**Introduction**

An Audit Management System (AMS) would be an integrated software system that increases efficiency and productivity of the entire audit process including risk assessment, planning, monitoring, trend analysis, reporting and storage. An AMS would replace a fully manual or partially manual system and would ideally consist of the following modules:

1. A risk assessment system that permits users to define their own risk assessment using built-in and custom criteria defined by the auditors and automatically generate an audit plan based on that assessment. User should be able to easily and visually identify high risk functions and entities.
2. Audit scheduling system to schedule audits on the basis of the criteria determined by the auditors such as location, target start date and type of audit. This system will also enable identification of manpower resources with specific skill sets and their assignment.
3. Electronic workflows that allow each user to sign-off their individual step so it can be reviewed by the supervisor. The progress of every assigned task can be tracked in the system and reports generated. Auditors would be able to electronically document audit information and results even if they do not have internet connectivity.
4. Audit Documentation system that contains databases of all important audit information and allows search, sorting and filtering by key parameters. The system should allow capture and linking of digital as well as scanned documents as audit evidence. Essential databases include auditee profile, manpower, audit scheduling, Inspection Reports, Audit Reports and follow up action databases. Standardized templates for capturing and documenting audit information and results can ensure that audits are conducted to a particular standard and all requirements are followed.
5. A centralized data repository that would enable analytics and visualization across user defined parameters such as years, states, monetary values, etc.
6. Tracking module that permits tracking of implementation of audit recommendations, proceeding and recommendations of statutory committees such as PAC and COPU and actions taken by auditees.

**Benefits of AMS**

1. Integrated organization wide database as an aid to Management in higher level planning, monitoring and follow-up.
2. More efficient management of and access to essential audit documentation and data.
3. Ability to search for a particular type of finding across user defined parameters by classifying every observation and recommendation under predetermined categories.
4. Enable office wise, topic wise and theme wise comparison and analysis of output.
5. Centralized data will permit extensive analytics.
6. Ability to retrieve contribution of individual auditors.

**Design Features**

1. The application must be web enabled to permit use by geographically dispersed users, based on defined user roles and access levels.
2. A variety of built-in standard reports as well as ability to create and save user defined reports and queries and view them graphically.
3. Powerful search and filter facilities.
4. Application must provide facility to link documents to other documents (audit evidence) or websites and bookmarking.
5. Application must be able to process commonly used document and database formats like MS Office and Open Document Format for Office Applications (ODF) so that individual documents can be viewed and edited outside the application too.
6. Application must be bandwidth efficient, deploy scalable server space in view of the volume of documents and provide an easy to navigate user interface.

**Implementation risks**

1. The scope of work must be well defined and frozen well in time to ensure that the project does not become unmanageable.
2. Planning phase must involve all stakeholders and obtain inputs from them to ensure that the final product is relevant and usable.
3. All databases to be captured in the system must be updated beforehand to ensure electronic databases do not contain unreliable and outdated information.
4. Manual processes should not be blindly copied into AMS, rather there should be an attempt to re-engineer processes in line with automation.
5. User entities must have adequate hardware and connectivity.
6. Physical and logical security must be strictly enforced to prevent leakage of sensitive data.

**Need for developing AMS**

1. Several commercial products are readily available in market. However,

* They are expensive
* Products do not fully meet unique needs of SAIs.

1. Good opportunity is available for member SAIs to dovetail ISSAI requirements in the audit workflow process through AMS.

**Work Plan**

1. We are working in collaboration with the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI).
2. Survey/interview, etc. will be conducted in 2015 to identify/finalise the requirements of the member SAIs.
3. Detailed Work Plan for development/testing/rollout will be presented in the 2016 WGITA meeting.