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Audit Is Not Assurance

Unsure of how to address information security, many companies have enlisted the help of auditors to identify vulnerabilities. However, history has shown us that auditing is no substitute for effective management. Whether your motivation is regulatory, fiduciary, or legal, your information management program must include effective protection of business information and critical systems.

Understanding Audit and Assurance

Auditing is the process of inspection for adherence to standards. The accounting industry is well-known for its work in the area, working to ensure that the results of public companies are true and correct. Auditing is well understood: outsiders are granted access to the books and are responsible for ensuring that the numbers add up, that invoices and receipts exist for disbursements, and that income correctly matches billing. Auditors are trained to ensure *integrity*.

Information Assurance involves much more. The triad of generally accepted information security principles involves not only integrity, but also *confidentiality* and *availability*.

Information Assurance is a cooperative process in which information security experts work with systems operations and development staff to identify critical information, working to create an environment where such information has confidentiality, integrity, and availability. Information Assurance also includes the assessment of risk: understanding what could happen and quantifying exposure to risk in terms of financial impact and probability. Information Assurance isn't a search for failure, but a means of preventing failure.

The Role of Audit

No one is suggesting doing without the auditors; information systems auditors are a necessary component of the overall governance process. However, just as financial auditors need to work within the bounds of a larger framework, information systems auditors need to operate inside of a larger program of Information Assurance.

Why Interhack?

From its 1997 inception, Interhack has built a reputation that other vendors can only envy. With published papers cited by standards organizations, the U.S. judicial system, and higher education institutions throughout the world, Interhack is known as a voice of authority. Contact us to see how we can help your organization take a rational approach to effective Information Assurance.