

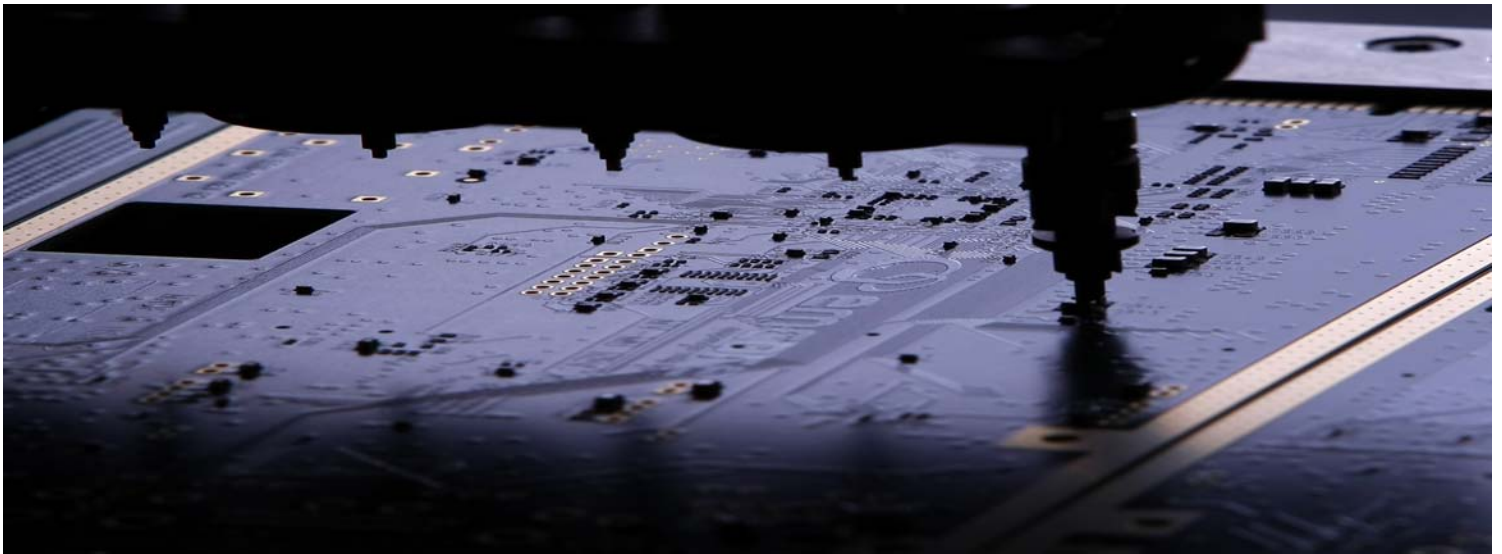


Compliance

Risk Management

IT Governance

Assurance



Sigma Technology Partners offers its clients number of Assurance services including SSAE-16 (Former SAS -70) Type I and Type II reporting. Our team of CPA's, CISA's and other technical professionals help our clients build transparency and trust with its customers by having controls and operations independently verified.

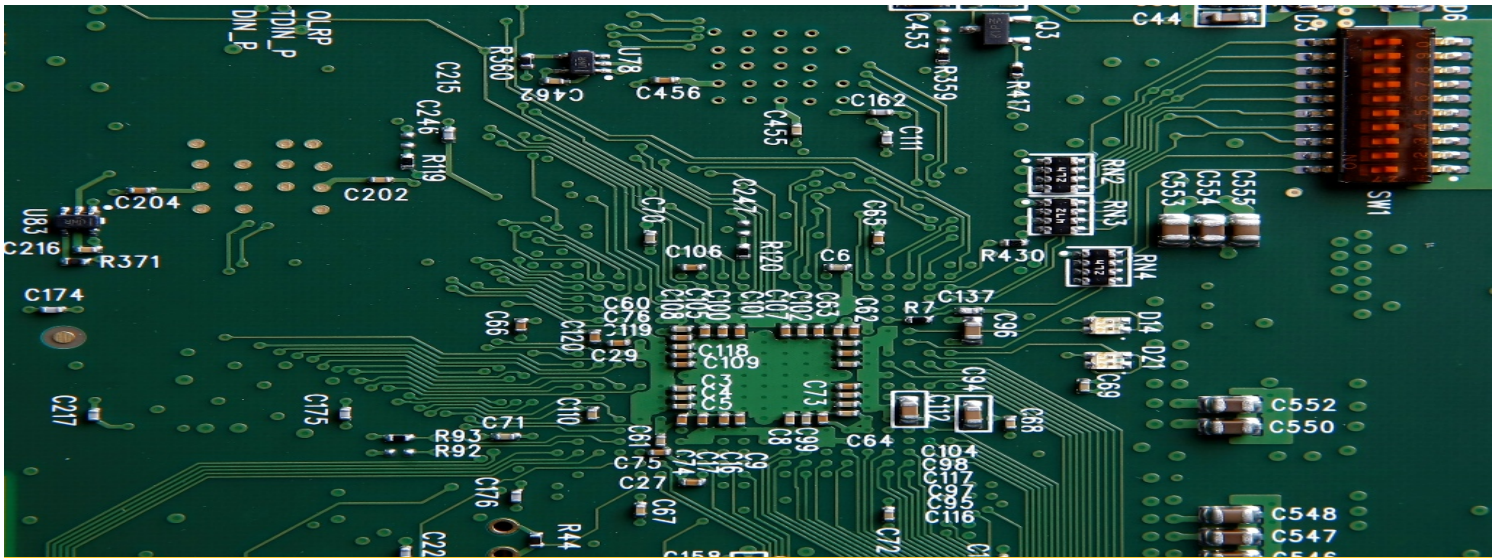
Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) No.16, Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization

