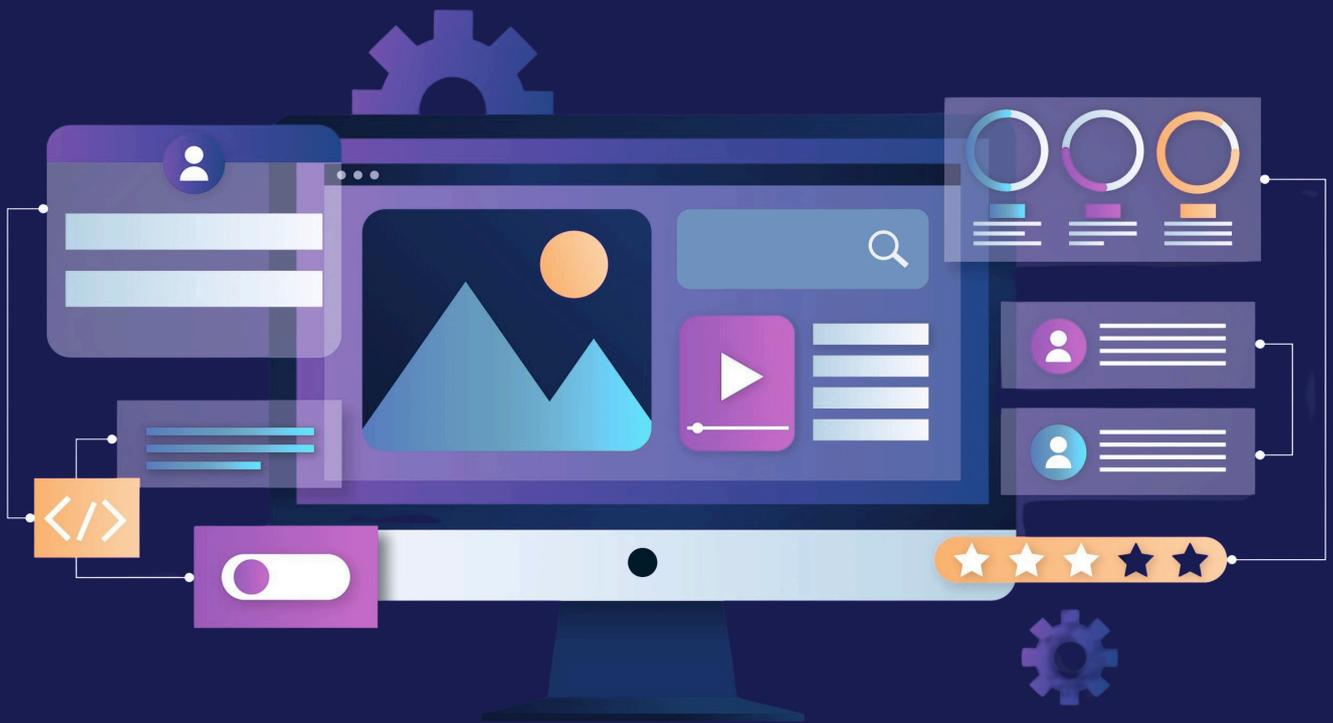


## SELF ASSESSMENT

PREPARATION FOR DATA DRIVEN AUDIT 2026



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How mature is internal control for a modern, data-driven audit?

A data-driven audit is not a technological leap, but a logical continuation of what already exists in the organization. Many Finance teams have a strong foundation: a steady rhythm in processes, stable data flows, monthly closes, and dashboards.

This assessment helps to discover where you stand today — and which small steps can drastically accelerate the audit experience.

The result is not a score, but insight: where the strength lies, where the potential sits, and where there are opportunities for a Data-Driven audit of the financial statements — in any case a place where ongoing monitoring (internal) and ongoing assurance (external) reinforce each other.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 1. SINGLE SOURCE OF TRUTH - HOW UNAMBIGUOUS IS THE SOURCE OF FINANCIAL DATA?

A data-driven audit starts with clarity about which systems are leading for revenue, costs, HR data, inventory information, and financial postings.

Many companies already have this structure; it is mainly about internal recognition of it.

### Self Assessment

- Is it clear for each financial process which system is the official source?
- Are changes consistently processed where they belong?
- Are there no “parallel Excel environments” that have become leading?

### Reflection

A single source of truth prevents duplicate work and speeds up analyses, because auditors can connect directly to your system landscape.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 2. PROCESS FLOWS - HOW VISIBLE IS THE ACTUAL PROCESS?

Order-to-cash, purchase-to-pay, payroll: these processes already exist in a fixed rhythm. An audit builds on that rhythm. The more visible how the process truly runs, the stronger the foundation.

### Self Assessment

- Are the key process flows captured visually?
- Is it clear where data is recorded and validated?
- Are exceptions structurally defined or only known orally?

### Reflection

An organization with clear process flows is audit-ready without extra work.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 3. DATA QUALITY - HOW STRONG ARE THE INTERNAL CHECKS?

ERP rules, controls in the monthly close, and authorization procedures: data quality is already safeguarded in almost every organization. A data-driven audit uses these internal quality signals.

### Self Assessment

- Are missing fields, illogical dates, and anomalies already flagged automatically?
- Is there a rhythm of periodic data checks?
- Are issues documented and resolved?

