

Identifying hidden risks using data analytics

Data analytics and AI webcast series

January 24, 2024



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Presenter



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- 25+ years data analytics for audit, compliance, and investigations
- Developed aci Learning's Successful Audit Analytics Courses (formerly MIS Training Institute)
- Led strategy and audit analytics implementations in the Fortune 100 through the middle market
- Passionate about the value data mining can provide to identify, quantify, and monitor risk/fraud

Concept: risk categories

Thinking differently

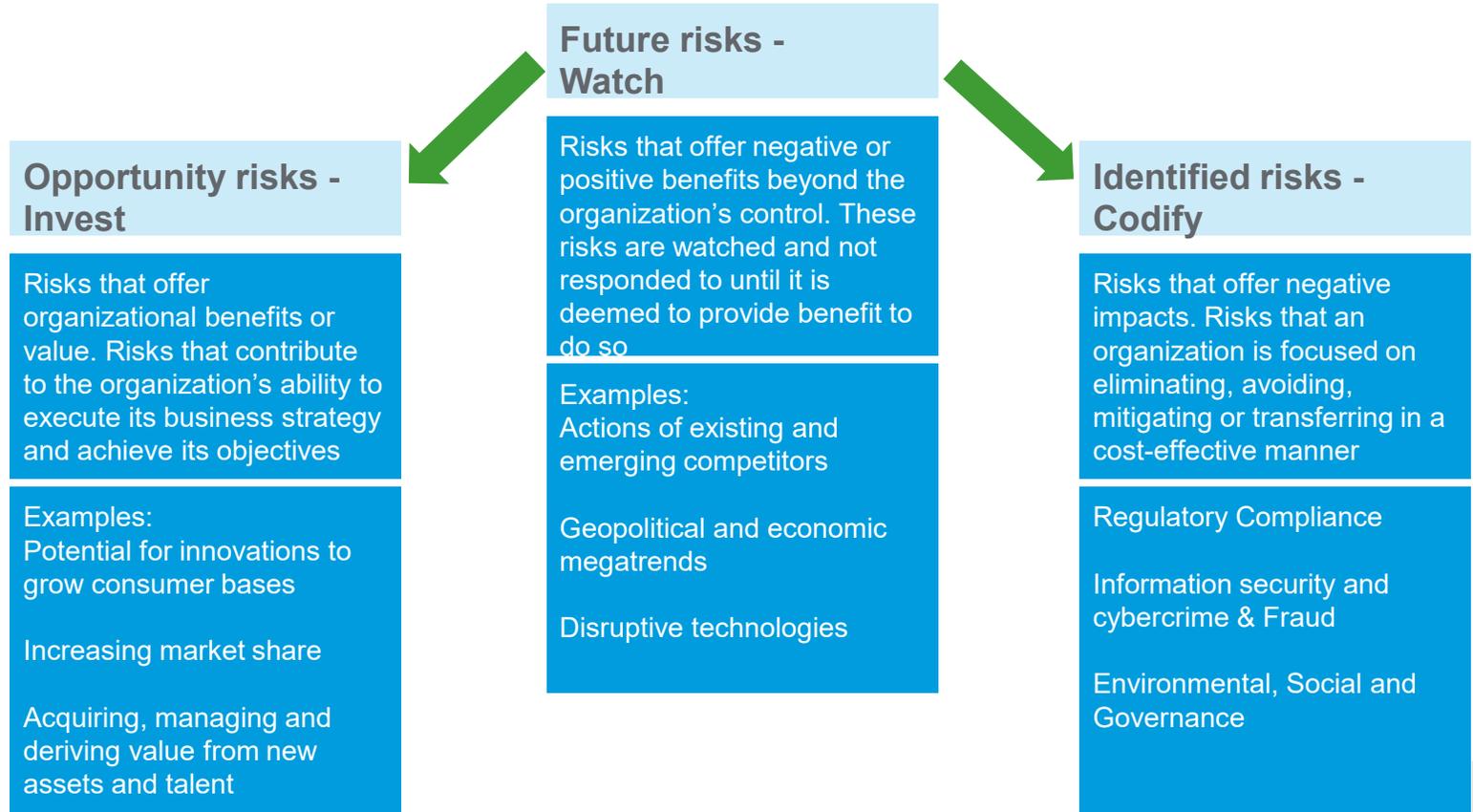
Risks generally fall into three categories and the response to each will be different. To drive organizational value a shift in focus to opportunity risk is imperative.

How does your organization identify and respond to risk?