SSAE-16 is an acronym for Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements developed and maintained by the AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants). SSAE-16 is a "Report on the Processing of Transactions by Service Organizations" where professional standards are set up for a service auditor that audits and assesses internal controls of a service organization. At the end of the engagement, the service auditor issues an important report called the "Service Auditor's Report". SSAE-16 is not a barebones checklist attestation; it is an extremely thorough audit that is used chiefly as an authoritative guidance. In today's market, it is a helpful and substantial reporting that shows transparency to the businesses that a service organization works with. In addition, it shows the service organizations prospective clients that the service organization has been thoroughly checked and deemed to have satisfactory controls and safeguards either when hosting specific information or processing information such as data belonging to customers that they do business with.

Service Organization Control (SOC) - Type I

Type I report describes the degree in which the service organization fairly represents its services in regards to controls that have been implemented in operations and its inherent design to achieve objectives set forth. Type I attestations opine on controls that are in place as of a date in time. The opinion deals with the fairness of presentation of the controls and the design of the controls in terms of their ability to meet defined control objectives.

Organizations need SSAE-16 Attestations primarily because of the growing surge of legislation, such as the passing of the recent laws which advocate protection of privacy, corporate accountability, and establishment of internal controls throughout organizations. Thus, a need was created to provide companies with a high level of assurance and confidence when using service organizations for outsourcing critical business functions. Additionally, the overall growth in technology and its permeation into all layers of business has facilitated the growth of SSAE audits. Therefore, an audit process to ensure data integrity and all related transactions was needed.



SSAE-16 reports are provided by independent Certified Public Accountants (CPAs). SSAE-16 is one of the Auditing standards promulgated by the Auditing Standards Board (ASB) of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

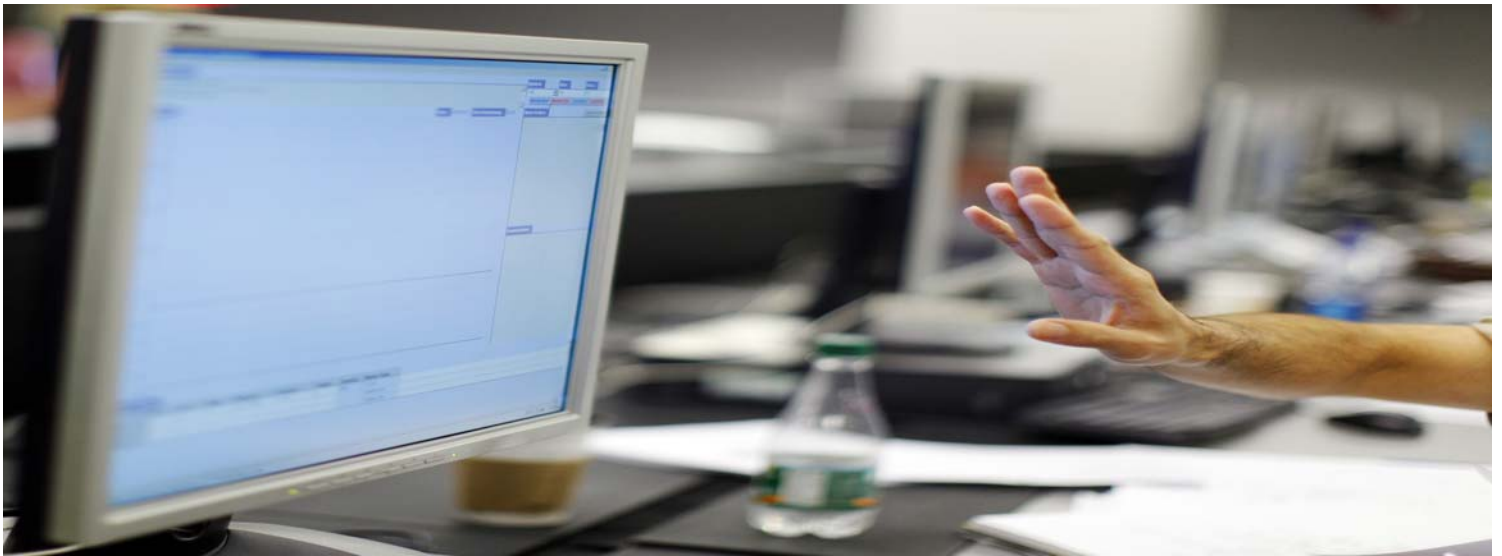
Type II Report

Type II reports are similar to Type I, however an additional section is added, the additional section includes the service auditor's opinion on how effective controls operated under the defined period during the review. Type II audits opine on controls that were in place over a period of time, which is typically a period of six months or more. The opinion deals with the fairness of presentation of the controls, the design of the controls with regard to their ability to meet defined control objectives, and the operational effectiveness of those controls over the defined period. Third parties are better able to rely on these reports because verification is provided regarding these matters for a substantial period of time.



