

# The EBP Auditor's Guide to Evaluating Audit Automation Software

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What to Evaluate Beyond the Demo



**AUDITMINER**<sup>™</sup>

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# Why Audit Automation Evaluation Matters



## Introduction

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Most audit automation tools look strong in demos. The real difference shows up in real EBP audits.

Choosing audit automation software is not just a technology decision. It affects audit quality, defensibility, and how your team operates across engagements.

**EBP audits introduce complexity many tools are not built to handle. This guide helps your firm evaluate software based on what matters most in real audit environments.**

## How to Use This Guide

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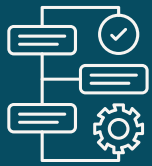
- Review each evaluation category
- Use the included questions in demos
- Compare responses across platforms
- Identify risks before implementation

# What Demos Don't Reveal

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What looks smooth in a demo can break down quickly in real audit work.

The biggest challenges often surface later, when platforms are tested against actual workflows, inconsistent data, and peer review expectations.



**Workflow  
Challenges**



**Data  
Variability**



**Peer Review  
Gaps**




**Adoption  
Barriers**

# Evaluating Platform Fit and Long-Term Value

## 1. Data Security and Compliance

Data security often looks strong at a glance, but the details matter. Without clear visibility into how data is handled and protected, hidden risks can surface during audits and peer review.

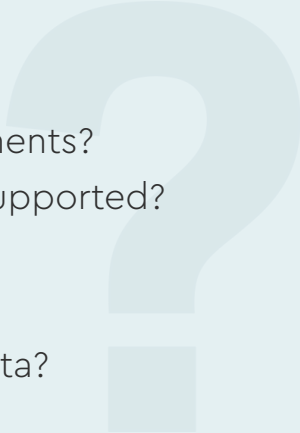
### Key Evaluation Questions

- Where is client data stored and processed?
  - Does any data leave the United States?
  - How is sensitive data protected, including encryption and hashing?
  - Is the platform SOC 2 compliant?
  - What third parties are involved?
  - How is vendor and infrastructure compliance maintained?
  - What are your data retention and deletion practices?
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## 2. Access Controls and Internal Data Governance

Access controls can appear sufficient on the surface, but gaps in how permissions are structured and enforced can introduce risk over time.

### Key Evaluation Questions

- Can access be restricted by engagement?
  - How are permissions managed across teams and engagements?
  - Are role-based permissions and granular access controls supported?
  - Is multi-factor authentication enforced?
  - Can sensitive fields be masked or limited internally?
  - How are internal access restrictions applied to sensitive data?
  - Are user activities tracked with a complete audit trail?
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### 3. Onboarding and Customer Support

Even the most capable platforms can fall short if onboarding is unclear or support is inconsistent. Gaps in implementation and ongoing support can slow adoption and limit long-term value.

#### Key Evaluation Questions

- What does the onboarding process look like from kickoff through full adoption?
- What is the typical timeline for full implementation?
- What level of support is available after onboarding is complete?
- How accessible is the support team, and what expertise do they provide?
- How are issues or requests handled and escalated?

### 4. Flexibility Beyond the Platform

Platforms can look strong in controlled workflows, but real-world audits often require flexibility. When a solution cannot adapt to your firm's methodology, it can introduce inefficiencies and inconsistency over time.

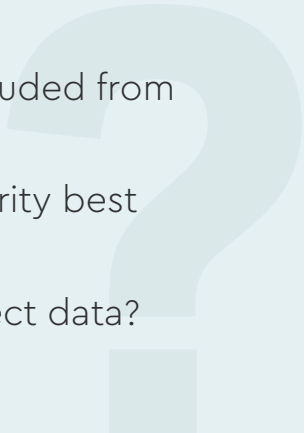
#### Key Evaluation Questions

- Can the platform support audits that fall outside of automation?
- Will the platform align with our existing methodology, or require changes to how we work?
- How does the platform help maintain consistency across engagements?
- How easily can workflows be adjusted as engagement needs change?
- Can the platform support partially manual or hybrid audit processes?

## 5. AI Data Privacy and Security

AI capabilities can enhance audit workflows, but they also introduce new considerations around data handling and privacy. Without clear visibility into how data is stored, used, and protected, firms may face increased risk.

