

1-2 Journal: Audits and Assessments

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In our world today, more companies rely heavily on computers and technology to run their businesses. Audits and assessments of information technology (IT) environments are critical. We conduct these checks to secure the company's technology systems from threats like hackers and ensure they run smoothly and efficiently. For example, a routine IT audit might uncover a company's outdated firewall, leaving the business vulnerable to online attacks. Audits help a company understand if its systems meet all required rules and regulations, show where improvements are needed, and help assure everyone, from managers to customers, that its digital assets are well-protected. Regular audits keep problems from growing more extensive and prevent issues that might otherwise cause big disruptions in company operations.

Audits are crucial because they check that the company's IT systems do what they should: protect important information and manage data accurately. Kurniawan and Mulyawan (2023) explain that external auditors are vital for boosting a company's cybersecurity. They do this by thoroughly checking the company's financial reporting systems. For instance, an external audit could reveal that sensitive customer data was improperly stored, leading to improved data handling practices. This level of detailed checking is vital for keeping things transparent and ensuring the company shows clear and honest information to people inside and outside the company. External audits are key because they come from outside the company and are unbiased. Ensuring truthful financial reports is crucial to avoiding legal problems and building trust with customers and investors.

External auditors present new eyes and often spot problems that those inside the company might not see. For example, an audit at a retail company could identify that their point-of-sale systems were susceptible to skimming devices due to inadequate security measures. This finding could lead to a comprehensive update of their payment systems, significantly reducing the risk of

fraud. External auditors have deep knowledge and independence, which helps them identify hidden problems and suggest the best ways to fix them based on the latest security practices. An article by Justduky (2024) further emphasizes the importance of regular IT audits, stating that they are essential for maintaining continuous oversight and adapting quickly to new cybersecurity challenges.

References:

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