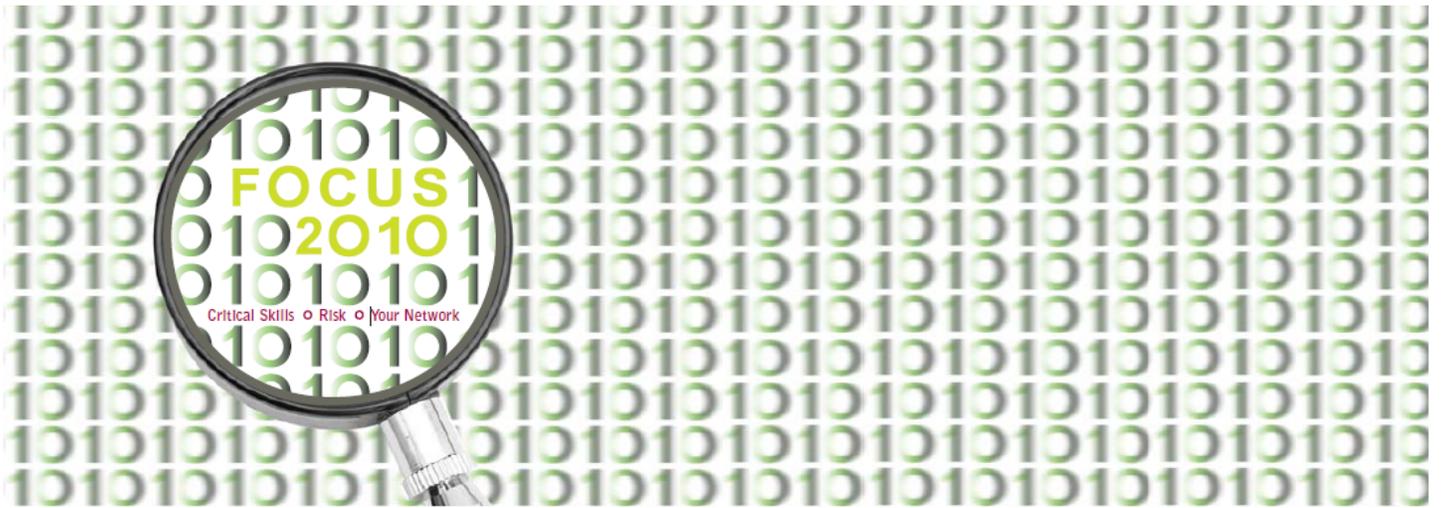


10th Annual SF ISACA Fall Conference

October 4 – 6, 2010



T31: Before, During and After Outsourcing

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Before, During and After Outsourcing

David Fong, CISA, CPA



Objective

- Explore reasons why some organizations choose to outsource
- Understanding inherent risks from outsourcing
- Where to do we start?
- Review various audit responses
- Useful references



Why Outsource?

- Leverage efficient operations
 - Gain economies of scales from a ‘producer’ of services
- Leverage vendor expertise
 - Rely on subject-matter expertise in areas where the organization may not have expertise in
- Focus on core competencies
 - Free-up internal resources to focus on mission-critical activities with a higher return



Why Outsource?

- Cost of labor
 - Lower labor costs
- Speed-to-market
 - Migrate quickly using established vendor processes/infrastructure
- Reduce short-term capital needs
 - Leverage established infrastructure and technologies without needing to the initial capital outlay



Your Outsourcing Experience

- Level of outsourcing
- Types of services being outsourced (technology, customer service, operations)
- Type of vendor management functions (centralized vs. decentralized)
- Aspects of the outsourcing that have been audited



Where to Start

- Inventory the current and future outsourced relationships (audit universe)
- Understand the inherent risks from the various relationships (inherent risks)
- Consider the organizational and department vendor management controls in place (control environment)



Audit Universe

- Inventory the current and future outsourced relationships
 - Process walkthroughs
 - Current contracts
 - Accounts Payable/vendor lists
 - New products/initiatives
 - External connections



Inherent Risks

- Understand the inherent risks from the various relationships
 - Does management understand their risks as documented in the self-risk assessments?
 - What are the inherent risk factors used to measure risks?
 - Contract size, interconnectivity, complexity, sensitivity, etc.
 - How does management account for risks from outsourced relationships?



