

Blue Hill Announces Completion of Type 2 SOC 1 Examination (also known as Type 2 SSAE 16)

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Blue Hill Data Services (Blue Hill) is pleased to announce the successful completion of its annual SSAE 16 examination, formally known as a *Report on Controls at a Service Organization (SOC 1)- Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization* (also known as SSAE 16) on February 28, 2015. The examination was performed by an independent CPA firm covering Blue Hill's Data Center Outsourcing Services for its facility in Pearl River, NY. At a high-level, some of the controls tested included, but were 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 Type 2 SOC 1 examination, 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 Type 2 SOC 1 examination included a formal opinion from the CPA firm on the design and operating effectiveness of the data center controls.

In addition, completing this annual examination demonstrates 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 a Type 2 SOC 1 examination from their service provider. Blue Hill's completion of Type 2 SOC 1 examination allows it to support these customers, validating that its data center operations maintain customer required controls.

SOC 1 Background:

- "SSAE" is an acronym for *Statement on Standards Attestation Engagements*.
- SSAE No. 16, *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.
- SSAE No. 16 superseded the SAS 70 audit standard in mid-2011. It is the adopted version of the International Standards for Assurance Engagements (ISAE) No. 3402, *Assurance Reports on Controls at a Service Organization*, for the use in the United States.
- The controls addressed in SSAE No.16 are those that a service organization implements to prevent, or detect and correct, errors or omissions in the information it provides to user entities.
- By engaging an independent CPA 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.
- The term "SOC 1" is interchangeable with the term "SSAE 16" but may also refer to a report prepared in accordance with both SSAE 16.
- SOC 1 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 SSAE 16 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.

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