

IT Assurance & Attestation

Why Perkins?

SAS 70, AICPA Trust Services and agreed-upon procedures may only be delivered by Certified Public Accountants in good standing. Perkins & Company is a licensed certified public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCOAB) and, as such, performs these services.

Perkins consultants have performed IT risk management and compliance services for companies across a variety of industries. And, as a large, local accounting and business advisory firm, we work with you to understand your information risks in the context of your industry and business objectives.

Looking for experienced information risk and compliance help?

Please contact us:

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Issues of information integrity, confidentiality and availability are paramount considering increasingly complex systems and the growing use of third-party service providers and software “in the cloud.” Companies need these third-party systems and services to stay competitive in today’s global environment. At the same time, they must be assured that risks associated with outsourcing information processing and custody are credibly mitigated. This assurance can be provided through SAS 70, AICPA Trust Services and agreed-upon procedures, three well-known and independent IT attestation approaches.

SAS 70, AICPA Trust Services or agreed-upon procedures are often a requirement of doing business as an information service provider. Customers and their auditors frequently expect independent reports attesting to effective service provider controls. Beyond the base requirement, these reports can also serve as a competitive differentiator for service providers, demonstrating that they are attuned to risks posed by their IT environment and are equipped with the controls to address these risks.

One key reason why SAS 70, AICPA Trust Services and agreed-upon procedures are considered very credible is that they may only be delivered by Certified Public Accountants in good standing.

What is a SAS 70?

A SAS 70 Type II is the de-facto standard. It is generally required in industries that provide outsource services to their customers such as payroll, claims processing and IT data center hosting. By the way, these business areas typically have a large IT dependency.

A SAS 70 Report typically includes:

- a description of the organization, computer systems and control environment;
- a descriptions of internal control objectives and activities, and related considerations;
- testing of the control design and effectiveness (for Type II Reports); and
- the independent Service Auditor’s Report (i.e., opinion).

Learn more about SAS 70 Services and how you may benefit from them.

What are Trust Services?

Trust Services, SysTrust and WebTrust are offerings developed by the AICPA to address specific risks in IT. Although they have been around for many years, they are not as well known as the SAS 70 and agreed-upon procedure engagements. The defining factor for Trust Services is the structure has been defined by the AICPA with principles and criteria. The Company selects one or more principles and then the auditor designs and executes testing based on the AICPA’s criteria for the principle(s).

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The five principles for Trust Service engagements are:

- **Security.** The system is protected against unauthorized access.
- **Availability.** The system is available for operations and use as committed or agreed.
- **Processing integrity.** System processing is complete, accurate, timely, and authorized.
- **Confidentiality.** Information designated as confidential is protected.
- **Privacy.** Personal information is collected, used, retained

The end result is a short report that includes an opinion. Often, companies post the report on their website along with a recognized certification seal from the AICPA.

What are Agreed-Upon Procedures?

If clear-cut IT audit test results around areas like system access, program changes, and reliability of system backups are all that is needed then an agreed-upon procedures engagement might be the right fit. For example, if a company has just one customer requesting “assurance” on a specific business activity or process, we would work with you to determine the right level of IT testing needed to satisfy the customer. We then execute the tests. The auditor’s report is in the form of procedures and results.



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Typical Fees and Level of Effort (dependent on extent of procedures)

