

# AI and Your SOC Report | What You Need to Know Now | Transcript

Robert Ramsay & Bryan Gayhart

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Bryan Gayhart:

Robert, thanks for joining me here today. We're going to talk about AI and we're specifically going to talk about how AI is intertwined now into SOC reports. Let's start there in terms of where this fits in. Do you have to be a software company to embrace AI in your SOC report?

Robert Ramsay:

No, not at all. In fact, AI is in everything we do. Most companies are using it, and even if you're not, you could choose to have a process of defining that. So, ISO 42001 applies to developers of AI, but also users of AI. So, an accounting firm could use it for sure.

Bryan Gayhart:

Got it. And then, what could a company do with their SOC report to help demonstrate competency when it comes to AI?

Robert Ramsay:

Yeah, that's where we get excited about adding frameworks and adding value to a SOC report. And this ISO 42001 is a governance structure around responsibly using AI.

Bryan Gayhart:

And does it map nicely to the SOC 2 criteria?

Robert Ramsay:

It really does. It's rather easy to do that because we already have the components of risk management, and data, and people, and processes. And what ISO 42001 does is ask you to consider all those things in light of how your company uses AI.

Bryan Gayhart:

AI clearly continues to evolve almost day by day as you have customers and prospects that are exploring incorporating AI into their SOC report. Talk a little bit about when's the best time to start? How do you go about starting? Just elaborate on that a little bit.

Robert Ramsay:

Yeah, thanks, Bryan. Very much like our other clients that'll go from a SOC 2 security to SOC 2 security plus availability and confidentiality, or a client that has a SOC 2 and wants to add a SOC 1, we can easily add the ISO 42001 framework to an existing SOC 2 report over a period of time. So, we add the similar readiness process and through that, we find out if the company's just ready to go today, or if they want to implement a few things along the way and time it so that we don't start testing until they're ready later down the road.

Bryan Gayhart:

What are you seeing in terms of the marketplace? Are you finding people are ready to jump on this today? Are you finding people are pushing it down the road six months? What do you see in the market?

Robert Ramsay:

Everybody whose customers care about the use of AI is putting this in their roadmap because it's clearly a question they're getting. We talked about the sales cycle before, and this is something that's a question that comes up in the sales cycle. So, if you can say, "Oh, it's covered in our SOC report," then that helps them with their sales process.

Bryan Gayhart:

Obviously, the SOC 2 is largely driven on the service commitments and system requirements. Have you seen AI flow through to any of those yet?

Robert Ramsay:

That ends up becoming only software developers that are building AI into their tool and making commitments related to the way that works. So, that's a narrow band of our client base. Much more broadly are companies that use AI and want to just document the way that they govern that process, but it applies to both.

Bryan Gayhart:

For anybody that's exploring the readiness and looking to implement this, what's the timeline look like? What's a healthy timeline for somebody to start and ultimately have a control environment that lines up with the requirements?

Robert Ramsay:

Yeah. It usually takes us a month. If we can plan, execute, and then, be ready to go, I guess that's an average. Some companies will take a year to do that, and some can do it in two weeks, but we're usually about a month out.

Bryan Gayhart:

When you look at SOC reports that have been issued, typically focusing on the big players, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, have you noticed anything interesting in their reports lately around AI?

Robert Ramsay:

They're all demonstrating their usage of AI in those reports. They nicely reflect their operations. Yeah.

Bryan Gayhart:

Excellent. Anything else you think people might want to know about ISO 42001 and adopting it in a SOC report?

Robert Ramsay:

Maybe just if they haven't gone through the process of finding out more about it. It's like a lot of ISO. It's a framework for considering the impact on all of your operations, all of your policies, how you define what you want to do and manage that. So, it's not too intimidating. It's just an overlay of AI on top of all those things.

Bryan Gayhart:

Excellent. Thank you.