SAMA spotlight | ITGF | System change management

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In November 2021, the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) issued a circular on IT governance frameworks as part of its cybersecurity rules and instructions - with four intertwined domains: IT governance and leadership; IT risk management; IT operations management; and system change management.

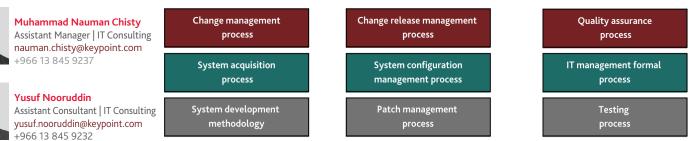
SAMA's risk-based IT risk management framework prescribes IT principles - a main set of IT controls - and control requirements mandated IT controls which provide additional direction. Where control requirements cannot be implemented, SAMA licensees are expected to apply compensating controls, formally accept any ensuing risk and request a formal waiver from that control from SAMA. The System change management domain includes 11 focus areas:

- Systems change governance
- Change requirement definition and approval
- Systems acquistion
- Systems development
- Testing
- Change security requirements
- Change release management
- System configuration management
- Patch management
- IT project management
- Quality assurance

Principles/expectations

- Asset changes classified, tested and approved before deployment
 - Changes to information assets defined, documented and approved by owner before implementation
 - System acquisition/vendor service risks adequately assessed/mitigated
 - Systems developed in a strictly controlled manner
- Information system changes tested in test environment to ensure business requirements are met – and defects/vulnerabilities identified before release to production environment
- Cyber security requirements defined and tested in test environment to identify/mitigate security vulnerabilities before release to production environment
- System changes strictly controlled
- Reliable/accurate information about configuration items maintained
- Patch management process up-to-date latest applicable/relevant patches installed
- IT project/related risks managed throughout project lifecycle
- Changes/developments aligned with business/user requirements before release to production environment

Work products and other outcomes:



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