

# Audit Management

It's a tough time to be an internal auditor. You can spend hours painstakingly reviewing and documenting compliance practices, only to have regulatory requirements change. Or carefully evaluate a particular risk as you understand it, only to learn that the risk and compliance teams are doing the exact same thing—but defining the risk in completely different ways.

Duplication of effort, inefficient use of resources, mixed signals on strategy: They're all consequences of the lack of coordination that results when IA can't see what risk and compliance are doing, or vice-versa.

The days of doing traditional compliance auditing, and doing it in a vacuum, are over. It's time for IA to move to a less reactive approach—and one that allows for better communication and collaboration. Closer alignment can lead to lower costs and better results, and free IA to focus on strategic work that helps grow the business.

## Capabilities: What It Takes To Mature Audit Management

In this new reality, IA must become a strategic partner to management in order to:

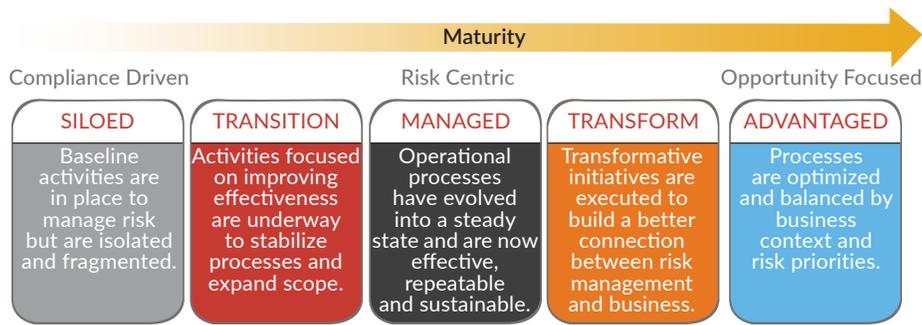
- Maintain a dynamic view of organizational changes, risk and compliance status
- Address priority risks, compliance obligations and strategic initiatives through fluid planning
- Automate and update reporting and monitoring of key metrics
- Centrally track and report audit findings and remediation plans
- Help management take on risk and control responsibilities and remediation

RSA Archer's Audit Management solution provides key capabilities to:

Establish a business context for audit by understanding the organization well enough to identify the universe of auditable entities.

Perform audit planning in the context of management's assessments of risk.

Perform audit engagements and manage findings through the entire engagement lifecycle.



## Stage By Stage: Mapping The Maturity Journey

RSA Archer Maturity Models guide organizations through the journey from baseline risk management to optimized processes that balance opportunities and risks. There are five stages along the way:

### The Siloed Stage: Mastering the Basics

Organizations at this stage are preparing to evolve traditional approaches to audit management.

- Working independently of other groups, IA documents audit entities and performs audit testing.
- Audit testing consists of basic compliance-audit procedures using static audit programs.
- IA doesn't perform risk-based audit procedures and is unaware of work being done by other assurance groups.

### The Transition Stage: Stabilizing and Strengthening

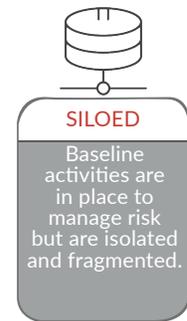
Moving from Siloed to Managed, IA refines its understanding of the larger organization.

- IA creates an "audit universe" of business units and other areas that are candidates for auditing.
- IA implements a risk ranking process to evaluate the criticality of areas in the audit universe.
- IA executes audits and reports findings—but with no consistent process for following up.

### The Managed Stage: Standing Firm

With a deepened understanding of the business, IA documents additional layers into the audit universe.

- A more advanced risk assessment exercise guides audit prioritization and planning.
- IA assigns audit engagements with the right mix of internal and external resources.
- Project- and department-level QA assessments identify internal IA process issues.
- After audit engagements, IA monitors and reports on all findings and documents exceptions.



## The Transform Stage: Asserting Control

IA joins together the business and IT audit universes by mapping their assets into a consolidated view.

- Business and IT assets are included in risk assessment and prioritization of audits.
- IT audit may still evaluate IT entities separately, but there's a higher degree of coordination on integrated audits.
- IA consistently tracks and dries resolution to findings and remediation plans.

## The Advantaged Stage: Riding the Wave

IA has achieved a robust, integrated, up-to-date view of the organization.

- Business and IT asset information are mapped and data cross-referenced to auditable entities.
- To ensure auditing of highest risks, IA aligns risk assessments with management's view of risk.
- Dynamic risk and compliance metrics drive audits to the most impactful areas.
- IA plans audits in the context of work being done by other compliance groups.

Organizations ultimately realize the competitive advantages of harnessing risk: getting to market first, launching new products with calculated efficiency, and avoiding major issues that could wreck reputations and ruin bottom lines.

For more detailed information about the RSA Archer Maturity Model for Audit Management, visit [rsa.com/en-us/resources](https://rsa.com/en-us/resources).

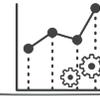
## About the RSA Archer Maturity Model Series

RSA Archer's vision is to help organizations transform compliance, manage risk and exploit opportunity with Risk Intelligence made possible via an integrated, coordinated GRC program. The RSA Archer Maturity Model series outlines the segments of risk management that organizations must address to transform GRC.

## About RSA

RSA offers Business-Driven Security™ solutions that uniquely link business context with security incidents to help organizations manage risk and protect what matters most. RSA solutions are designed to effectively detect and respond to advanced attacks; manage user identities and access; and reduce business risk, fraud and cybercrime. RSA protects millions of users around the world and helps more than 90% of the Fortune 500 companies thrive in an uncertain, high risk world.

For more information, visit [rsa.com](https://rsa.com).



### ADVANTAGED

Processes are optimized and balanced by business context and risk priorities.