



**PRESS RELEASE**

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SHARED ASSESSMENTS PUBLISHES  
ENTERPRISE CLOUD COMPUTING GUIDE

**October 20, 2010 - Santa Fe, NM** – The [Shared Assessments Program](#) has released a new white paper to help large organizations understand the opportunities and risks involved in deploying cloud computing in enterprise environments.

According to a survey released this month by [Novell](#), 77 percent of organizations with more than 2,500 employees use some form of cloud computing, making it essential that IT departments fully understand cloud's risks. According to [Gartner](#), by 2012, a full 20 percent of businesses will own no IT assets at all.

[Evaluating Cloud Computing Risk for the Enterprise: A Shared Assessments Guide](#) offers enterprise organizations and business managers the first unbiased risk-based guide to considering, implementing and using cloud computing in enterprise environments. Written in nontechnical language, the Guide was created to help enterprise organizations better understand cloud's technology, evaluate cloud providers, and ask the right questions both before and during cloud relationships.

[Evaluating Cloud Computing Risk for the Enterprise: A Shared Assessments Guide](#) is the Shared Assessments Program's contribution to a growing body of papers about cloud computing. Leaders from [KPMG](#), [Target](#), [US Bank](#) and many others contributed to the Guide, and many of the authors previously participated in papers published by the [Cloud Security Alliance](#) and the [Jericho Forum](#). The Guide is the first of these to address cloud from an enterprise risk perspective, with detailed considerations for business and IT managers at multinational financial institutions, healthcare organizations, telecommunications companies and others.

The paper is the latest addition to the Shared Assessments Program's [library of reference tools](#).

The [Shared Assessments Program's](#) tools for evaluating service provider controls for information security, privacy and business continuity (the AUP and the SIG) are in use around the globe including in the US, Canada, the EU, Australia, India and Brazil. Nearly 60 companies are Shared Assessments [members](#).

Version 5 of the AUP and SIG included a number of standards for cloud computing environments, drawn from the knowledge and experience of Shared Assessments members. The voluntary standards correspond to a host of new laws and other relevant guidance, including new [Payment Card Industry \(PCI\)](#) standards for financial institutions

and requirements mandated by the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\)](#). Information security updates correspond with [National Institute for Standards in Technology \(NIST\) SP 800-53 standards](#) (Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations) and current [Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council \(FFIEC\) guidelines](#).

“Cloud computing is becoming ubiquitous in corporate environments,” said Catherine A. Allen, Chairman and CEO of [The Santa Fe Group](#). “This guide, with its emphasis on the areas of greatest risks to enterprises, will be essential reading for organizations that rely heavily on cloud.”

“This cloud guide provides enterprise organizations with hundreds of practical cloud recommendations which they can immediately incorporate into their risk management program to evaluate cloud providers,” said Niall Browne, Chair of the Shared Assessments Program’s Cloud Computing Working Group and chief information security officer with [LiveOps](#).

[Evaluating Cloud Computing Risk for the Enterprise: A Shared Assessments Guide](#) can be downloaded on the [Resources](#) page at the Shared Assessments Program [website](#).

### **About the Shared Assessments Program**

The [Shared Assessments Program](#) was created by leading financial institutions, the Big 4 accounting firms, and key service providers to inject standardization, consistency, speed, efficiency and cost savings into the service provider assessment process. Through [membership](#) in the Shared Assessments Working Group and use of the [Shared Assessments tools](#) (the Agreed Upon Procedures and the Standardized Information Gathering questionnaire), Shared Assessments offers outsourcers and their service providers a faster, more efficient and less costly means of conducting rigorous assessments for security, privacy and business continuity. The Shared Assessments Program is managed by [The Santa Fe Group](#), a strategic consulting company based in Santa Fe, New Mexico.