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Surviving SOC2 – The Why and How for Cloud Service Providers



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What we'll talk about

- What is a SOC2
- Why you should consider one
- Why it might not be as scary as you think
- How to get through the audit
- Tips & Tricks



Disclaimers



Your mileage may vary



Disclaimers



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- I am not an auditor



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- All viewpoints expressed are my own and should not be attributed to New Relic



What is SOC2?

- Focussed on Service Providers vs.
 Financial Controls
- Prescriptive vs. Descriptive
- Built around Trust Service Principles
 - Security
 - Availability
 - Processing Integrity
 - Confidentiality
 - Privacy
- Type I vs. Type II





Why conduct a SOC2 (or why are you here?)

- Customer request
- Help with sales process
- Measure yourself
- Provide a framework for your security Program





Reasons to be Scared



- Unsure of value
- Too much work
- Better to focus on real security than compliance
- Might fail



Failure?

- Exceptions are not unexpected
- ... and they are learning opportunities
- You are probably under no obligation to share report 1st time around
- ... and you can provide context when you do share
- Set expectations with your management



If You're Not Sure

- Conduct a high-level gap analysis
- Get Trust Service Principles & Criteria (TSP Section 100)
 - Illustrative Risks and Controls (Appendix B)

	Criteria	Rote	Bustrative Controls
Criteria Common to All (Security, Availability, Processing Integrity, and Confidentiality) Principles			
001.0	Common Criteria Related to Organization and Management		
001.1	The entity has defined organizational structures, reporting lines, authorities, and responsibilities for the design, development, implementation, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the system enabling it to meet its commitments and requirements as they relate to linear the junicipally being reported on: accurate, availability, processing integrity, or confidentiality or any combination thereof,	necessary information flow to manage [security, availability, processing integrity, or confidentiality] activities.	The entity evaluates its organizational structure, reporting lines, authorities, and responsibilities as part of its business planning process and as part of its origining risk assessment and management process and reviews these when recessary to help meet changing commitments and requirements.
		sufficiently defined to permit proper oversight,	Notes and responsibilities are defined in written july descriptions and communicated to managers and their supervisors.
			Job descriptions are reviewed by entity management on an annual basis to needed changes and where job duty changes are required necessary changes to these job descriptions are also made.
		Reporting relationships and organizational structure do not permit effective senior management oversight of (security, availability, processing integrity, or confidentiality) activities.	are reviewed periodically by serior management as

Rate Yourself







No problem



Probably OK (but might need to tweak)



With a little work



Heavy lift



Get Started



- Determine scope, area, and type
- Find an auditor
- Conduct a gap analysis
- Start addressing gaps
- Policies are potentially your long pole



Start Gathering Data

- Use auditor requests supplemented with Illustrative Risks and Controls
- Create a repository
- Helps to identify who will provide what information
- Helps to avoid surprises and missing data





Welcoming the Auditors

- Heads-up to company
- Brief primary contacts
- Don't forget access & space
- Your job isn't over when they arrive





Managing the Audit(ors)



- Play translator
- You are a special snowflake
- Auditors might not know agile, devops, etc.
- Suggest non-traditional controls



Security Principle 2.5

- Changes that may affect system security are communicated to management and users who will be affected.
- Describe how planned changes to system components and the scheduling of those changes are reviewed.
- Describe how changes to system components, including those that may affect system security, require approval before implementation.





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Sidekick Process

- All changes reviewed by another developer
- Must add "ship-it" comment to pull request
- Security team has automatic nightly script to audit for sidekick
- SOC2 auditors audit sidekick process and nightly script





Managing the Audit(ors)



- Play translator
- You are a special snowflake
- Auditors might not know agile, devops, etc.
- Suggest non-traditional controls
- Don't take no for an answer