Inherent Risks (continued...)

- Assess risks from an internal perspective
 - Examples of internal risks that can exist through an outsourced provider:
 - Customer statements are incorrect or sent to the wrong customer
 - Interest calculations are incorrect
 - Sensitive customer data is disclosed or lost
 - Bank accounts opened for sanctioned individuals
 - Organization cannot recover quickly after a disaster



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Control Environment

- Consider the organizational or department vendor management controls in place
 - Is there a formal vendor management program in place? (e.g., Vendor segmentation, monitoring requirements, due diligence)
 - What is senior management's involvement with these outsourced relationships?
 - Is there a sufficient number of 'dedicated' individuals managing the outsourced relationships?



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Key Risks from Outsourcing

- Anticipated efficiencies and cost savings are not gained
- Vendor is not responsive to problems or changes
- Vendor expertise is limited
- Vendor solution has limited flexibility or does not conform to organization's requirements



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Key Risks from Outsourcing (continued...)

- Insufficient internal expertise or resource to properly oversight vendor
- Internal and external clients are impacted by service gap
- Vendor is acquired or not financially viable
- Inability of the organization to manage service levels from sub-contracted services
- Sensitive data is compromised by vendor



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Possible Audit Responses

- Vendor management program audit
 - Examine the framework used to manage vendors within the organization
- Outsourcing project audit
 - Examine the real-time selection and deployment with an outsourced provider



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Possible Audit Responses (continued...)

- On-going monitoring audit
 - Examine how a business monitors key vendors in their operations
- In-sourcing project audit
 - Examine how a business moves an outsourced function in-house



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Vendor Management Program Review Scope

- Breadth and depth of the vendor management program
- Vendor risk assessments
- Management and operational success indicator reporting
- Training and awareness



Vendor Management Program Key Attributes

- Senior management sponsorship
- Defined roles and responsibilities
- Robust procedures and processes
- Risk-based oversight program
- On-going due diligence
- Monitoring, reporting, and escalation
- Training and awareness



Detailed Risk Assessments

- Fully understand the risk of outsourcing your business operations
 - Risks that the organization assumes from the activity remains with the organization and NOT transferred to the vendor
- Determine the impact and likelihood of a risk materializing
- Implement suitable controls to mitigate a risk within the organization's risk appetite



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Vendor Management Program Review Scope

- Breadth and depth of the vendor management program
 - Which outsourced relationships or business divisions are within scope of the program?
 - Where does the head of the vendor management program report into?
 - Are all vendors managed similarly, or is the approach risk-based?
 - Are there documented vendor monitoring programs for each vendor?



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Vendor Management Program Review Scope

- Vendor risk assessments
 - Are there formal risk assessments for each vendor or are the risk assessments embedded within the business?
 - How are vendor risks aggregated if used by more than one business area?
 - Are the risk assessments completed by ‘qualified’ individuals?



Vendor Management Program Review Scope

- Management and operational success indicator reporting
 - How are problems with the vendor collated and reported to the vendor manager?
 - How is performance against the contract and service levels monitored?
 - How are deviations escalated to the vendor and with senior management?



Vendor Management Program Review Scope

- Training and awareness
 - Are employees aware that there is a vendor management program?
 - Do employees understand what their roles and responsibilities are in managing an outsourced relationship?



Outsourcing Project Review Scope

- Vendor selection and evaluation process
- Due diligence
- Issues tracking and resolution
- Contract negotiations
- Implementation and training plan
- Exit plan



Outsourcing Project Key Attributes

- Exhaustive and confidential vendor search process
- Detailed request for proposal based on organization and department requirements
- Risk-based evaluation scorecard
- Focused due diligence
- Contract negotiations
- Implementation/exit plan



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Outsourcing Project Review Scope

- Vendor selection and evaluation process
 - How were prospective vendors identified and selected for a proposal?
 - Were submitted Request-for-Proposal (RFP) evaluated against a risk-based scorecard?
 - Were the due-diligence (DD) activities aligned to the organization's risk assessments?
 - If availability is important, DD activity surrounding vendor recovery is performed



