



IT GRC—Moving Beyond IT Compliance

All of us understand that Information Technology is the essential driver of collaboration, innovation, and growth in organizations today. As we increasingly rely on IT to support the goals of our business operations, greater oversight or governance of IT is essential. Thoughtful compliance policies provide a means for organizations to determine if their approach to governance conforms with internal corporate policies, best practices, and external mandates.

However, IT compliance is growing beyond just meeting regulatory requirements and is becoming more important to help organizations of all sizes manage IT risk. IT Governance, IT Risk Management, and IT Compliance have been three distinct disciplines in the past and, as such, have existed in silos within many organizations. Today, the best-managed organizations no longer see these activities as individual, one-time projects handled in different parts of the IT organization. Rather, they are finding there are many commonalities and interrelationships that exist between these three important areas.

So, business leaders want IT to tie governance, risk management, and compliance together in order to translate regulations into actionable policies, test IT controls, manage any remediation, and be able to present the executive team with a complete view of risk and compliance.

Adopting a unified IT governance, risk management, and compliance (IT GRC) approach and managing the associated activities coherently will create efficiencies, provide a holistic view of the IT environment, and ensure accountability. It's a new approach companies are taking to align these activities and make sure that IT is not just in compliance with regulations but in sync with overall corporate objectives.

Make sure to check out the cover story in this issue, "All IT 'Roads' Lead to Data Center Infrastructure Software," that includes exclusive interviews with three CIOs: Norm Fjeldheim from Qualcomm, Ignacio Vera from HSBC México, and Brad Wyckoff from Meredith Corporation. We also have four case studies showcasing IT leaders from around the world who have addressed everything from email archiving and e-discovery, to data center standardization, to endpoint security.

Regards,

John W. Thompson
Chairman of the Board and CEO, Symantec Corporation

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