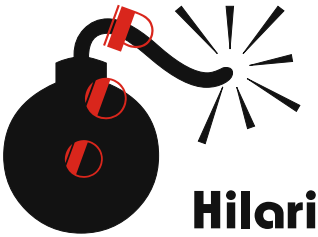
Martin Holzke

S.A.D.A.S.Y



Smile

Hilarious IT Audit Anecdotes

Oops-A-Daisy

smile

Hilarious IT Audit Anecdotes

By Martin Holzke

SoftQualM Press

Contents

Preface 1

Backup, Restore And Disaster Recovery 3
The Safe 4
Taking Tapes Off-Site 6
The Secret Backup 8
The Monster Backup 10
The Missing Backup 12
Tick Box Disaster Recovery Plan 14
Disaster Near Miss 15
Well Secured 16
Disaster Recovery Exercises 18
By-Product Restore Test 20

The Wonderful World Of Data Centres 23
This Way Please Into The Data Centre 24
That'll Do 26
The Basement 27
The Enemy Within 29
The General Manager 31

System Development And Change Management 33
Test Plan 34
How Not To Approve A Concept 36
Emergency Changes 38
Scope 40
Test Strategy 42
Youngsters And Oldies 45
Changing The Audit 47

Security **49**
Password Policy 50
Timely Follow-up 52
Security Mania 54
Handling Security Breaches 57
Anti-Virus 59
Incident Management 60

Personalities And Soft Skills **61**
Internal Audit Knows It All Better 62
The Babylonian Tower And The Facilitator 65
Trust and Backstabbing 67
CISA 69
Not Everyone's Cup Of Tea 72
Naturally Born Auditors 74
Failure welcome 77

Preface

I have been working as freelance internal IT auditor all over Europe for a number of years now and have been advising businesses of pretty much all sizes throughout almost any industry.

Auditing is all about corroborative enquiry and so not quite surprisingly you come across all kinds of rather embarrassing, sometimes unbelievable things.

At the same it's good to keep the perspective.

Despite all good intension and effort everyone can fail. "Nobody is perfect" and I mean nobody. There are no audits without any findings or recommendations. In consequence, whoever fails is in good company.

Failure is no catastrophe as such, indeed it often enough helps to realize issues and improve.

"Life's too short to take it too serious."

Keeping your humour no matter how sad a failure may be is very healthy. As long as you can still laugh about it you can go back and get it right in future.

This book is a collection of some of these most crazy stories and they are supposed to make you laugh or smile – whatever you prefer. Beyond this they hopefully here and there serve as an eye-opener – whether you are an auditor or his "victim".

In the end it is my experience that a good story tells more than a twenty page lecture.

Finally, many thanks to all "involuntary contributors" to this book. It was a pleasure to work with all of you.

Enjoy!

Martin Holzke

Handling Security Breaches

Government departments tend to be particular notorious about security and be it only to keep the right impression.

I was working with one of them on short notice. Obviously no one had been able to prepare a work space for me, so I brought my own laptop, unaware that that wouldn't be allowed

Eventually in the afternoon of my first day they decided to let me use a workstation in standalone mode, i.e. without any network access. I started documenting my day's work and left for the day.

Next morning I returned and continued – not aware that I was about to spark a major security incident…

When it emerged all hell broke lose.

Well, what had happened?

The standalone PCs were supposed to be setup in such a way that they would wipe the local hard drive over night, i.e. my work would have been lost. Of course no one had told me that and so I stored my files on the hard drive rather than external.

Somehow it got spotted, possibly because I was working next to the security department and the machine actually was theirs. The machine was immediately quarantined and I was lucky not to be arrested straightaway. My files taken off and jointly investigated by my boss and the security officer to ensure I had not done anything nasty.

Eventually I got my files returned on floppy disk.

It certainly was my best paid time off, so I smiled and duly said sorry. In the end no one had briefed me properly.

For the rest of my contract all of the security guys ignored me when they had been very friendly before that incident.

In the end they should have been grateful that a glitch in their security setup was found by pure chance, instead they had obviously decided to hate me for having destroyed their perfect little world…

Oops-A-Daisy

smile

A humoristic collection of anecdotes
as happened to the author
throughout his career as
IT consultant and auditor.

Laughter and smiles welcome
as well as the one or other eye-opener...

SoftQualm Press

Lightning Source

ISBN 978-1-906972-01-1

9 781906 972011 00699

£6.99 UK
€9.99 EU
$12.99 US