

FEASIBILITY STUDY ON INCORPORATING IEC/ISO27001  
INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ISMS) STANDARD  
IN IT SERVICES ENVIRONMENT

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## **ABSTRAK**

Kajian Kemungkinan menggabungkan IEC/ISO27001 Sistem Pengurusan Keselamatan Maklumat (ISMS) dalam bidang IT Persekitaran Perkhidmatan adalah satu kajian penyelidikan dengan mengambil organisasi sebagai kajian kes untuk menjalankan kajian kemungkinan tentang keselamatan maklumat organisasi yang sedia ada dan mencadangkan ISO27001 ISMS maklumat rangka kerja keselamatan kepada organisasi. Aktiviti-aktiviti yang melibatkan penilaian keselamatan jurang, merangka dokumen mandatori kerana setiap ISO 27001 standard keperluan ISMS. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti insiden keselamatan maklumat umum dan ISO27001 amalan ISMS tindakan pembetulan dan pencegahan. Disamping itu, kajian ini memberi tumpuan kepada menganalisis keadaan semasa organisasi dengan menjalankan kajian kemungkinan mengenai kesediaan ISO27001 ISMS yang diamalkan oleh organisasi. Metodologi kajian ini telah diperolehi dengan rangka kerja penyelidikan operasi yang terdiri daripada beberapa fasa projek, ISO27001 fasa pelaksanaan ISMS yang dipetakan kepada serahan. Serahan dan hasil yang diharapkan adalah siri set dokumen yang perlu mematuhi standard ISO27001 ISMS seperti draf awal pengguna dasar ISMS, metodologi penilaian risiko, laporan penilaian risiko, penyata kebolegunaan (SOA) akan dibangunkan untuk memenuhi keperluan ISO27001 ISMS dan kriteria. Juga, sebahagian daripada aktiviti mandatori seperti taksiran jurang, penilaian risiko keselamatan maklumat akan dicadangkan dan dijalankan dengan laporan yang berkaitan akan disediakan sebagai sebahagian daripada keputusan dan penemuan untuk mencapai objektif kajian penyelidikan ini. Kajian penyelidikan ini tidak meliputi kitaran pelaksanaan keseluruhan ISMS ISO27001. Oleh itu, kerja-kerja masa depan kajian penyelidikan ini boleh diteruskan dari pentas dengan membangunkan dasar dan prosedur yang perlu berdasarkan serahan laporan penilaian risiko dan penyata kebolegunaan.

## ABSTRACT

Feasibility Study on incorporating IEC/ISO27001 Information Security Management System (ISMS) in IT Services Environment is a research study by taking an organization as a case study to carry out a feasibility study on existing maturity level of managing information security and propose an implementation approach to the organization based on ISO27001 ISMS standards. The activities involve the security gap assessment, drafting the mandatory documents as per ISO 27001 ISMS standard requirement. The objective of this study is to identify the common information security incidents and the ISO27001 ISMS practices on corrective and prevention actions. Beside, this research study is focusing on analyzing the current state of an organization by conducting a feasibility study on the readiness of ISO27001 ISMS practiced by the organization. The methodology of this research study was derived with the research operational framework that comprised of several project phases, ISO27001 ISMS implementation phases that mapped to the deliverables. The deliverables and expected results are series of document sets that must comply to the ISO27001 ISMS standard such as initial draft of ISMS policy manual, risk assessment methodology, risk assessment report, statement of applicability (SOA) will be developed to meet the ISO27001 ISMS requirement and criteria. Also, the mandatory activities such as gap assessment, information security risk assessment will be proposed and conducted with the relevant reports to be prepared as part of the results and findings to accomplish the objectives of this research study. The findings of the feasibility study from the gap assessment that has been performed within an organization are not meeting the requirement of ISO27001 ISMS. Hence, this research study proposed the implementation approach based on ISO27001 ISMS standards to implement the ISMS controls to close the gaps and mitigate the risks identified from the gap assessment findings.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Overview**

In recent years, Cybercrime and Cybercriminal activities are relatively concerning to most of the organization as they growth of their businesses widely especially the way organization is managing the information asset to prevent information leakage is still the most challenging issue. As of today, when the Government is planning to enforce information security policy such as Personal Data Protection Act, Cyber Law Act, and Evidence Act are getting important for the organization to comply. Most of the organization seeing the challenges to comply with this regulatory and more importantly the question will be “What should we do about it” when it comes to the managing the information security as a whole on their information assets, people, processes and at the same time to adhere the legal compliance.