In today's global economy, service organizations or service providers must demonstrate that they have adequate controls and safeguards when they host or process data belonging to their customers. Therefore, the SSAE Audits are an effective way to build transparency amongst the organization and other entities. It will actually help market your service organization to existing and potential clients. It provide information on the design and operating effectiveness of internal controls to your management and staff and reduce costs of financial statement audits by completing internal control testing.

There is a movement within the business culture globally, that data and all related IT transactions must be safe and secure at all times. Because such a heavy reliance is placed on computer systems, organizations are compelled now more than ever to ensure that data and all related processes and procedures are safe, secure, and IT controls are operating as designed, in an effective manner.

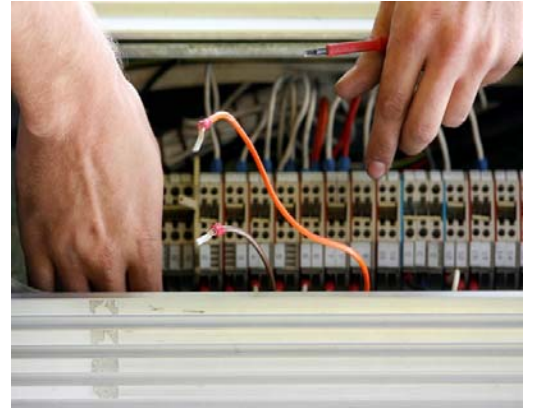


Our team of highly skilled and dedicated professionals includes Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and other certified IT security professionals performs all audit engagements according to standards set forth by various Information Systems assurance regulatory bodies including but not limited to AICPA and ISACA.

How can Sigma Help?

By undergoing the SSAE-16 audit, Sigma Technology Partners can provide its clients with a comprehensive audit report that assists its clients with various compliance requirements. Managing client data in a secure, effective and accurate manner is the cornerstone of the Sigma Technology.

From the user organizations point of view, they are able to gain a greater understanding and assurance of the internal controls in place at service organizations. SSAE No.16 certification signifies that service organizations have taken proactive steps in developing and implementing numerous controls throughout the identified platform being used to process transactions for user organizations.



Upon completion of a SSAE-16 engagement, Sigma Technology will then issue a SSAE Service Auditor's report. It is a formal opinion, or disclaimer thereof, issued as a result of an audit or evaluation. The report is subsequently provided to the user as an assurance service in order for the user to make decisions based on the results of the audit. If the SSAE-16 audit conducted was a Type I, it would either be an unqualified (i.e. clean) opinion or a qualified opinion on the report of controls placed in operation as of a specific point in time. If the audit conducted was a Type II, it would be signed-off as either an unqualified or qualified opinion, on the report of controls placed in operation and tests of operating effectiveness.

Our expertise in IT Governance, Assurance and Regulatory Compliance spans multiple industries, software platforms and applications. Our professionals employ industry best practices and adhere to the strict regulatory standards including Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), Generally Accepted Government auditing standards (GAGAS), ISACA IT Audit and Assurance Standards or other regulatory requirements as set forth by various regulatory bodies including American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) and recommendations of U.S National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), IT Governance Institute (ITGI) for Control Objectives for IT (COBIT) and GAO FISCAM.

About

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

The **American Institute of Certified Public Accountants** (AICPA) is the national, professional association of CPAs in the United States, with more than 330,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education; student affiliates; and international associates. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies; federal, state and local governments; and non-profit organizations. Approximately 40% of its members are engaged in the practice of public accounting, in areas such as auditing, accounting, taxation, general business consulting, business valuation, personal financial planning and business technology.

Information Systems Audit and Control Association

ISACA is an international professional association that deals with IT Governance. It is an affiliate member of IFAC Previously known as the Information Systems Audit and Control Association, ISACA now goes by its acronym only, to reflect the broad range of IT governance professionals it serves. ISACA currently serves more than 86,000 constituents (members and professionals holding ISACA certifications) in more than 160 countries. The job titles of members are such as IS auditor, consultant, educator, IS security professional, regulator, chief information officer and internal auditor.

Sigma Technology Partners

Sigma Technology Partners is an enterprise technology and business solutions firm delivering quality service to both government and private sector. We provide wide range of IT consulting and business process services. Sigma offers solutions and resources for Security Certification and Accreditation, Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) compliance, DoD Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP), SAS 70, IT systems Validation for SOX and Regularity Compliance, and Financial and Business Solutions (FABS).

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