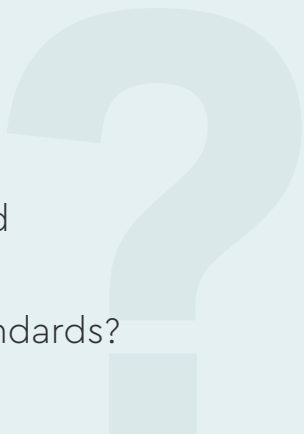
### Key Evaluation Questions

- How is sensitive data protected, and is customer data excluded from model training?
  - How does the platform align with AI data privacy and security best practices?
  - What safeguards and privacy controls are in place to protect data?
  - How is AI data stored, retained, and used for training?
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## 6. Peer Review Readiness

Outputs can appear polished on the surface, but peer review requires clarity, consistency, and traceability. When reviewers cannot easily follow the audit approach or validate supporting logic, confidence in the work can break down.

### Key Evaluation Questions

- Are the outputs clear and suitable for peer review?
  - Can reviewers easily follow the audit process?
  - Is there clear traceability behind the platform's outputs and methodology?
  - How does the platform support compliance with audit standards?
  - Do outputs support review and validation?
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## 7. Pricing Model and Flexibility

Pricing can look straightforward upfront, but misalignment with how audits are actually performed can create friction over time. When pricing does not scale with engagement needs, it can limit adoption and consistency across teams.

### Key Evaluation Questions

- How is pricing structured across engagements or users?
- Are we required to purchase the full platform, or can we select specific features?
- Can pricing scale as our audit volume changes?
- Does pricing align with how our teams actually perform audits?
- Can different engagement types be supported without added complexity?

## 8. Platform Innovation and Future Readiness

A platform may meet current needs, but long-term value depends on its ability to evolve. Without ongoing investment and adaptability, solutions can quickly fall behind changing audit and firm requirements.

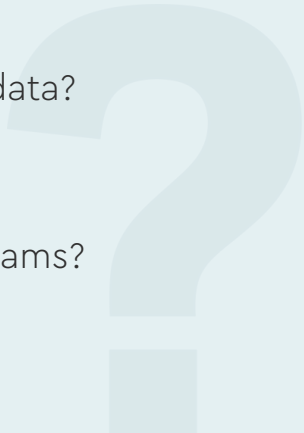
### Key Evaluation Questions

- Can you share recent examples of product updates or enhancements?
- What areas of the platform are currently prioritized for development?
- How do you gather and act on customer feedback across your user base?
- How frequently are meaningful updates released across the platform?
- How does the platform adapt to evolving industry and firm needs?

## 9. Plan Support and Scalability

Support and scalability can vary across pricing tiers, and limitations are not always clear upfront. When plans do not align with firm growth or usage needs, they can create constraints over time.


### Key Evaluation Questions

- Are there limits on the number of users, engagements, or data?
  - What level of support is included in each plan?
  - How does the platform scale as our firm grows?
  - Are there restrictions that could impact adoption across teams?
  - Can plans be adjusted as our needs change?
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## 10. Implementation Risk and Change Management

Even well-designed platforms can face challenges during rollout. Without clear change management and internal alignment, implementation can slow adoption and reduce overall effectiveness.