IEC/ISO27001 Information Security Management System (ISMS) is to provide a standard framework, governance and guidance on managing information security within an organization. In the IEC/ISO27001 ISMS, it is focusing on the information security based on the three important constraints such as people, process and technology. Furthermore, the information security governance shall be defined clearly in the organization policy and procedures, and thereafter the policy enforcement is mandatory processes to ensure all the employees comply to the company policy that approved and supported by the management.

In this study, the implementation of ISMS will be conducted on the IT Services Centre (ISC) organization as a case study to identify the gaps of ISMS best practices and the implementation roadmap is focusing on the planning stage of ISMS implementation. The core business of the IT Services Centre (ISC) is providing IT services and operation support to the various organizations, which focusing in Property investment businesses. The ISC has identified the Data Centre activities as the scope for the ISO27001 ISMS certification.

At a glance, the following Table 1.1 shows the number of ISO27001 certification issued worldwide. As of August 2012, total of 66 Malaysia organizations that were declared their ISO27001 certification out of the total 7940 organizations world-wide. Based on the total number of certificate issued for each country, Malaysia was ranged at 12 worldwide and this shows that ISO27001 certification is important and brings benefit to the organization.

**Table 1.1:** Number of Certificates Per Country (Version 215, August 2012).

<http://www.iso27001certificates.com>

Japan	4152	Singapore	29	Belgium	3
UK	573	Saudi Arabia	24	Gibraltar	3
India	546	UAE	19	Lithuania	3
Taiwan	461	Bulgaria	18	Macau	3
China	393	Iran	18	Albania	3
Germany	228	Portugal	18	Bosnia Herzegovina	2
Czech Republic	112	Argentina	17	Cyprus	2
Korea	107	Philippines	16	Ecuador	2
USA	105	Indonesia	15	Jersey	2
Italy	82	Pakistan	15	Kazakhstan	2
Spain	72	Colombia	14	Luxembourg	2
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>66</b>	Vietnam	14	Malta	2
Poland	61	Iceland	13	Mauritius	2
Thailand	59	Kuwait	11	Ukraine	2

## 1.2 Background of the Problem

IT Services Centre Sdn. Bhd. (ISC) has an intention to reduce the cost and complexity of its IT infrastructure, while continuing to support multiple operations systems. The challenge to the implementation of ISC was in deciding on the right IT governance and security best practice framework to drive and manage the day-to-day operation in a secure and holistic manner. With the existing Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) framework is being practicing internally, ISC would like to uphold the principles of good IT governance, risk management, IT security and controls presently wishes to further strengthen these by achieving ISO/IEC27001 (the information security management system certification standard).

Based on the research study in common security threats faced by most of the organization, the researcher Lo and Chen (2012) highlighted the cybercrime was one of the key concerns by most of the organization such as information security breaches, identity theft and financial fraud. Subsequently, the famous common security threats is insider threats as described by Farn et al. (2008). The insider was classified into 2 types – malicious and non-malicious. The key challenges by most of the organization now days, they are more concerning on the non-malicious attack, meaning the defects of the information security breach was caused by unintentionally or careless with lack of knowledge or experience employees. Hence, most of the organizations believe that the insider threats are the most dangerous and difficult to control without clear understanding on the segregation of duties and responsibilities.

As the IT Services Centre has never conducted any feasibility study on managing the information security, the gap assessment is method that allows the organization to conduct a feasibility study on assessing the maturity level of current practice of ISMS. The outcome from the gap assessment could derive the approach and initiatives to implement the ISO27001 ISMS within an organization.

Risk assessment also playing an important role to ensure the organization is understand their risk profile by considering the tolerant risk versus the risk appetite on their day-to-day business operation (Cath Everett, 2011).