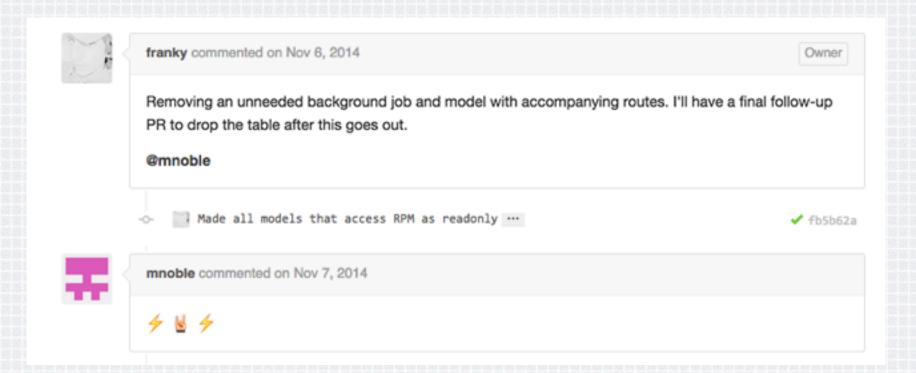


Don't take No for an Answer

- Missing evidence of actual gap?
 - Can you find it elsewhere?

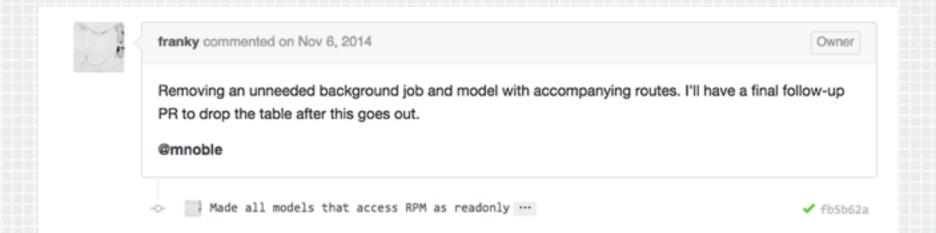


Missing Evidence



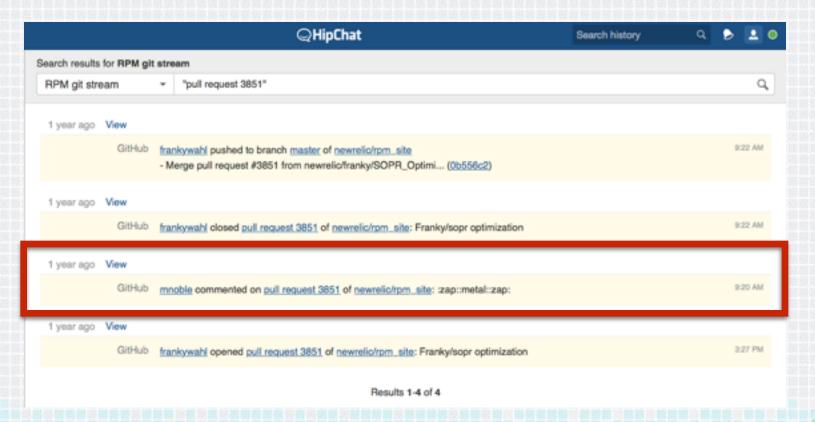


Missing Evidence





Missing Evidence





Don't take No for an Answer

- Missing evidence of actual gap?
 - Can you find it elsewhere?
- Are there compensating controls?
 - You know your environment better than the auditors
- Beware the "requested evidence" trap
 - Sometimes you need to back up
 - Ask which control trying to satisfy
- ... and keep perspective



Wrap-up

- Retain documentations and steps to reproduce
- Get feedback from data providers
- Review report (findings, informational finding, & sufficient controls)





Rate all Gaps & Sufficient Controls





Passed with flying colors — Don't worry



Passed, but controls could change under you — Educate on importance or find other controls



Squeaked by — Treat as a gap



Finding — Fix it or implement a control



Wrap-up

- Retain documentations and steps to reproduce
- Get feedback from data providers
- Review report (findings, informational finding, & sufficient controls)
- Create plans... and track
- Share finding with Sr. Management
 - Don't waste a good bludgeon
- Thank people that helped



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Your Job Continues



- Execute on your remediation plan
- Implement your improvements
- Don't forget you have 6 months
- Do a pre-audit
- Consider increasing scope



Unintended Benefits

- Wows customers
- Competitive differentiator
- Provides structure to security program
- Ensures a consistent high bar
- CSA Star self-registry was easy
- Supports cloud security story





Shaun's Cloud Security Story™

Cloud is not inherently less secure than on-premise.





But you need transparency to prove it.



Get Started

- Understand your business case... will this add value?
- Conduct high-level gap analysis
- Decide if you are ready
- Even if not, start with a self audit



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Thank You!

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