### Reflection

The better the internal data quality, the faster an audit can be carried out almost entirely pattern-driven.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 4. EXPORTS & DATA ACCESS - HOW SMOOTHLY CAN FINANCE PROVIDE DATA?

A data-driven audit needs complete exports: sales transactions, journal entries, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll runs, inventory movements.

In practice, these almost always already exist — they are used for reporting anyway.

### **Self Assessment**

- Can relevant datasets be exported easily?
- Are the fields complete and consistent?
- Is historical data stored in a stable format?

### **Reflection**

When exports are reliable, the audit becomes predictable, tight, and efficient.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 5. GENERAL LEDGER STRUCTURE - HOW LOGICAL IS THE FINANCIAL CLASSIFICATION?

A well-structured general ledger speeds up analyses enormously. Many organizations already have this well set up, but underestimate their own maturity.

### **Self Assessment**

- Is the classification of revenue, costs, margins, and cost centers logical and stable?
- Are changes implemented carefully?
- Are definitions of line items clear within Finance as well as the business?

### **Reflection**

A consistent general ledger enables pattern analyses on a daily basis.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 6. REVENUE STREAMS - HOW AUDIT-READY IS YOUR REVENUE PROCESS?

Revenue is often the biggest focus area. Most organizations already have rich data: order lines, invoices, contracts, pricing, margin analyses.

### Self Assessment

- Are order and invoice data complete and historically intact?
- Do revenue, contract terms, and discounts align logically?
- Is the process well documented?
- Are sales margin norms known?

### Reflection

A mature revenue process is the heart of a fast, data-driven audit.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 7. PERSONNEL COSTS & PAYROLL - HOW STABLE IS THIS PROCESS?

Payroll is almost always the best-organized process within Finance. That makes it ideal for data-driven auditing.

### **Self Assessment**

- Are payroll runs fully digital and consistently recorded?
- Are start and end dates, contract types, and hourly wages complete?
- Are changes managed centrally?

### **Reflection**

A reliable payroll structure is one of the biggest accelerators of an audit.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PROCUREMENT - HOW UNIFORM IS THE WORKFLOW?

From purchase order to invoice match: many organizations already have a streamlined digital procurement process.

### Self Assessment

- Is every supplier recognized via one consistent code?
- Is the workflow fully digital?
- Are deviations flagged automatically?

### Reflection

A well-designed procurement chain makes risk analysis easy and sharp.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 9. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGEMENT - HOW WELL ARE TRENDS VISIBLE?

Payment behavior, terms, open items: this information is tracked daily, often more completely than people think.

### Self Assessment

- Are all relevant debtor postings fully in the system?
- Are corrections, disputes, and credit limits recorded properly?
- Is payment behavior visible at customer level?

### Reflection

A mature receivables process provides direct assurance over cash flows.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 10. INVENTORY & PRODUCT DATA - HOW RICH IS THE DATA SET?

SKU structures, counts, movements: inventory can feel chaotic, but is often extremely rich in data.

### Self Assessment

- Are product codes, valuations, and movements recorded stably?
- Are counts linked to systems?
- Is the valuation method consistent?

### Reflection

Inventory data forms a perfect basis for pattern analyses.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 11. BANK DATA - HOW DIGITAL IS THE FINANCIAL BACKBONE?

Bank flows are fully digital — and therefore hyper-reliable.

### Self Assessment

- Are bank files imported automatically?
- Does the bank balance always reconcile directly to the general ledger?
- Are deviations recognized and resolved?
- Are bank details retained at least 12 months of history (or for a full fiscal year?)

### Reflection

Bank data are the silent anchors of a data-driven audit.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 12. RECONCILIATIONS - HOW STRUCTURAL ARE THE CONNECTIONS?

Bank, revenue, inventory, wages: Finance reconciles far more than people think.

### Self Assessment

- Do reconciliations take place structurally?
- Are differences explained and documented?
- Is there a rhythm (daily, weekly, monthly)?

### Reflection

Reconciliations are the nervous system of internal control.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 13. DASHBOARDS & MONITORING - HOW CLOSE ARE YOU ALREADY TO ONGOING MONITORING?

Many organizations have dashboards, KPIs, and trend reporting. The step to ongoing monitoring is small: increase frequency, broaden interpretation.

### Self Assessment

- Are dashboards used in the monthly close?
- Are deviations visible early?
- Is data used for daily steering?

### Reflection

Ongoing monitoring is the natural bridge to a setting where ongoing monitoring (internal perspective) connects to ongoing auditing (external audit perspective).

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 14. DOCUMENTATION AND INSIGHT - HOW CLEAR ARE CHOICES AND DEVIATIONS?

Finance already documents a lot: internal analyses, notes, emails, explanations. The audit benefits most when this is done in a structured way.

### **Self Assessment**

- Are exceptions described logically?
- Are choices explained?
- Can explanations be retrieved later?

### **Reflection**

Good documentation relieves both Team Finance and the external auditor.

## SELF ASSESSMENT

# 15. COLLABORATION AND MINDSET - HOW FUTURE-ORIENTED IS FINANCE ALREADY WORKING?

The biggest step in data-driven auditing is not technical, but cultural.

### Self Assessment

- Does Finance think ahead?
- Is the audit seen as a partnership?
- Is data used to increase insight, not only to explain?

### Reflection

Organizations that collaborate instead of react are audit-ready without realizing it.

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