



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Government's first line of defence against IT threats needs realistic assessment

VICTORIA, B.C. - Auditor General of British Columbia Carol Bellringer issued her latest audit report today – *The Status of Government's General Computing Controls: 2014*.

All IT systems are vulnerable to threats. For government IT systems, the stakes are often high because these systems hold substantial and sensitive information and are critical for delivering essential services.

“Strong general computing controls are government’s first line of defense against potential threats, like hacking, theft and system disruption,” says Bellringer. “Without them, they risk loss of personal data or not even being able to access the system.”

Similar to the report released in 2013, all 148 government organizations were asked to rate their general computing controls on a scale of 1 to 5, known as maturity level. Compared to 2013, organizations assessed themselves at a higher level. However, of the 13 organizations whose self-assessments were audited this year, 69% over-rated their level of achievement. Many organizations lacked documented policies and procedures – hallmarks of strong general computing controls.

“We encourage all organizations to take a critical look at their IT processes and be realistic about their level of maturity,” says Bellringer. “Over the last 10 years, 78% of our IT audit recommendations were about improving general computing controls.”

This report recommends that organizations review their business and IT goals, determine which level is best suited for their needs, and then achieve and maintain that desired level.

The report is available on the Office of the Auditor General website www.bcauditor.com
Bellringer will answer questions pertaining to the report via a teleconference.

Teleconference Date: Tuesday, December 15

Time: 11:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)

Dial-in Information:



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