

## ISACA Overview and History

ISACA got its start in 1967, when a small group of individuals with similar jobs—auditing controls in the computer systems that were becoming increasingly critical to the operations of their organizations—sat down to discuss the need for a centralized source of information and guidance in the field. In 1969, the group formalized, incorporating as the EDP Auditors Association. In 1976, the association formed an education foundation to undertake large-scale research efforts to expand the knowledge and value of the IT governance and control field.

Today, ISACA's membership—more than 86,000 strong worldwide—is characterized by its diversity. Members live and work in more than 160 countries and cover a variety of professional IT-related positions—to name just a few, information systems (IS) auditor, consultant, educator, IS security professional, regulator, chief information officer and internal auditor. Some are new to the field, others are at middle management levels and still others are in the most senior ranks. They work in nearly all industry categories, including financial and banking, public accounting, government and the public sector, utilities, and manufacturing. This diversity enables members to learn from each other and exchange unique viewpoints on a variety of professional topics; it has long been considered one of ISACA's strengths. Previously known as the Information Systems Audit and Control Association, ISACA now goes by its acronym only, to reflect the broad range of IT governance professionals it serves.

Another of ISACA's strengths is its chapter network. ISACA has more than 185 chapters established in more than 75 countries worldwide, and those chapters provide members with education, resource sharing, advocacy, professional networking and a host of other benefits on a local level. Find out if there's a [chapter](#) near you.

Since its inception, ISACA has become a pace-setting global organization for information governance, control, security and audit professionals. The association's IS auditing and control standards are followed by practitioners worldwide, and its research pinpoints professional issues challenging its constituents.

ISACA also offers four certifications. The Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certification is recognized globally and has been earned by more than 75,000 professionals since inception. The Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) certification uniquely targets the information security management audience and has been earned by more than 13,000 professionals. The Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT (CGEIT) designation promotes the advancement of professionals who wish to be recognized for their IT governance-related experience and knowledge and has been earned by more than 4,000 professionals. The new Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC) designation is for IT professionals who identify and manage risks through the development, implementation and maintenance of IS controls.

ISACA publishes the *ISACA Journal*, a leading technical journal in the information control field. It hosts a series of international conferences focusing on both technical and managerial topics pertinent to the IS assurance, control, security and IT governance

professions. Together, ISACA and its affiliated IT Governance Institute lead the information technology control community and serve its practitioners by providing the elements needed by IT professionals in an ever-changing global environment.