Do you have tangible information to help you understand timing and impact?

What are our unknown unknowns?

Organization that understand the above risk categories, have efficient and effective processes to **manage identified risks**, have **information and analysis on future risks** and **invest in opportunity risks** that will perform better over time.



Concept: Three lines

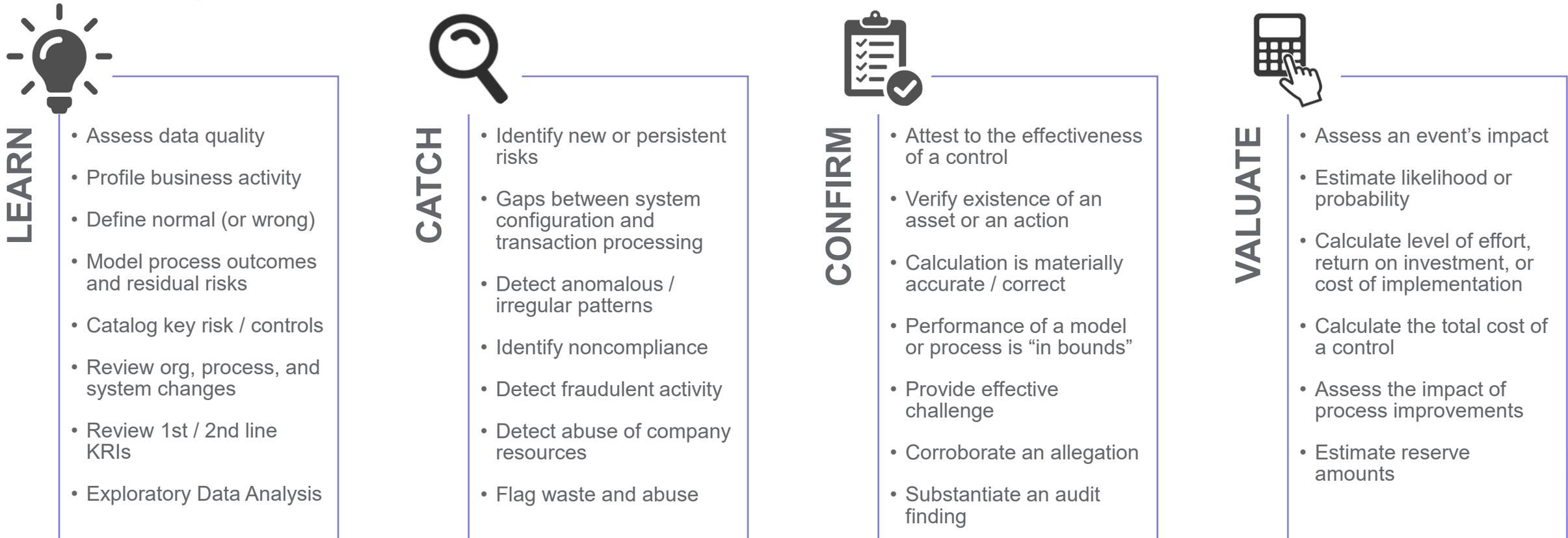
Institute of Internal Auditors

Thinking differently
 Organizations drive value through risk management by identifying and responding to risk efficiently across all three lines of defense.

Risk Takers (1st Line)		Risk Monitors (2nd Line)	Risk Assurers (3rd Line)
Operations	Support	Oversight	Assurance
Procurement	Strategy	Enterprise Risk Management	Internal Audit
Production/ Generation	Legal	Financial Controls	
Research & Development	IT	Environmental Health & Safety	
Sales Operations	Supply Chain	Security	
	Human Resources	Compliance	
	Finance/Accounting	Insurance	
	Tax		

