## SOC 1, SOC 2 AND SOC 3 REPORTS: UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES



# SOC

### WHAT IS IT?

A SOC 1 report is **designed** to review internal controls at a service organization relevant to the user entities' internal controls over financial reporting. A SOC 1 report is best for your non-information technologybased products or services.

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Reports on controls as of a specific date. A Type I report typically does not test the operational effectiveness of controls and only confirms that control activities exist and are appropriately designed.

SOC 1: TYPE I

#### SOC 1: TYPE II

Reports on controls throughout a period of time. A Type II audit is more rigorous as it includes an assessment of the operational effectiveness of controls over a period of time. In addition, a Type Il report is more comprehensive and includes testing details and results.

PRIVACY

Personal information is

collected, used, retained,

disclosed, and disposed

of as committed to and

with adherence to criteria

set forth in the Generally

(GAPP) issued by the

AICPA and CICA.

Accepted Privacy Principles

#### WHEN IS IT RELEVANT?

A SOC 1 is relevant when the product or service used doesn't have consumer personally identifiable information being stored or hosted at the vendor. In addition, request and review this report when the product or service used may impact the financial reporting of your organization. Example vendors include:

- Accounting software
- Investments/Securities/Funds Management
- Financial Planning and Wealth Management

### WHAT IS IT?



SOC

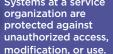
A SOC 2 report is based upon the Trust Services Criteria (TSC) as issued by the AICPA. A SOC 2 report focuses on a business's non-financial reporting controls as they relate to security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, and/or privacy of a system. 

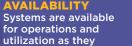
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This is typically the preferred SOC Report to utilize for Due Diligence.



**TWO TYPES** 





AVAILABILITY

### **TWO TYPES**



#### SOC 2: TYPE I

Reports on controls as of a specific date. A Type I report typically does not test the operational effectiveness of controls and only confirms that control activities exist and are appropriately designed.



#### SOC 2: TYPE II

Reports on controls throughout a period of time. A Type II audit is more rigorous as it includes an assessment of the operational effectiveness of controls over a period of time. In addition, a Type II report is more comprehensive and includes testing details and results.

### WHEN IS IT RELEVANT?

A SOC 2 focuses on the controls in place to protect private information that is either stored or transmitted by the vendor. Most of the TSC are related to technology-based services and therefore are beneficial in allowing the user entity to determine if proper controls are in place to protect their information. Example vendors include:

- Core Banking Item Processing
- Bill Payment Cloud Provider
- Online Banking Managed Services

#### **SOC 2 +**

Although not a separate type, a SOC 2+ report, includes auditor opinions on additional criteria or subject matter. Examples of additional criteria include the Cloud Security Alliance, HITRUST, NIST 800-53, and ISO 27001. Although a SOC2+ is not defined within the attestation standard, this type of report is becoming more common.

#### SOC WHAT IS IT?

A SOC 3 report enables a service organization to share a general-use report that is relevant to current and prospective customers.

### **KEY THINGS TO NOTE**

A SOC 3 can also serve as a marketing tool to demonstrate 🛛 🖌 Based on Trust Services Criteria that appropriate controls are in place to mitigate risks related to security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, and/or privacy of a system. As general-use reports, SOC 3 reports can be freely distributed.

- Less detailed than a SOC 1 or SOC 2
- Does not test the operational effectiveness of controls

#### WHEN IS IT RELEVANT?

A SOC 3 is best used as a tool in the initial vetting of a new vendor. In general, a SOC 3 Report should not be used in place of the more detailed SOC 1 and SOC 2 Reports.





TRUST SERVICES CRITERIA<sup>1</sup> (please note, a SOC 2 report may cover one or all TSC)

System processing is complete, valid, accurate, timely, and authorized.

PROCESSING

INTEGRITY

#### CONFIDENTIALITY

Information classified as confidential is protected as committed to.