

SARBANES-OXLEY COMPLIANCE READINESS

INTERNAL CONTROLS & SECURITY BEST PRACTICES FOR SOX COMPLIANCE

NEW CORPORATE GOVERNANCE RULES, REGULATIONS, & STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC COMPANIES

The Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act — most commonly referred to as Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) — seeks to enhance the accounting practices, financial disclosures, and corporate governance of public companies. Designed to reduce fraud and conflicts of interest, it requires all SEC-regulated companies to meet new internal control measures and audit requirements.

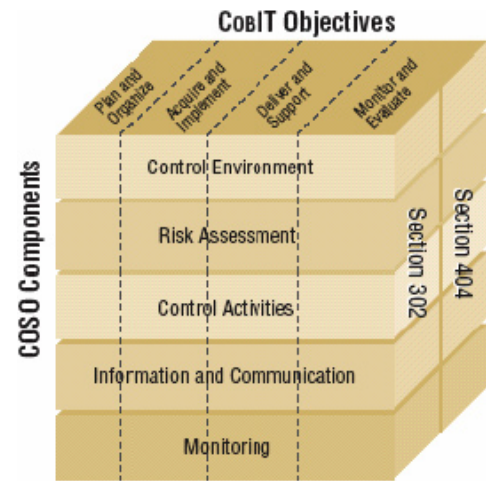
SOX RAISES INFORMATION SECURITY TO A CEO-LEVEL ISSUE

The SOX regulations hold corporate executives directly responsible for the accuracy of information reported on a quarterly and annual basis. Although not explicitly stated in the Act, an important part of ensuring the accuracy and reliability of financial information involves having a strong IT security program to safeguard the systems that generate the reporting. Under section 302, the CEO and CFO must personally certify the accuracy of financial reporting and the timely disclosure of all material information. Section 404 requires that companies not only establish and maintain an adequate internal control framework but also assess its effectiveness on a yearly basis.

INTERNAL CONTROLS: IT SECURITY AND SOX

Aspire Technology Partners assists your organization to establish, assess, and monitor the effectiveness of internal controls — and prepare you for attestation from your external auditors. Our methodology is based upon:

- COSO (Committee of Sponsoring Organizations) Internal Controls
 - Integrated Framework, the de facto standard for managing compliance as a structure for financial reporting
- CobIT (Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology)
 - a comprehensive approach to IT governance and the IT framework most closely aligned with COSO



OUR APPROACH TO SARBANES-OXLEY COMPLIANCE

Aspire’s five phase approach to SOX compliance readiness assesses the current state of internal controls, identifies gaps and related risks, and assists organizations to document, update and maintain IT controls to ensure ongoing conformity.

