Introduction

With limited resources and more responsibility, internal audit departments struggle to deliver strategic leadership, coordinated assurance and other services their stakeholders need. Your organization faces a rapidly changing regulatory and risk landscape, and your internal audit strategy may not be positioned to adapt to these changes. In addition, while internal audit has typically been a compliance function, the expectation now is that dynamic risk planning should be incorporated into approaches and results.

Existing approaches, tools and expertise are historically positioned around point-in-time, static audit planning. De-centralized documentation captured in multiple tools and systems make it difficult to integrate, and there is often static reporting and limited coordination of objectives among risk, compliance, and audit groups. Lack of visibility into findings generated by other business functions makes tracking the status of all findings and remediation efforts a difficult and time-consuming challenge for internal audit. In turn, this makes creating the necessary reports for the audit committee and senior management a resource- and time-consuming process. Unfortunately, these reports are often out of date as soon as they are completed.

Fewer resources and more responsibility for your internal audit team require changes to the current audit approach. As your team strives to enhance internal audit’s value within your organization, you must take a coordinated, risk-based approach to audit management.

Transform audit with a risk-based approach

Your current audit approach is very compliance-focused and more reactive than proactive. Unfortunately, this means your team cannot focus on helping the business evaluate new risks and opportunities because you are spending much of your time evaluating past performance of controls. By incorporating a risk-based approach and collaborating with risk and compliance functions, you can integrate the appropriate view of risk into your evaluation of the most critical areas of the business and organizational controls and focus on strategic business initiatives.

The RSA Archer Audit Management advantage

RSA Archer® Audit Management puts you in control of the complete audit lifecycle, enabling improved governance of audit-related activities while also providing integration with risk and control functions. With RSA Archer, you can transform the efficiency of your audit department, complete risk-scoped audits more quickly, and partner with the business to help achieve your organization’s goals.
Automate Audit Processes

Managing audit plans and workpapers in static documents or standalone systems that do not interact with your business, risk, and compliance teams limits your ability to collaborate. Collecting and coordinating audit findings and results in a meaningful and timely manner across these different groups is typically a manual, painful process that results in static, point-in-time reports.

RSA Archer Audit Management enables you to consolidate your entire audit process (audit entities, audit planning, engagements, and findings) into one system. You can manage the audit process and team and quickly review your audit staffing, budgets, and resource allocation. Real-time dashboards help identify gaps and ensure you are achieving your audit plan.

RSA Archer also allows you to streamline the findings management process, focus on the most critical issues, and report what is most important to the management team and audit committee. This capability becomes even more powerful when other risk and compliance groups also use RSA Archer, improving your ability to communicate the status of collaborative activities and leverage their work.

Dynamically Adjust Risk-Based Audit Plans

Your time may often be focused on repetitive, compliance-driven audit testing. As a result, you are not positioned to implement a risk-based audit approach that is increasingly expected by regulators, governing bodies, and executives.

RSA Archer Audit Management offers out-of-the-box best practices aligned with the latest Institute of Internal Audit (IIA) standards and Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) framework. These best practices enable you to partner with your risk and compliance counterparts to share operational risk and control data, and then align audit plans and prioritize efforts based on the organization’s business priorities and latest assessment of operational risk. Integrating these risk and control systems drives alignment between audit and other teams for prioritization and execution of risk and compliance activities. In addition, you can more clearly understand the current state of the business, which leads to better audit planning and scoping.

Rally Risk & Compliance Team to Tackle Pressing Issues

Audit teams do not always leverage the information, resources, and results provided by other risk and compliance teams, resulting in reduced visibility into key risks and underperforming controls.

With RSA Archer Audit Management, all issues raised by internal audit, other risk and compliance teams, or management can be housed and cataloged within one central system. This provides business workflow and a holistic view of issue significance and remediation status for all business teams. Internal audit can choose to leverage control testing and risk assessment and mitigation by other teams to enhance evaluation of the current status, quality, and effectiveness of the organization’s risks and controls, while summarizing and prioritizing critical results to the audit committee and your risk and compliance counterparts. This establishes greater transparency and a higher level of trust throughout the organization.

RSA Archer Audit Management

Many times, the audit team cannot focus on helping the business evaluate new risks and opportunities because they are consumed with evaluating past performance of controls. Using RSA Archer Audit Management, you can more fully incorporate a risk-based approach and collaborate with risk and compliance business partners. Plus, your organization can integrate the appropriate view of risk into evaluation of the most critical areas and controls. This also allows you to focus on strategic business initiatives that show the audit team’s value to the organization.

RSA Archer Audit Management provides several use cases to meet your specific business needs and progress in the audit maturity journey, including the following options.
Issues Management

RSA Archer Issues Management lays the foundation for your integrated risk management program to manage issues generated by audit, risk and compliance teams. The use case includes the business hierarchy to establish the corporate structure and improve accountability for risk and compliance issues, and workflow to manage findings, remediation plans and exceptions to address risks and associated resolutions.

RSA Archer Issues Management allows you to create a consolidated view into all issues. With an organized, managed process to escalate issues, you get detailed, rolled-up visibility into risks and the efforts to close and address those risks. Workflow for proper sign-off and approval of issues, remediation plans, and exceptions ensures identified issues are managed and mitigated. Your organization will see quicker response to emerging risks, creating a more proactive and resilient environment while reducing costs.

Audit Engagements & Workpapers

RSA Archer Audit Engagements & Workpapers enables you to define your audit entities and universe, perform audit engagements, maintain workpaper documentation, and report on audit results in a consistent and timely manner. The use case helps you transform the efficiency of your audit department, complete better-scoped audits more quickly, and decrease external audit fees.

Audit Planning & Quality

RSA Archer Audit Planning & Quality enables internal audit teams to risk assess audit entities and make audit plans for engagements in the coming year. Since RSA Archer Audit Planning & Quality integrates rich risk management and control information, internal audit can ensure audit objectives are aligned with management, enterprise risk management, and other related groups. The use case allows audit managers to manage the audit team and staff audit engagements with the right personnel. RSA Archer Audit Planning & Quality also offers quality assessment of your audit function for improved governance of audit-related activities.

Conclusion

With RSA Archer Audit Management, you can truly align risk to the business to support your executive team’s goals of growth and profit improvement and raise the risk conversation to that of performance. From early evolution to program maturity, no one gives you the tools to effectively leverage your audit function better than RSA Archer.

About RSA Archer Suite

RSA Archer Suite enables organizations to manage the broad dimensions of business risk and confidently pursue digital opportunity. The suite is part of the RSA portfolio of business-driven security solutions, which provides a unified approach to managing digital risk that hinges on integrated visibility, automated insights and coordinated actions. RSA protects millions of users around the world and helps more than 90 percent of the Fortune 500 companies thrive and continuously adapt to transformational change. For more information, go to rsa.com.