What is an IT Audit?

An Information Technology (IT) audit is an audit of an organisation’s IT systems, operations and related control processes. It can be carried out in connection with a financial statements audit, selective audit or thematic audit. The objectives in an IT audit include:

- Evaluate the reliability of data from IT systems which have an impact on the financial statements.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of IT controls to ensure systems are functioning as intended.
- Ascertain compliance with applicable laws, policies and standards.

Why are IT Audits important?

With the widespread use of IT systems and the large amounts of data stored on such systems, it is important that IT systems and the data stored within are reliable and secure.

Performing an IT Audit

The process of performing an IT audit is summarised in the five steps below:

1. Determine the objective and scope of the IT audit
2. Develop an audit plan to achieve the audit objectives
3. Gather information on relevant IT systems, operations and related controls
4. Perform audit tests on key IT controls, using Computer-Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs), where appropriate
5. Report on the audit findings

In performing its IT audits, the Auditor-General’s Office (AGO) also checks for compliance with laws, Government policies and standards.

Where appropriate, AGO uses IT audit tools, technical guides and other resources recommended by ISACA (Information Systems Audit & Control Association). All AGO IT auditors are required to obtain the CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor) certification.
A-G flags lapses in procurement, contracts and IT controls at Singapore public agencies

WEAKNESSES in IT controls, as well as irregularities in procurement and contract management were among the key financial lapses in several ministries and government agencies, with two organisations having referred their cases to the police.

It also found weaknesses in IT controls at MOM, Singapore Customs and Mindef. For example, MOM was not aware that five servers for two of its IT systems were unable to send logs to its IT security monitoring system for about seven months due to outdated configurations.

Its operating system (OS) administrators, who were external vendors, also had unrestricted access to IT systems processing work permits and employment passes.

New systems, steps to be rolled out to reduce IT lapses by ministries

The Government’s smart nation and technology office will roll out new automated systems and accountability measures aimed at reducing IT lapses by ministries, a recurring issue flagged by the Auditor-General’s Office (AGO) in recent years.

Auditor-General flags lapses in contract management, IT controls in public sector

SINGAPORE — In its annual audit of the public sector, the Auditor-General’s Office (AGO) has flagged lapses in contract management and procurement, weaknesses in information technology controls as well as gaps in the management of social grants.

Some concerns raised in the AGO’s latest report were similar to issues raised in last year’s audit.