**Understanding SOC2 in cybersecurity**

With technology driving its way around the growing world, the risk of cyber attacks and cyber crimes has crept in more rapidly. In this regard, there have been many compliances and standards have been laid down to mitigate the risk of cyber-attacks and safeguard confidential and sensitive data from fraudulent parties.

**What is SOC 2?**

Service Organization Control or SOC 2 is an auditing standard that was created and developed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or AICPA. The primary reason behind designing this is to make sure that all the service providers and third-party vendors are safeguarding their sensitive and confidential data and private information from unauthorized and fraudulent access.

In 2014, the SOC 2 principles were updated, and one of the major modifications was the security principle which is now referred to as having common criteria to all of the trust services principles.

**What is SOC 2 compliance all about?**

SOC 2 compliance is primarily concerned with managing and safeguarding customer data which is per AICPA's five Trust Services Criteria, or TSC. These are as follows.

**1. Security**

SOC 2 compliance is concerned with protecting the system resources and information from unauthorized and fraudulent access. This could include different tools like network security, detection of intrusion, and other security tools that safeguard against different types of vulnerabilities, ransomware like WannaCry, and other types of malware. The primary motive is to reduce cyber threats and prevent data breaches and cyber attacks from taking place.

**2. Availability**

This is concerned with accessing the system and its resources, products, or services that are stipulated in the contract or by service level agreement (SLA). It does not address or point out the system's functionalities and usabilities but rather addresses security-related criteria that can affect the availability of the system and its products.

**3. Processing integrity**

This is concerned with addressing whether a system fulfills its purpose of execution in a complete, valid, accurate, timely, and authorized manner that is free from any discrepancy.

**4. Confidentiality**

Confidentiality addresses whether sensitive and confidential data is restricted to only specific people or organizations. To safeguard and maintain confidentiality, methods like encryption, phishing awareness training, DNSSEC, prevention of man-in-the-middle attacks, and email spoofing are very fundamental.

**5. Privacy**

Privacy primarily addresses the collection, use, disclosure, and disposal of personally identifiable information or PII and how it lines up with the organization's privacy notice and criteria that are set out in AICPA's generally accepted privacy principles or GAAP. All PII such as phone numbers should be protected from exposure which is both accidental and deliberate.

**Why is it important?**

There are many reasons why SOC 2 is significant as well. These are as follows.

1. SOC 2 is necessary to make sure that all the sensitive and confidential data and personal information are being safeguarded by the third-party vendors against all sorts of malpractices and cyber attacks as per compliance.

2. SOC 2 is one way by which it can be determined whether the vendors are managing and handling data in a secure and protected manner.

3. One of the primary benefits of SOC 2 is that it demonstrates and ensures that the organization is maintaining a high-performance architecture with respect to security purposes.

4. SOC 2 is an excellent way to increase the overall brand reputation of an organization and set up a formidable competitive advantage.

**References**

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