### Key Evaluation Questions

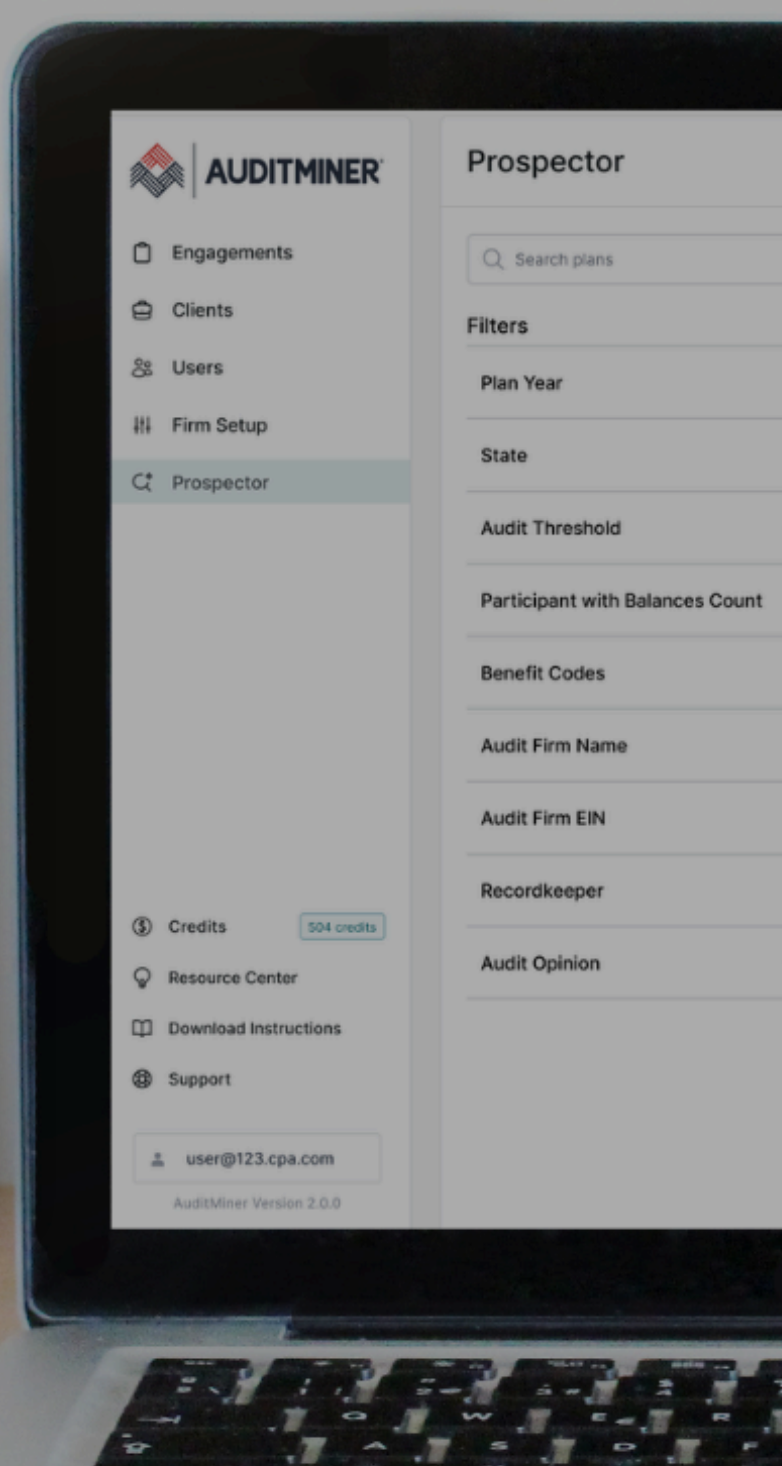
- What level of internal change management is required?
  - How does the platform support adoption across teams?
  - What challenges do firms typically face during implementation?
  - How are teams trained and supported during rollout?
  - How long does it typically take to reach full adoption?
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# Evaluating with Confidence and Clarity

## Final Thoughts

Evaluating audit automation software goes beyond features. It means uncovering risks early, protecting audit quality, and choosing solutions that hold up in real EBP audit workflows.

Firms that take a structured approach to evaluation are better positioned to choose solutions that support audit quality, reduce risk, and scale over time. At AuditMiner, we have seen how much these decisions can shape audit workflows, team adoption, and long-term value.



## About AuditMiner

AuditMiner helps firms move beyond spreadsheets by delivering complete, accurate, and audit-ready data. We eliminate the back-and-forth of client requests, reduce manual reconciliation, and give auditors confidence that they are starting with the full dataset.

Say goodbye to chasing files and patching spreadsheets, and hello to smarter audits built on data that works as hard as you do.

# Audit Automation Evaluation Checklist

Use this checklist during demos and internal evaluation discussions to compare platforms more consistently.

## What to Review During Evaluation

- Where client data is stored and how it is protected
- Who can access data and how permissions are controlled
- What onboarding includes and how support is delivered
- How the platform fits into your existing audit workflow
- How AI is used and what control auditors retain
- Whether outputs are clear, traceable, and review-ready
- How pricing aligns with your firm's engagement model
- The provider's approach to product updates and development
- Whether the platform can scale across plan types and sizes
- What data sources and recordkeepers are supported

## Before You Move Forward

- You have confidence in how client data is handled and protected
- The platform has been evaluated against your firm's workflows
- Your team can clearly follow, review, and defend outputs
- Known limitations or tradeoffs have been identified upfront
- Pricing and structure align with long-term use
- The platform can scale with your firm's needs over time