



Navigating the Future of Auditing:
Prepared during SAI Thailand's
ASOSAI Chairmanship 2021 – 2024



A Chairman's View

Modern Auditing Practices
Uncovered Weekly

A Chairman's View: Modern Auditing Practices Uncovered Weekly Vol. 2



Supreme Audit Institution prepare
the audit planning for a remote audit

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a
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Supreme Audit Institution prepare the audit planning for a remote audit

1. How does the Supreme Audit Institution prepare the audit planning for a remote audit?

Remote audits have become more prevalent recently, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, a Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) must adapt its traditional audit planning methods to accommodate remote audits. First, however, SAI could follow the key steps to prepare audit planning for a remote audit:

1. Risk assessment: Begin with a comprehensive assessment to identify high-risk areas, entities, or programs that deserve an audit. Evaluate the control environment, financial management, past audit findings, and other factors impacting the audit subject.

2. Define audit objectives and scope: Clearly define the work's audit objectives, scope, and nature. It should align with the SAI's mandate, strategy, and priorities.

3. Develop a remote audit plan: The audit plan should outline the audit procedures, techniques, and tools that will be used to gather audit evidence remotely. For example, a remote audit plan may include the following:

- a) data analysis and computer-assisted audit techniques (CAATs) to analyze large datasets and identify anomalies or patterns.
- b) remote interviews and meetings with auditees using videoconferencing or other communication tools.
- c) access to electronic documentation and records through secure file-sharing platforms or remote access to auditee systems.

d) remote walkthroughs or virtual tours of facilities¹, if necessary.

4. Assign roles and responsibilities: Identify the audit team members, their roles, and responsibilities. Ensure the team members have the necessary skills and expertise to perform the audit remotely, including using technology tools and applications.

5. Schedule and timeline: Develop a detailed audit schedule and timeline, considering the unique challenges of remote auditing, such as time zone differences, coordination with auditees, and potential technical issues.

6. Communication plan: Establish a communication plan outlining how the audit team will interact with auditees, maintain regular communication, and address any issues or concerns that arise during the audit process.

7. Contingency planning: Prepare for possible issues or disruptions in the remote audit process, such as technical difficulties, data access issues, or changes in audit scope. Develop contingency plans to address these situations and minimize their impact on the audit process.

8. Quality assurance and review: Implement a quality assurance and review process to ensure that the remote audit adheres to professional standards and the SAI's guidelines. It may include peer reviews, supervisor reviews, or consultations with subject matter experts.

9. Training and capacity building: Provide training and capacity-building opportunities for audit staff to develop their remote auditing skills, including using technology tools and applications, remote interviewing techniques, and data analysis methods.

¹ Remote walkthrough is a step-by-step demonstrations provided by an expert or guide to a user or client who is located elsewhere. Remote walkthroughs enable users to access information and guidance from a distance, saving time and resources.

10. Continuous improvement: After completing¹ the remote audit, evaluate the process to identify areas for improvement, lessons learned, and best practices. Update the remote audit planning process accordingly to enhance future remote audits.

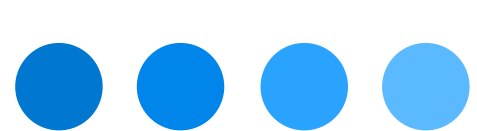
5; What are digital tools for audit planning in a remote audit?

Digital tools are crucial in audit planning and execution, especially in remote audits. Hence, these tools help auditors collaborate, gather and analyze data, and communicate with auditees effectively. SAI Thailand collected a list of digital tools commonly used in remote audit planning:

- **Project management tools:** Auditors use tools like Trello, Asana, or Microsoft Project to plan, assign tasks, set deadlines, and track the progress of the audit. These tools facilitate collaboration, coordination, and communication among audit team members.
- **Videoconferencing tools:** Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet enable auditors to conduct remote interviews, meetings, and walkthroughs with auditees. These platforms provide features like screen sharing, recording, and live chat, which can be invaluable during remote audit planning and execution.
- **Document sharing and collaboration tools:** Cloud-based document sharing and collaboration platforms, such as Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, or Dropbox, allow auditors to securely share, store, and collaborate on audit documents and working papers.
- **Data analysis and visualization tools:** Auditors use data analysis and visualization tools like Microsoft Excel, Tableau, or Power BI to analyze large datasets, identify trends, and present their findings clearly and concisely. These tools are essential for performing data-driven remote audits.

- Computer-Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs): Tools like ACL, IDEA, or TeamMate Analytics enable auditors to perform advanced data analysis, such as data mining, pattern recognition, and anomaly detection. These tools help auditors identify areas of risk or potential fraud in large datasets quickly and efficiently.
- Secure file transfer tools: To exchange sensitive or confidential data securely, auditors can use tools like FileZilla, ShareFile, or Box. These platforms provide encryption, access control, and audit trails to ensure data security.
- Encrypted communication tools: When dealing with sensitive information, auditors may use encrypted communication tools like Signal or Wire to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of their communications.
- Risk assessment and mapping tools: Software like Riskalyze, Resolver, or RSA Archer can help auditors identify, assess, and prioritize risks during the planning phase of the audit. These tools provide a visual representation of the risk landscape, making it easier to focus on areas that require attention.
- Workflow automation tools: To streamline the audit process, auditors can use workflow automation tools like Zapier or Integromat to automate repetitive tasks, such as sending emails, updating spreadsheets, or creating tasks in project management tools.
- Electronic work paper management tools: Platforms like TeamMate, Pentana, or AuditBoard help auditors manage their electronic work papers, review work, track issues, and monitor the overall progress of the audit. These tools provide a centralized location for all audit documentation and facilitate collaboration and review.

Hence, SAI could prepare the audit plan by leveraging these digital tools. As a result, auditors can effectively plan and conduct remote audits, ensuring they maintain their essential oversight role while adapting to the unique challenges of remote work environments.



After word

A Chairman's View: Modern Auditing Practices Uncovered Weekly

According to the ASOSAI Chairman 2021-2024, The State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand promotes the Bangkok Declaration 2021, which explains the adaptation of SAIs in the next normal era. Therefore, this short paper aims to provide weekly insights and updates on modern auditing practices, focusing on the experiences and perspectives of SAI Thailand's Chairman during their ASOSAI 2021-2024 term.

The paper series focuses on the Public Sector Audit Trends: Analyze emerging trends and advancements in the public sector audit landscape within Thailand and across ASOSAI member countries. The short paper series will be published in a concise and accessible format, with each weekly installment consisting of 3-5 pages. This format ensures that the content is easily digestible for a broad range of readers. The short paper series will be published weekly, with a new installment released every week, covering various topics within the defined scope.

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