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SOC 3 Guide

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Why SOC 3 Matters in 2025

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1

Publicly Shareable Assurance

Unlike SOC 2, SOC 3 reports are short, general-use, and can be posted online to signal trust.

2

Demonstrates Control Strength

Based on the same trusted Trust Services Criteria (TSC) as SOC 2, covering security, availability, confidentiality, etc.

3

Builds Market Confidence

Ideal for consumer-facing platforms, cloud providers, and SaaS firms who want to broadcast control maturity.

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SOC 2 VS SOC 3: Key Differences

Report Type	Audience	Detail Level	Public Use	Based on TSC
SOC 2	Client/Partners	Detailed, confidential	❌	✅
SOC 3	General Public	Summary-level	✅	✅

Key Components of a SOC 3 Report

1
Trust Services Criteria (TSC)

Includes Security (mandatory), plus optional: Availability, Processing Integrity, Confidentiality, and Privacy.

2
Management Assertion

Statement from management asserting the effectiveness of controls over a defined period.

3
Independent Auditor's Opinion

Concise opinion confirming controls were suitably designed and operated effectively (Type II only).

4
No Sensitive Detail

SOC 3 reports remove proprietary control details—safe to share on websites, investor decks, etc.

SOC 3 Report Lifecycle

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Define Scope & Readiness

Clarify TSC principles, define systems covered, and perform a gap assessment.

Control Documentation & Remediation

Align operations with TSC, fill gaps, and prepare evidence for audit.

Audit & Evidence Collection

Auditor tests design and operating effectiveness (SOC 3 is only issued for Type II).

Report Drafting & Issuance

Auditor issues the SOC 3 summary report with public-facing opinion and optional seal.

Public Disclosure & Use

Share on your website, marketing, and investor materials to build credibility.

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Who Should
Consider SOC 3?

- SaaS platforms serving consumers or SMBs

- Cloud providers and hosting companies

- FinTech apps or digital services with public-facing trust needs

- E-commerce or marketplace platforms

- Any org where public trust and data security are business-critical

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Why Invest in SOC 3 Compliance

- **Marketing Value:** Public proof of control maturity—builds client confidence at a glance.

- **Due Diligence Shortcut:** Reduces friction during vendor onboarding and sales.

- **Trust Branding:** Displaying a SOC3 badge signals transparency and assurance.

- **Foundation for Other Frameworks:** SOC3 helps pave the way for ISO, NIST, and others.

Trust Services Criteria Use Cases

Security
System is protected from unauthorized access (e.g., firewalls, MFA, endpoint security).

Availability
System is available for operation and use as committed (e.g., uptime SLAs, failovers).

Processing Integrity
System processing is complete, accurate, and timely (e.g., automation, logs).

Confidentiality
Sensitive data is protected (e.g., encryption at rest/in transit).

Privacy
Personal data is collected, used, retained, and disposed of in accordance with commitments.

Timeline & Investment

- Preparation & Readiness: 1–2 months (depending on TSC selection and maturity)

- Audit Period (Type II): 3–12 months operating window

- Report Delivery: Typically 4–6 weeks post-audit

- Annual Renewal: Keep assurance current and credible

📌 Final Takeaway

SOC 3 is more than a compliance milestone—it's a credibility amplifier. For businesses that rely on user trust, a SOC 3 report showcases your commitment to integrity, security, and operational excellence—without revealing sensitive details.
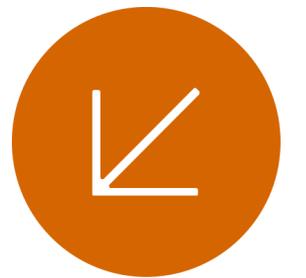
How We Support You
At Akram Assurance Advisory & Tax

we help teams earn their SOC 3 with confidence:

✓ **Gap analysis against Trust Services Criteria**

✓ **Control design and implementation support**

✓ **Audit coordination with independent firms**

✓ **Report preparation and external messaging strategy**

Outcome: A market-ready SOC 3 report that builds public trust and positions your business for growth.

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Partner with Akram to turn SOC 3 from a burden into a business advantage.

Phone
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Let's get started today!

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