, evaluating, accepting and deploying releases

Note: Typical release and deployment strategies include continuous integration (a DevOps practice where changes to software source code are regularly merged into a central repository, followed by running automated builds and tests) and fixed release cycles (where minor and major releases are planned according to a long-term schedule, with emergency releases being deployed between release cycles as necessary).

6.56 Report
A structured record communicating results gathered through measurement, monitoring, assessment, audit or observation

Note 1: A common report generated from a service management system is a service report targeted to customers of a service that details the performance of that service versus the service targets defined in a service level agreement (SLA).

Note 2: The recipients of reports may be internal or external, including customers, suppliers, federation members, service owners and the SMS owner.

6.57 Request for change (RFC)
Documented proposal for a change

6.58 Risk
Possible negative occurrence that would have a negative impact on the service provider’s ability to deliver agreed services to customers, or that would decrease the value generated through some service

Note: Risk is made up of the probability of the threat entailed, the vulnerability to that threat of some asset, and the impact the threat would have, if it occurred.

6.59 Role
Set of responsibilities and connected behaviours or actions collected into a logical unit that can be assigned to an individual or group

Note: An individual may hold multiple roles.

6.60 Service
Way to provide value to customers through bringing about results that they want to achieve

Note: In the context of the FitSM standard series, when referring to services, usually IT services are meant.

6.61 Service acceptance criteria
Criteria that must be fulfilled by the time a new or changed service is deployed and made available to customers/users
Note: Service acceptance criteria are defined when a new or changed service is designed, and they may be updated or refined during the development or transition phase. They may cover functional and non-functional aspects of the specific service to be deployed.

6.62 Service catalogue

Customer-facing list of all live services offered along with relevant information about these services.

Note 1: A service catalogue can be regarded as a filtered version of and customers’ view on the service portfolio.

Note 2: Based on one service portfolio, one or more service catalogues can be created.

6.63 Service component

Logical part of a service that provides a function enabling or enhancing a service.

Note 1: A service is usually composed of several service components.

Note 2: A service component is usually built from one or more configuration items (CIs).

Note 3: Although a service component underlies one or more services, it usually does not create value for a customer alone and is therefore not a service by itself.

6.64 Service level agreement (SLA)

Documented agreement between a customer and service provider that specifies the service to be provided and the service targets that define how it will be provided.

6.65 Service lifecycle

The series of phases a service may move through in its lifetime.

Note 1: Specific service lifecycle phases are typically defined for each organisation, depending on the complexity needed. These may include initial idea, proposal, design, development, deployment, production and retirement.

Note 2: Service design and transition plans, sometimes referred to as the service design and transition package (SDTP), should be produced or updated for every new or majorly altered service. It may consist of a number of documented plans and other relevant information including a list of requirements and service acceptance criteria, a project plan, communication and training plans, technical plans and specifications, resource plans, development and deployment schedules / timetables, etc.

6.66 Service management

Entirety of activities performed by a service provider to plan, deliver, operate and control services offered to customers.

Note 1: The activities carried out in the service management context should be directed by policies and structured and organised by processes and supporting procedures.

Note 2: In the context of the FitSM standard series, when referring to service management, usually IT service management is meant.
6.67 Service management plan
Overall plan for implementing and operating a service management system (SMS)

6.68 Service management system (SMS)
Overall management system that controls and supports management of services within an organisation or federation

Note: The SMS can be regarded as the entirety of interconnected policies, processes, procedures, roles, agreements, plans, related resources and other elements needed and used by a service provider to effectively manage the delivery of services to customers.

6.69 Service portfolio
Internal list that details all the services offered by a service provider, including those in preparation, live and discontinued

Note: For each service, the service portfolio may include information such as its value proposition, target customer base, service description, relevant technical specifications, cost and price, risks to the service provider, service level packages offered, etc.

6.70 Service provider
Organisation or federation (or part of an organisation or federation) that manages and delivers a service or services to customers

6.71 Service request
User request for information, advice, access to a service or a change

Note: Service requests are often handled by the same process and tools as incidents.

6.72 Service review
Periodic evaluation of the quality and performance of a service together with the customer or under consideration of customer feedback, from which opportunities for improvement are identified, follow-up actions to increase the value of the service are determined

6.73 Service target
Reference / target values for a parameter used to measure the performance of a service, listed in a service level agreement (SLA) related to this service

Note: Typical service targets include availability or resolution time for incidents.

6.74 Supplier
Organisation or party that provides a (supporting) service or service component(s) to the service provider, which the service provider needs to provide services to their customers / users

Note 1: A supplier may be internal or external to the organisation of the service provider.

Note 2: In a federation, the federation members are regarded as internal suppliers.
6.75 Top management
Senior management within an organisation who has authority to set policies and exercise overall control of the organisation

6.76 Underpinning agreement (UA)
Documented agreement between a service provider and an external supplier that specifies the underpinning service(s) or service component(s) to be provided by the supplier, together with the related service targets

Note 1: A UA can be seen as a service level agreement (SLA) with an external supplier where the service provider is in the customer role.

Note 2: A UA may also be referred to as an underpinning contract (UC).

6.77 Underpinning contract (UC)
See: Underpinning agreement (UA)

6.78 User
Individual that primarily benefits from and uses a service

6.79 Value
Benefit to a customer and their users delivered by a service

Note: Value should be considered as a composition of the function (fitness for purpose) and quality (fitness for use, covering sufficient availability / continuity, capacity / performance and information security) connected to a service.

6.80 Workaround
Means of circumventing or mitigating the symptoms of a known error that helps to resolve incidents caused by this known error, while the underlying root cause is not permanently eliminated

Note 1: Workarounds are often applied in a situation, when the actual root cause of (recurring) incidents cannot be resolved due to lack of resources or ability.

Note 2: A workaround may consist of a set of actions to be carried out by either the service provider or the user of the service.

Note 3: A workaround is also referred to as a temporary fix or temporary solution.