



InterPARES project – A case study of the Auditor General of South Africa

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The audit authenticity case study

- It analyses AGSA general reports to see if provision is made for digital records as evidence; public audit legislation for inclusion of authenticity and reliability of electronic records and analyses audit standards for inclusion of authenticity and reliability of electronic records made available for auditing.



The research problem

- Auditing is an independent assessment whereby auditors test the transactions using records as supporting documentation.
- An audit provides reasonable assurance. To be in a position to express an audit conclusion in the positive form, ... it is necessary for the auditor to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence



The research problem

- In the auditing arena, many records managers have lamented of auditors who do not always accept digital records as evidence to support the audit queries
- the majority of governmental bodies presented inaccurate and unreliable records as evidence for the auditing
- the authenticity and reliability of records are key component of any entity' risk management process.



The research problem

- The auditor obtains audit evidence by means of test of controls and substantive procedures that are sufficient (quantity of audit evidence) and appropriate (quality of audit evidence)
- How can this be reliably achieved with electronic records?



Research questions

- This project addresses the following questions:
- What criteria do auditors use to judge whether the electronic records are authentic and reliable to support audit process?
- How knowledgeable are auditors in terms of judging the authenticity and reliability of electronic records to support audit process?



Further questions

- What should records creators do?
- Would records creators be able to use an online environment for creation and storage?
- How can procedures be improved to guide the maintenance of authentic electronic for audit process either in-house or in an online networked environment?



Authenticity of records

- An electronic record can be considered authentic if it retains all the significant properties upon which its authenticity depends, including reliability, integrity and usability.
- The international records management standard, ISO 15489 – an authentic record as one that can be proven to
 - a) Be what it purports to be,
 - b) Have been created or sent by the person purported to have created or sent it, and
 - c) Have been created or sent at the time purported.



A regulatory and standards framework for auditing electronic records

- Audit standards
 - Well established
 - Not specifically aligned to electronic
- Records Management
 - National Archives Act
 - ISO 15489 and supporting standards
- Electronic Document and Records Management
 - Electronic Communications and Transactions Act
 - ISO 15801
 - International Council on Archives (ISO 16175)
 - ISO Digitising standards
 - ISO – Selection & implementation of EDRMS



ASSURANCE

GOVERNANCE, RISK, ETHICS, AND COMPLIANCE

Combined assurance
(Audit & Risk)

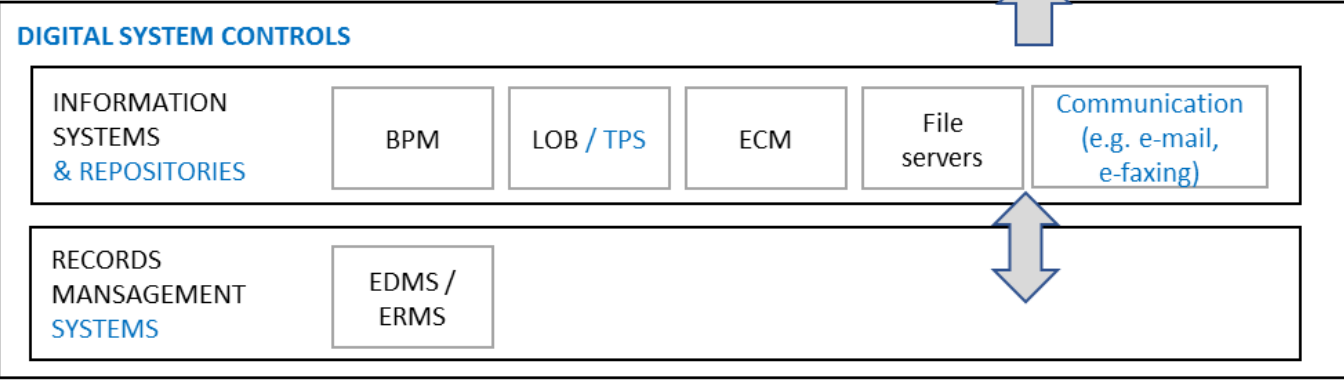
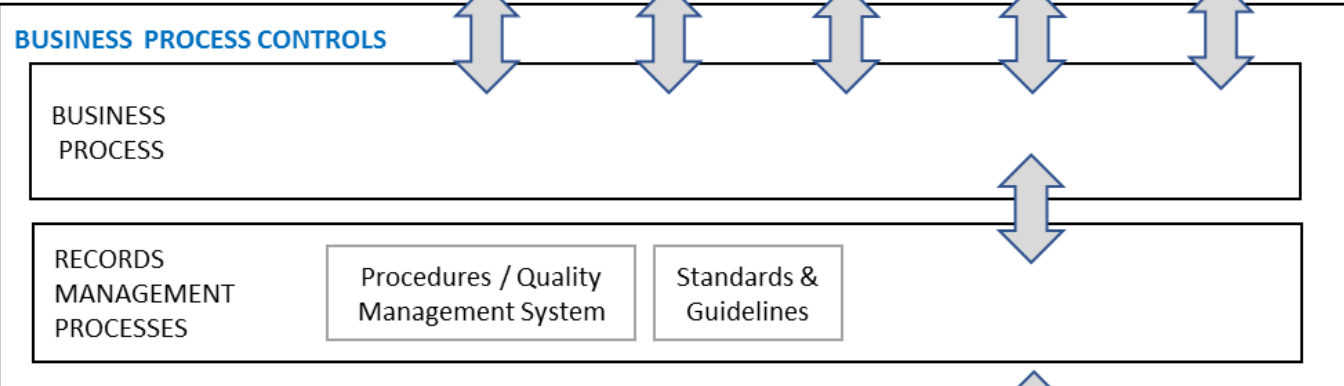
Governance (framework, authority, policy)

Risk Management

Compliance (legislation, codes, framework, standards etc.)

Ethics (code of ethics)

OPERATIONAL / INTERNAL CONTROLS (Process and System)



RECORD ARTIFACT CHARACTERISTICS

TEST FOR AUTHENTICATIVE RECORD

Authenticity

- Integrity
- Reliability
- Usability

1. General controls audit
2. Forensic audit

Planning

Execution

Reporting

A regulatory and standards framework for auditing electronic records

- ECT Act enables electronic records management
- NARS Act supports this
- They do not not provide “How”
- The standards provide this detail.
- Standards need to be translated into organisation competence and practice



Questions

InterPARES
Trust

