

System interface audit

KPMG Technology Assurance

Are you confident that you can trust the integrity of the data provided by interfaces, and that you can rely on reports based on such data when making business decisions?

Every organisation relies on data and reports in its operations. In today's complex IT environment data necessary for daily operations, or for decision making, go on a long journey before they reach management.

Such data constantly circulate among systems that are responsible for various functions. Moreover, at companies with complex IT environments the data necessary for running the business come from various source systems or from a complex data bank, in order to satisfy the management's need for reports that can be interpreted in a broader, company-wide context.

Thus it is vital to ensure reliable communication between systems to be able to support business activities and management decisions.

A malfunctioning interface can affect data integrity and discredit financial reports and consequently have a significant negative influence on business decisions.

What influences the operation of interfaces?

Have you ever observed that reports provided by different systems are inconsistent with each other? The reason might be malfunctioning interfaces.

Data quality is influenced by many factors, all of which can be a source of errors. But what exactly can go wrong?

- **Source data query:** In case of poor source data quality or inadequate query rules, the information might be compromised even before it is transferred.
- **Data transfer method:** If it is not ensured that the process operates within a closed environment, malicious interventions may occur.
- **Receiving the data:** If database fields in the target system have not been defined according to the structure of the transmitted data, even a wrong setting for character length can lead to data loss.
- **System developments, system implementations:** If interfaces do not follow changes in the IT environment, even a perfect interface may become useless.
- **Full automation:** People check the data they record; machines, however, only do so if they are specifically ordered to and if they receive well-defined rules.

How can we help?

KPMG utilises two audit approaches during interface reviews. We not only make sure that the data transfer has been adequate, but we also assess whether the control environment of the interface is able to ensure the integrity of the transferred data in the long run.

- **Review of interface design and control environment:** As a first step we assess business demands related to interfaces. Then we scrutinise documentation on technical specifications. Our aim is to determine whether the interface design conforms to the demands of the business. Furthermore, we inspect if the designed control environment is able to ensure the completeness and integrity of the data. If we identify a control deficiency, we help you mitigate the related risks through a detailed recommendation.
- **Analytical review of data transfer quality:** We test on a sample (the size of which we define on the basis of data transfer frequency) whether the data has been transmitted from the source system to the target system completely and accurately and according to the transformation rules. With the help of our analysis tools we can efficiently analyse even large amounts of data.

What advantages do we bring?

- One advantage is that not only can you make sure that your data has been appropriately transferred to the target system, but you can also be certain that the interfaces have been designed in accordance with your business needs.
- If you wish we can also help you make interface definitions more accurate, which ensures that business leaders receive the information they require for taking decisions.
- Via mass data analysis we are able to identify errors that otherwise would not be uncovered in daily operations due to their small scale, but whose impact are apparent in the long run.
- Reliability of the data provided to supervisory authorities is a focus area from a regulatory point of view. Hence compliance is not only a business interest, but it is also of great importance for legal compliance reasons.

If you feel these issues are relevant to your business, please contact us for further details:

[KPMG.hu](https://www.kpmg.hu)



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