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Outsourcing Project Review Scope

○ Due Diligence

- Evaluate vendor ability and experience to perform services based on the organization's needs and perceived risks
- Understand vendor processes/controls in place to mitigate inherent risks—validate the effectiveness of these controls
- Identify the due diligence gaps and consider suitable risk mitigation
- Business contingency planning



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Outsourcing Project Review Scope

○ Contract negotiations

- A well-conceived contract is essential to protecting the interest of the organization
- Legal counsel is enlisted throughout contract negotiations and reviews
- Risk acceptance for gaps communicated and approved by senior management
- Gaps, open issues, and other verbal understandings are incorporated into the contract



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Key Contract Terms to Consider

- Limitations of liability
- Define services, SLAs (and measurement specifications), and penalties/rewards
- Confidentiality and records management
- Intellectual property (IP) ownership
- Incident/breach notification
- Costs and fees for start-up and on-going
- Right to audit, even when a SAS 70 exists
- Rights to terminate and transition assistance



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On-going Monitoring Review Scope

- Key Operational Success Indicators (OSIs)
- On-going due diligence
- Continuous vendor oversight



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On-Going Monitoring Key Attributes

- Regular meetings to review issues logs and service level reporting with the vendor
- Documented vendor management plan
 - Due diligence visits, frequency, and deliverables
 - Review the accuracy of service level reporting
 - Risk-based review of the SAS 70 report
 - Exit plan



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On-going Monitoring Review Scope

- Key Operational Success Indicators (OSIs)
 - Have OSIs been established for the vendor relationships?
 - What indicators do management use to assess whether the vendor is operating properly?
 - Are these the right indicators produced at the right frequency?
 - How are exceptions flagged and escalated?



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On-going Monitoring Review Scope

- On-going due diligence
 - Are key, relevant vendor controls mitigating the organization's key risks validated during due diligence visits?
 - Who is involved with the due diligence reviews?
 - How are exceptions flagged and monitored?
 - Are key aspects of management reporting validated?



On-going Monitoring Review Scope

- Continuous vendor oversight requires a documented vendor management plan
 - Review the accuracy of service level reporting
 - Review and approve invoices against the contract prices
 - Risk-based review of SAS 70 report
 - What vendor controls are relied upon? Have those controls been reviewed? If not, have they been included into the due diligence visits.
 - Annual exit plan reviews



Moving on Review Scope

- Conversion and reconciliation of records
- Protection and destruction of records
- Interim processing during migration
- Training and awareness



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Moving On Key Attributes

- Migration of records from vendor to another vendor or internally are closely reconciled
- Interim processing during conversion
- Handling and destruction of confidential information
- Access to historical information (e.g., tools, reports, etc.)
- Training and awareness



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Moving On Review Scope

- Conversion and reconciliation of records
 - How are records being converted and mapped into the new environment?
 - How to access historical records not converted?
 - How does management gain assurance that the conversion was successful?
- Protection and destruction of records
 - How are records destroyed/removed from the vendor systems?



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Moving On Review Scope

- Interim processing during migration
 - What are the plans for cutover of services?
 - Has a transition services agreement been executed?
- Training and awareness
 - How are the new providers prepared to continue uninterrupted services?
 - How are organization personnel prepared to use the new services?



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Useful References

- OCC Bulletin 2001-47: Third-Party Relationships
- FDIC FIL-50-2001: Bank Technology Bulletin on Outsourcing



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Regulatory Resources

A screenshot of a web browser window displaying a page titled "Regulatory Resources by IT Booklet". The page content includes a table with columns for various regulatory agencies and rows for different IT-related categories. The table is as follows:

	Congress	FFIEC	FRB	FDIC	NCUA	OCC	OTS
Audit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Business Continuity Planning	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Development and Acquisition	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
E-Banking	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Information Security	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Management	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Operations	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Outsourcing Technology Services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Retail Payment Systems	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Supervision of Technology Service Providers	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wholesale Payment Systems	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA



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