

Issues To Consider	SAS 70 (Type II)	Trust Services (SysTrust & WebTrust)
What it is	Audit standard first issued in 1993, based on SAS No. 44 issued in the 1960s.	Attestation service (based on AT 101) first issued in 1998.
Intended audience for the report	Restricted to service organizations, customers of the user organizations and auditors of the user organizations. The report cannot be shared with non customers.	Any stakeholder of the system, which might include management, customers and business partners.
Intended purpose	To provide user auditors with information about controls at the service organization that may affect assertions in the user organizations' financial statements. This generally enables a user auditor to perform an audit.	To provide assurance that an organization's system's controls meet one or more of the Trust Services principles and related criteria. Areas addressed by the Principles include: security, online privacy, availability, confidentiality and processing integrity.
Subject matter coverage	Controls at the service organization that affect user organizations' financial statements.	Internal controls related to any financial or non-financial system by specific subject matter: security, online privacy, availability, confidentiality and processing integrity.
Nature of report	Provides assurance about whether the description of the service organizations' controls is fairly stated, whether the controls are suitably designed, and whether these controls are operating effectively.	Provides assurance that a company's controls over a defined system meet the Trust Services criteria for the specific principle(s) being examined. May also provide assurance on compliance with those controls.
Report comparability	No, customized control objectives and criteria for each engagement selected from authoritative sources.	Yes, standard principles and criteria for all engagements.
Objective of the engagement	To provide auditors of user organizations with information about controls at a service organization that may affect the financial statements of the user organizations. Such information enables user auditors to perform an audit of the user organization.	Third party assurance as to the adherence of a defined system's controls against established criteria for one or more of five principles: security, online privacy, availability, confidentiality and processing integrity.
Information system addressed by the audit	The system that produces the information included in the entity's financial statements.	Any defined financial or non-financial system.
Business Continuity & Contingency Planning	Identifying and testing the operating effectiveness of such controls that could affect processing in future periods is not permitted.	Identifying and testing forward-looking criteria is part of the framework of SysTrust and WebTrust engagements.
Possible additional uses of the service	A service organization can determine if there are weaknesses in its controls over the processing of user organizations' transactions.	May provide a framework for the organization in designing and implementing a system.