

Accedere's *SOC 2 Approach* *for Educational* *Organizations to Achieve* **SOC 2 Attestation**



Background

SOC Reports

A SOC 2 is a report on controls at a service organization relevant to security, availability, processing integrity, confidentiality, or privacy. SOC 2 reports are intended to meet the needs of a broad range of users that need detailed information and assurance about the controls at a service organization relevant to the security, availability, and processing integrity of the systems the service organization uses to process users' data and the confidentiality and privacy of the information processed by these systems. SOC 2 compliance reports are part of AICPA's SSAE 18 Attest Standard that is used for the SOC 1, SOC 2, and SOC 3 reports.



Accedere Inc

Accedere Inc. is a global provider of Assurance services for cybersecurity compliance. Accedere Inc. is a Colorado CPA firm registered with PCAOB with a focus on Cloud Security and Privacy and empaneled with Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) as auditors for conducting assessments for CSA STAR Level attestation and certification requirements. As an ISO/IEC certification body, Accedere Inc has the relevant expertise in supporting ISO/IEC 27001 + STAR certification process also.



Ashwin Chaudhary is the CEO of Accedere. He is a CPA from Colorado, MBA, CITP, CISA, CISM, CGEIT, CRISC, CISSP, CDPSE, CCSK, PMP, ISO27001 LA, ITILv3 certified cybersecurity professional with about 20 years of cybersecurity/privacy and 40 years of industry experience. He has managed many cybersecurity projects covering SOC reporting, Privacy, IoT, Governance Risk, and Compliance. [accedere.io](https://www.accedere.io)

LAMS

Ernie Ghiglione is the CEO of LAMS. LAMS is a Singapore-based organization that has been providing enterprise-critical SaaS e-learning service solutions to universities, governments, and other educational institutions for over a decade. LAMS offers a unique e-learning platform that provides universities with a learning design platform for designing, managing, and delivering online collaborative learning activities. It is a market-proven solution with a legacy of successful deployments over more than 18 years.



LAMS helps educational institutions to develop scalable and pedagogically sound best practices that can be used to teach students online, in class, or in hybrid environments. [Lams](#)

Problem

Striving for cybersecurity assurance



Cybersecurity frameworks, standards, and certifications can be really complicated to understand which makes it difficult for a company to identify which framework / standard / certification should they aim to achieve to be cyber secure.

LAMS wanted to provide assurance to its clients on data security and confidentiality.

This is when they approached Accedere Inc. and engaged to understand their options and timelines on the same. Accedere analyzed LAMS requirements and suggested them to get attested for SOC 2 Type 1 and subsequently for SOC 2 Type 2.

Solution

Accedere's Proposal

Accedere evaluated LAMS Cloud Service (SaaS) and suggested a plan which would help them achieve SOC 2 Type 1 attestation report which is as of a specified date.

Accedere guided them to use AICPA's latest Trust Service Criteria (TSC) 2017 for Security criteria which is one of the best third-party assurance tools for achieving SOC 2 Type 1 attestation.

Performing a Gap Assessment

LAMS prepared and implemented relevant policies and procedures, system description, and defined applicable control objectives and controls as per the identified risks. LAMS selected the appropriate controls for its environment and ensured that these were suitably designed to meet the applicable criteria.

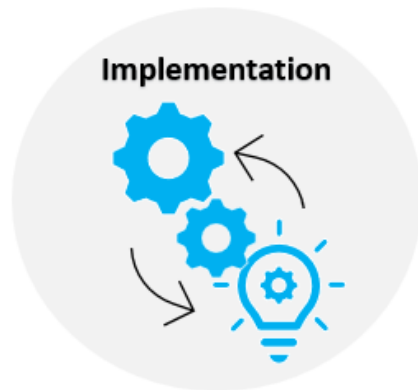
Accedere conducted a thorough analysis of LAMS and identified the key gaps in their organization with reference to SOC 2 Type 1 assessment for the applicable Trust Services Criteria 2017 (Security).

SOC 2 Preparations

- ✓ LAMS to prepare and approve relevant policies and procedures, system description and define applicable control objectives and controls as per the identified risks.
- ✓ LAMS must select the appropriate controls for its environment and ensure they are suitably designed to meet the applicable criteria.



Implementation of SOC 2 Security Controls



Based on the designed policies and procedures, LAMS implemented a range of security controls to meet the requirements of the cybersecurity and risk management frameworks chosen to tackle the data security criteria.

The implementation took about 6 months while LAMS worked in conjunction with Accedere, on adapting and rolling out processes at all levels in the organization.

The most important aspect of this organizational transformation for LAMS was the key awareness of all personnel on the need to change processes and company culture to ensure data security is essential when designing any organizational processes.

Performing the SOC 2 Audit

Accedere conducted walkthroughs on Risk management, Incident management, HR operations, Change management, and Business Continuity management process of LAMS which meets SOC 2 controls requirements. All SOC 2 controls related to common criteria for security were evaluated.

On completion of the evaluation, the SOC 2 Type 1 report was issued to LAMS.

Results

What are the major benefits of SOC 2 Type 1 Attestation?

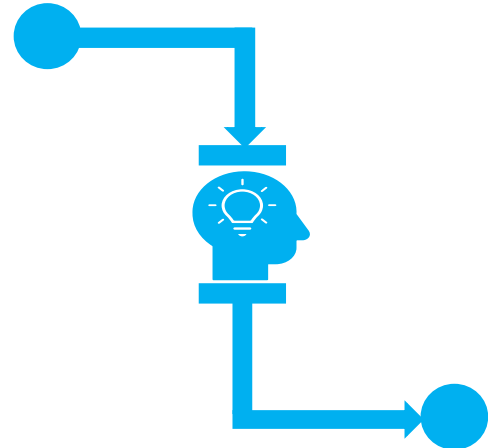
Creates trust with customers.

Increases market share.

Improves competitive advantage.

Enables organizations to secure their information and reduce risk.

With Accedere's comprehensive assessment methodology, LAMS not only achieved SOC 2 Type 1 attestation but also achieved good cyber maturity.



Congratulations to LAMS on their incredible success!

LAMS is very satisfied with the company's cultural transformation that it achieved with guidance from Accedere.

For more details on achieving the SOC2 attestation, ISO/IEC certification, and CSA STAR Level 2, please connect with us at info@accedere.io and you can also visit our website to know about our services <https://accedere.io>