

Accessibility and Infrastructure

One of the key considerations when choosing an automated Audit and Risk Management system is to ensure that your application data can be accessed by its users wherever they happen to be. This section outlines the options that are available to you with PAWS.

Use over a LAN

The simplest option is to give all of your users direct access to a central PAWS database on a Local Area Network (LAN).

Use over a WAN

If your organisation has very fast wide area connections, then it may be possible to share a central database across a Wide Area Network (WAN). However, if performance is likely to be an issue, consider the following options:

- SQL Server replication between central database servers.
- Citrix or other terminal server environments.
- Web browser modules for business users (for entity Risks & Controls assessment, Action Tracking and Questionnaires).

Use on local PCs

For local, remote use, PAWS supports a process whereby you can 'check out' audits to your local PC, work with them off-line and post your updates back to the central database whenever it suits you. Collaborative assignments are fully supported (e.g. multiple users checking out the same audit at the same time).

Security

PAWS can be configured to either apply Windows authentication or to use our in-built security features that comply with international IT security standards such as ISO17799.

Functional security is achieved through user access roles. The system includes 5 standard roles. You can also create custom roles in the event that the standard roles do not meet your requirements.

Users can be restricted to subsets of your audit universe based on entity criteria and by restricting them to individual audits. Users can also be assigned non-standard access roles on individual audits.

The system also keeps track of who last modified each database record and the date/time when it was last modified.

Security over external work paper attachments can be enforced through NTFS (Windows NT, 2000 and XP environments only). This ensures that work papers can only be modified if accessed through PAWS.