Therefore, the consideration of ISO27001 ISMS information security framework could potentially minimize the risks as mentioned above that allow the



organization to maintain the security controls and improve confidentiality, integrity and availability.

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

The information security is getting important now days that most of the organizations are concerning how to control and prevent the confidential information leakage from the organization to the outsider. The IT Services Centre does not have any clear visibility of the current maturity level of managing information security. Based on their existing practices, there is no benchmark or IT security framework for the organization to follow and adopt. Therefore, this research study is focus on the significant feasibility study on how the organization can adopt the ISO27001 ISMS standard framework in order to apply the recommended security controls and best practices to mitigate the complexity of infrastructure of organization information leakage and improve confidentiality, integrity and availability of information security within an organization.

### **1.4 Project Aim**

The aim of this study is to determine and examine the existing security gaps and current controls against the ISO27001 ISMS standard. A gap assessment report will be prepared together with the proposed initiatives of ISMS implementation approach to achieve the research objectives as stated in this study. This study also focused on the feasibility study by conducting the gap assessment and risk assessment that incorporating the ISO27005 risk assessment framework. The outcome of the gap assessment allows the management to have better understanding on the current maturity level of managing information security within the organization. The key outcome of this project is to propose a implementation approach as accordance to ISO27001 ISMS standard in order to maintain the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information systems within the organization.

## **1.5 Research Questions**

- i. What are the current security trends and the best practices of corrective and preventive actions for the organization to maintain confidentiality, integrity and availability of information security?
- ii. What is the approach to conduct ISMS gap assessment exercise and the presentation of gap assessment report?
- iii. What is the methodology used to conduct risk assessment?
- iv. How to formulate the planning on ISMS policy document to comply with ISO27001 standard?

## **1.6 Research Objectives**

- i. To identify the current trend of common information security incidents and understand the ISO27001 ISMS practices on corrective and prevention actions.
- ii. To propose gap assessment approach and carry out a feasibility study to conduct gap assessment by identifying the current maturity level of ISMS in IT services environment.
- iii. To propose ISO27001 ISMS risk assessment methodology for the organization and finalize a complete risk assessment report.
- iv. To formulate an implementation plan based on ISO27001 ISMS standard.

## **1.7 Research Scope**

The scope for this study focuses on conducting a feasibility study by incorporating the ISO 27001 ISMS standard in IT Services Environment. The implementation scope covers the data centre, hosting facilities and IT operation services in IT Services Environment.

The ISMS scope covers the data centre facilities management includes the services offering such as data centre hosting facilities, and the day-to-day operation services within the data centre of the IT Services Centre.

The implementation of ISO 27001 ISMS will be running as accordance to the project phases. The basis of the project phases is for monitoring, guidance and management of the ISO27001 ISMS implementation for the IT Services Centre.

For the purpose of this ISO27001 ISMS implementation, the project phases break down into Initiation, Planning, Execution, Monitoring & Control and Project Closure & Post implementation. Table 1.2 showing the direct mapping on project phases to the ISO27001 ISMS implementation phase..

**Table 1.2:** ISO27001 ISMS Implementation Phase and Project Phases Mapping

<b>ISO27001 ISMS Implementation Phase</b>	<b>Project Phases</b>	<b>Research Study Cover</b>
Research Methodology  Project Proposal  Initial Findings	Project Initiation  Project Planning	In Scope
Gap Assessment  Scope and security organization  Risk Assessment Methodology & Report	Project Execution	In Scope

## **1.8 Summary**

This chapter discussed the introduction of the current security risks and concerns to most of the organization and how ISO27001 ISMS is able to manage the information security for an organization based on the security framework point of view. In summary, this chapter also included the study of problem background faced by the existing organization. More importantly, the research questions and research objectives were derived and set as a focus for the entire research project study. The next chapter will be discussing the literature review mainly focusing on the security risks currently facing by most of the organization, and the various risk assessment methodologies were discussed as part of the ISO27001 ISMS mandatory exercise. Beside, some key lesson learned during the ISO27001 ISMS implementation will be discussed that could benefit to this research study.

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