

# Blue Hill Announces Completion of SOC 1 Type 2 (SSAE 18) and SOC 2 (AT 101) Examinations

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Blue Hill Data Services (Blue Hill) is pleased to announce the successful completion of its annual SOC 1 Type 2 (SSAE 18) and SOC 2 (AT 101). The examinations were performed by an independent CPA firm covering Blue Hill's Data Center Outsourcing Services for its data center facility in Pearl River, NY. At a high-level, some of the controls tested include, but are not limited to:

- Physical and Logical Security
- Operations and Disaster Recovery
- Infrastructure and Environmentals
- Systems and Network Services
- Client Services and Project Management
- Organization and Administration: Business, Contractual, Human Resources and Financial Policies



## Blue Hill – Committed to Ensuring Quality Services

By successfully completing the SOC 1 Type 2 (SSAE 18) and SOC 2 (AT 101) examinations, Blue Hill gained assurance for its customers for the controls it has put in place at its hosted data center facility in Pearl River, NY. The examination validated the policies and procedures Blue Hill has in place comply with their internal controls. The SOC 1 Type 2 and SOC 2 Reports include a formal opinion from the CPA firm on the design and operating effectiveness of the data center controls.

In addition, completing these annual examinations demonstrate compliance with particular legal regulations that is required by some customers. Many organizations, such as those that are publicly

traded in the healthcare, insurance or financial services industry, have a legal requirement to perform these examinations from their service provider. Blue Hill's completion of these examinations allow it to support these customers, validating that its data center operations maintain customer required controls.

#### **Additional Information:**

- "SSAE" is an acronym for *Statement on Standards Attestation Engagements*.
- SSAE No. 18, *Reporting for Controls at a Service Organization* (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, AT sec. 801) is an attestation standard that establishes the requirements and guidance for reporting on controls at a service organization relevant to user entities' internal control over financial reporting.
  - The controls addressed in SSAE No.18 are those that a service organization implements to prevent, or detect and correct, errors or omissions in the information it provides to user entities.
- "AT-101" was developed to put requirements in place for CPAs examining and issuing reports on controls over subject matter other than financial reporting. These standards are codified within AT section 101, *Attest Engagements*, of the attestation standards, not under SSAE18.
  - Some of the audits issued under AT101 gaining prominence in the market place include the SOC 2 and SOC 3 Reports and are based upon the trust service principles. AT 101 also permits companies to undergo a review of controls over just about any non-financial reporting related process that a third party may want assurance of, essentially serves as a catch all.
- By engaging an independent CPA firm to examine and report on a service organization's controls, service organizations can respond to meet the needs of their user entities and obtain an objective evaluation of the effectiveness of controls that address operations and compliance, as well as financial reporting at those user entities.
- These examinations may only be performed by a licensed CPA firm. The CPA firm that reports on controls at a service organization is often referred to as the service auditor.
- There are two types of examinations. SOC 1 reports that opine on management's description of a service organization's system and the suitability of the design of controls are referred to as "Type 1" reports. These examinations always have a review date. SOC 1 reports that opine on management's description of a service organization's system and the suitability of the design and operating effectiveness of controls are referred to as "Type 2" reports. These examinations always have a review period.

#### **Contact Information**

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