



WHITE PAPER

5 THINGS TO KNOW WHEN RESEARCHING RISK MANAGEMENT PLATFORMS

Embarking on a journey to implement a platform to support your risk management initiatives requires a significant investment. Given the complexity of risk in today's enterprise, risk management programs must rely on a solid technology infrastructure to establish accountability, collaboration and efficiencies across multiple operational functions. A centralized platform is a key ingredient to success—allowing an organization to leverage processes, share data and establish a risk taxonomy necessary to promote a strong governance culture. In addition, consolidating processes brings together data that historically has been strewn about the organization in multiple systems of record. The data convergence improves the overall understanding of risk and leads to broader visibility and deeper analytics.

With the pressure placed on risk, compliance and security champions from the high visibility of risk management at the board level, it is necessary to get the program off to a solid start from the beginning. If the program is hamstrung by technology issues from the start, credibility and reliability (two absolute necessities of a risk management strategy) can suffer immediately. Therefore, choosing a risk management platform that can not only solve today's tactical issues but also lay a foundation for long-term success is critical.

The following are key questions to consider when building your strategy and looking at the wide variety of risk management technology choices in the market.

1. DOES YOUR STRATEGY AND THE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION ADDRESS BOTH IT AND BUSINESS RISK?

Today, you can no longer separate IT and business risk. Business growth is interwoven with technology strategies. The risk program and strategy must clearly acknowledge this fact, and so must the technology solution. The breadth of the solution will be critical in enabling a long-term strategy to build visibility across the organization. Addressing individual risks such as security, compliance, resiliency and third-party governance in individual silos will not meet your evolving business environment. These risks need to be connected, and the technology solution should make that happen without causing overhead or disruption.

RSA Archer® solutions give you a common platform to address multiple dimensions of risk and bring risk, compliance, security and business functions together in one view of risk. Data can be shared across risk functions, processes can be leveraged and efficiencies gained, and an overall program can be implemented to support a long-term strategy.

2. HOW EXTENSIVE ARE THE SOLUTION AREAS IN TERMS OF BEST PRACTICES, AND WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF THEIR PRODUCT DESIGN AND INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE?

Risk management practices have evolved greatly over the last decade. Industry standards have emerged in many different disciplines and the lessons learned are significant. For those organizations that are beginning a new focus on risk management, this is a significant area where best practices will fast-track implementations. The technology solution should accelerate your strategy by providing built-in elements such as data taxonomies, workflows and reports. The key point is to inquire on the history of these practices—where they came from and how lessons learned from previous customers are incorporated into the solutions—and understand the opportunities for your team to gain knowledge from peers and the solution provider.

RSA Archer use cases are built on industry and best practices gathered from our 15+ years in the risk management market. We partner with our customers through a variety of venues, including our working groups, user groups, advisory boards and Leaders program to gather input directly for our solution design. RSA University offers a wide variety of training to ensure your resources are knowledgeable on the use cases and platform, enabling you to leverage our solution to quickly implement processes.

3. HOW CONFIGURABLE IS THE PRODUCT?

Even with best practices built in to the technology solution, you will find areas where you need to modify the platform based on your unique needs. Data taxonomies, workflows, reporting and other elements must adjust to your changing business. The technology should make that easy and straightforward. Hard-coding processes and technology leads to rigid approaches that will be a barrier to keep your program moving forward. As you engage more front-line employees or cross-functional groups, you will need the flexibility to make adjustments.

Maturity

RSA Archer solutions are built on the most flexible, configurable and powerful platform in the industry. The solutions are designed to empower business users to tailor applications to meet their business requirements, without the need for coding or development skills. Elements such as the integrated reporting engine, persona-driven reports and the user interface are designed to satisfy both power users (risk/compliance/security teams) and infrequent users (business users/first line of defense).

4. DOES THE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION ENABLE A GROWTH PATH, SO YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICH AREAS TO IMPLEMENT AND THEN MODIFY TO FIT YOUR BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS?

While there are some common entry points to implement risk management programs, organizations have different priorities. The important element a technology solution should bring to your strategy is the ability to unfold your program as you require. This means there should be an ability to pivot the technical infrastructure towards the direction your business needs. However, the program needs to unfold in the context of a broader strategy—with the final objective to connect risks, improve visibility and leverage data across your program. It should not be a point-by-point approach that hinges on integration after integration but a cohesive risk management infrastructure.

RSA Archer solutions are designed to help you evolve your risk management program as your business changes. Our maturity-driven approach is to bring day-one value and plot the course of your program. RSA's best practice approach enables you to implement risk management processes quickly and then adapt one step at a time based on your strategy and investment schedule. With numerous use cases across different domains of risk management, our use case strategy allows you to target your organization's most pressing needs by mixing and matching use cases as your business requires.

5. WHAT IS THE PROVIDER'S RISK MANAGEMENT "PEDIGREE?"

The need to get risk management right is more pressing than ever. Today's risks are too complex to be managed with a solution that's merely "good enough." Every moment you take to build a program from scratch puts you at a competitive disadvantage in your market. The clock is ticking. This is the most critical point of selecting a technology solution provider. You do not want to have to restart your strategy down the road due to a failure of the technology solution. The pedigree of the solution provider—the history in the market, the breadth and depth of understanding of risk management, and the stability and strategic nature of the provider—is a significant consideration and should factor heavily in your decision.

The track record of RSA Archer solutions (with both customers and industry analysts such as Gartner and Forrester) demonstrates our industry experience and continued success in meeting market requirements. RSA Archer solutions have a vibrant user community with our online community RSA Link, networking events such as RSA Charge, regional summits and user groups and more. RSA has professional services offerings from strategy planning to design to implementation to sustainability (dedicated support engineers) and a wide range of partners that can keep you moving in the right direction. RSA Archer

solutions have demonstrated success and ROI at a wide range of customers with over 1,300+ deployments worldwide.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

Selecting a technology solution to support your risk management initiatives is a critical part of your strategy. The stronger your technical approach to risk management, the higher degree of granularity you will be able to achieve when identifying, assessing and monitoring risks. This technology offers multiple benefits to your strategy, such as:

- Efficient and effective processes can be enabled via technical implementations.
- Common data taxonomies can establish an internal language around risk improving communication.
- Data consolidation and sharing can improve analytics and empirical support for your risk decisions.

Breadth across IT and business risk, solutions built on deep best practices, configurability, growth path and pedigree are critical elements of the solution provider to factor into your strategy. RSA Archer solutions empower organizations to manage multiple dimensions of risk on one configurable, integrated software platform. With RSA Archer solutions, organizations can efficiently implement risk management processes, using industry standards and best practices, to significantly improve their business risk management maturity.

Learn more about RSA Archer solutions for business risk management at rsa.com/grc.

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