

ALL WORLD AIRWAYS (AWA) IT AUDIT AND ASSURANCE BASED ON COBIT 5

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STUDENT BOOK

This caselet was developed to support *IT Audit and Assurance Based* on COBIT 5, <u>www.isaca.org/cobit-5-IT-assurance</u>



AGENDA

- 1. Company Background
- 2. Key Organisational People
- 3. AWA IT Landscape
- 4. IT Outsourcing
- 5. CIO's Notes
- 6. Your Role
- 7. Your Task



COMPANY BACKGROUND

- All World Airways (AWA) is an international airline with reservation centres in Detroit, Michigan, United States and Wiesbaden, Germany. AWA has posted losses for the past six quarters.
- Overall, the airline industry has been significantly affected by the economic downturn, petroleum prices, labour disputes and the competition. As a result, many of the large airlines have spun off their reservations and technical information systems to self-supporting companies and have entered into outsourcing agreements with their former support functions.



COMPANY BACKGROUND

 Selection of the outsourcing strategy has helped many players in the market to remove investments and assets from the balance sheets and allowed them to focus on their primary business of transportation. Moreover, this act has permitted the newly independent IT functions to sell their services to other airlines because competition with the software owner is no longer a conflict of interest.



KEY ORGANISATIONAL PEOPLE

The top management people:

- Don Geekbine, chief information officer (CIO)
- Chief financial officer (CFO)
- Chief executive officer (CEO)



AWA'S IT LANDSCAPE

The company has built data centres in both of their locations, using IBM mainframes running the z/OS operating system and the Airline Control System (ALCS), a high-volume, high-speed transaction processor for the reservation industry. AWA also runs maintenance, scheduling, airfare sensitivity analysis and freight systems. Over the years, all IT activities have been managed and staffed internally.



IT OUTSOURCING

- The CFO and CEO have been reviewing IT costs and return on investment (ROI). Based on their analysis, they have determined that the cost of internal development and IT operations has become too expensive to justify continued support.
- Management has noted that other airlines have outsourced operations to industry-leading IT providers, including Galileo, Sabre[®], Amadeus and Travelspan. AWA has decided that IT is not a core business and wants to outsource the IT function.



YOUR TASK

Using the three-phase model of IT assurance initiative provided in the student book:

- 1. Develop the scope of the risk assurance initiative.
- 2. State relevant enablers and suitable risk assessment criteria to perform the assessment (i.e., relevant governance and/or management processes).
- 3. Report the results of your assessment including your findings and recommendations.



CIO'S NOTES

The CIO, Don Geekbine, was informed of the decision and was asked to perform a risk assessment of the outsourcing process. As part of his initial analysis, he prepared the following notes, in no particular order, which were incorporated into his briefing points:

- All applications were developed internally; reservations are fairly standard and could be easily outsourced; sensitivity analysis, flight and crew scheduling have some specific requirements that are only available with internally developed solutions.
- All systems were written in COBOL; many programmers are retiring, and those available command higher salaries.



CIO'S NOTES (CONT.)

- US programmers and operations are located in an economically depressed area; workers with eliminated positions will have problems finding new jobs.
- European work rules have long lead times for the elimination of jobs.
- There is a need to discuss transferring programming to lowcost locations such as India.
- The CFO indicated concern regarding compliance with the US Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002; Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) compliance is also a concern.
- Equipment and data centre facilities are currently leased. What will be the course of action for the leases?



CIO'S NOTES (CONT.)

- Operational processes will require governance to ensure satisfactory performance of key project deliverables, key processes and system availability.
- Don has not performed risk assessments before and is unfamiliar with the issues that should be considered.





The CFO has requested that the CIO perform the risk assessment of outsourcing initiative addressing mainly IT risk.

In this view...



YOUR ROLE

The CIO has agreed to the assessment, but indicated that he would want to use COBIT 5 as his analysis framework. You are well aware of COBIT 5 framework. Acknowledging the CIO's note, you have identified that assessment is mainly focusing on providing IT risk assurance.



HINT

A. Scope of the Assurance Initiative B. Understand Enablers, Set Suitable Assessment Criteria and Perform the Assessment



C. Communicate the Results of the Assessment

- Identify key stakeholders.
- What is the main objective of this assurance initiative?
- Mention key enablers in scope.

 Based on key enablers identified, which key management practices are required to perform the assessment?

 Report your findings in details, and not just material weakness or strength.

