

Comparison of SOC 1, SOC 2, and SOC 3 Reports

	SOC 1 Reports	SOC 2 Reports	SOC 3 Reports
1. Under what professional standard or interpretive guidance is the engagement performed?	<p>Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) No. 16, <i>Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization</i> (AICPA, <i>Professional Standards</i>, vol. 1, AT sec. 801)</p> <p>AICPA Guide <i>Service Organizations: Applying SSAE No. 16, Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization</i> (forthcoming)</p>	<p>AT section 101, <i>Attestation Engagements</i> (AICPA, <i>Professional Standards</i>, vol. 1)</p> <p>AICPA Guide <i>Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to Security, Availability, Processing Integrity, Confidentiality, or Privacy</i> (forthcoming)</p>	<p>AT section 101, <i>Attestation Engagements</i> (AICPA, <i>Professional Standards</i>, vol. 1)</p> <p>AICPA <i>Trust Services Principles Criteria and Illustrations</i> (AICPA, <i>Technical Practice Aids</i>)</p>
2. What is the subject matter of the engagement?	<p>Controls at a service organization relevant to user entities internal control over financial reporting.</p>	<p>Controls at a service organization relevant to security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, or privacy.</p> <p>If the report addresses the privacy principle, the service organization's compliance with the commitments in its statement of privacy practices.</p>	<p>Controls at a service organization relevant to security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, or privacy.</p> <p>If the report addresses the privacy principle, the service organization's compliance with the commitments in its statement of privacy practices.</p>

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3. What is the purpose of the report?	To provide information to the auditor of a user entity's financial statements about controls at a service organization that may be relevant to a user entity's internal control over financial reporting. It enables the user auditor to perform risk assessment procedures, and if a type 2 report is provided, to assess the risk of material misstatement of financial statement assertions affected by the service organization's processing.	To provide management of a service organization, user entities and other specified parties with information and a CPA's opinion about controls at the service organization relevant to security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, or privacy. A type 2 report that addresses the privacy principle also provides a CPA's opinion about the service organization's compliance with the commitments in its statement of privacy practices.	To provide interested parties with a CPA's opinion about controls at the service organization relevant to security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, or privacy. A report that addresses the privacy principle also provides a CPA's opinion about the service organization's compliance with the commitments in its privacy notice.

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4. What are the components of the report?	<p>A description of the service organization's system.</p> <p>A service auditor's report that contains an opinion on the fairness of the presentation of the description of the service organization's system, the suitability of the design of the controls, and in a type 2 report, the operating effectiveness of the controls.</p> <p>In a type 2 report, a description of the service auditor's tests of the controls and the results of the tests.</p>	<p>A description of the service organization's system.</p> <p>A service auditor's report that contains an opinion on the fairness of the presentation of the description of the service organization's system, the suitability of the design of the controls, and in a type 2 report, the operating effectiveness of the controls.</p> <p>If the report addresses the privacy principle, the service auditor's opinion on whether the service organization complied with the commitments in its statement of privacy practices.</p> <p>In a type 2 report, a description of the service auditor's tests of controls and the results of the tests.</p> <p>In a type 2 report that addresses the privacy principle, a description of the service auditor's tests of the service organization's compliance with the commitments in its statement of privacy practices and the results of those tests.</p>	<p>A description of the system and its boundaries or in the case of a report that addresses the privacy principle, a copy of the service organization's privacy notice.</p> <p>A service auditor's report on whether the entity maintained effective controls over its system as it relates to the principle being reported on, such as, security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, or privacy, based on the applicable trust services criteria.</p> <p>If the report addresses the privacy principle the service auditor's opinion on whether the service organization complied with the commitments in its privacy notice.</p>

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5. Who are the intended users of the report?	Auditor's of the user entity's financial statements, management of the user entities, and management of the service organization.	<p>Primary users generally are management of user entities. Other users may include parties that are knowledgeable about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature of the service provided by the service organization. • how the service organization's system interacts with user entities, subservice organizations, and other parties. • internal control and its limitations. • the criteria and how controls address those criteria. • complementary user entity controls and how they interact with related controls at the service organization. 	Any users who want assurance on controls at a service organization related to security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, or privacy of a system, but do not have the need for the level of detail provided in a SOC 2 report. SOC 3 reports are general use reports, and can be freely distributed or posted on a website as a seal.