Risk-related analytics

Risk-related analytics generally fall into four main categories



Each mode can be ad hoc, repeatable or continuous

Example library of risk-related analytics

	TE/PCARD	P2P	R2R	F2S	H2R	IT/ITGC
Ad hoc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spender / Merchant profiling • Spend near home location • Approval pattern analysis • Cardholder not active employee • Match to bank feeds • Rebate optimization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One time vendor use • Bid rigging • Out of sequence activity • Open credit memo • Redirected payments • Disbursements not through AP • Time value of money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profiling JEs by poster, approver, day, time, size, location • JE approvals within authorization limits • Fixed asset depreciation recalculation • Ratio analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRP purchase item, but in inventory • Inventory as percent of sales • Material Master review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills gaps • Health & Safety incidents • Healthcare claims • Suspicious pay changes • Unsupported time entries • Per diem abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical/physical access • Incident profiling • Application changes • SLA verification • Software licensing • Patch compliance
Repeatable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals and attendees • Unassigned corporate card transactions • Unusual lodging and airfare • Excessive meals and entertainment • Charges to miscellaneous expense categories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PO changes over time • 3-way match • Sole source hi-risk vendors • Concentrated transaction • Tolerance abuse • Posting to risky GL • Changes to high-risk vendor master fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged CIP • Assets in use beyond expected life • Unusual account posting combinations • Posting to period not near entry date • Manual posting to system account 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged finished goods • Aged WIP • Vendor managed inventory • Unusual movements to obsolete/scrap • Excessive returns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspicious work times • Off cycle payments • Excessive Overtime • Missing training records • Ghost employees • Negative PTO balances • Unauthorized HR changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backup log review • Event log review • Active Directory attribution testing • Account provisioning • Termination testing • Patch monitoring • Anti-X monitoring
Optimized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate approval • Unusual expense combinations • Unauthorized merchant/MCC • Outlier expenses and spenders • Late Expenses / Past Due • Abnormal timing between processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusual address • Payment out of country bank • Discounts not taken • Reanimated / evergreen PO • Invoice number formats • Predated / Backdates invoices • Invoices with no PO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-standard JE's, including unusual reversals and adjustments • Segments created/changed • Entries to seldom-used/dormant accounts • Entry by unexpected user ID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time in Quality Inspection • Timely inventory/cycle counts • Floor-to-Sheet and Sheet-to-Floor sampling 	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p>Utility Analytics (Cross-Audit and Process)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplicate/split transaction • Keyword search • Transactional SoD • Related parties • Outlier/extreme values • Suspicious times and dates </div>	

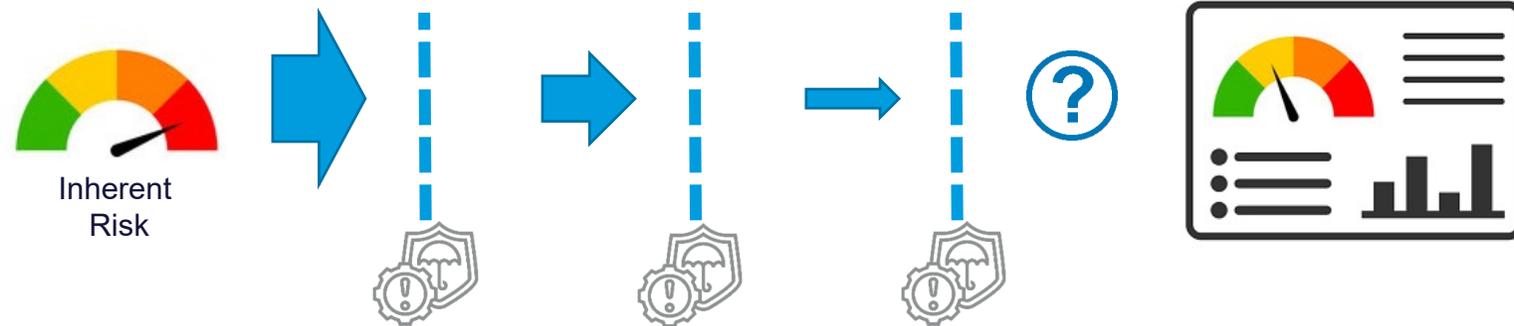
Monitoring residual risk

Internal controls are intended to reduce risk but are generally not perfect.

What if you had visibility into the residual risk after your processes passed through your internal control procedures?

Process: Payroll

Risks: Errors and Fraud



- Wrong payee
- Early/late payment
- Over/under payment
- Wrong destination (address/bank)

Internal controls

- Restricted access
- Staff Training
- Segregation of Duties
- Rate change limits
- Systematic approvals
- Expense monitoring
- Bank account verification

If these indicators reveal low residual risk, how might this effect your audit approach?

Leveraging data in a GRC platform

DATA GATHERING

Data recorded throughout the GRC/SOX risk & control testing process holds information that can be transformed into valuable insights

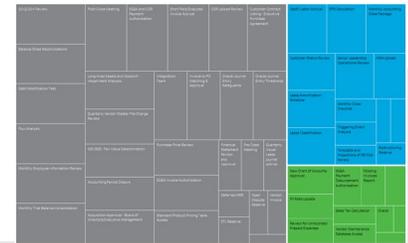
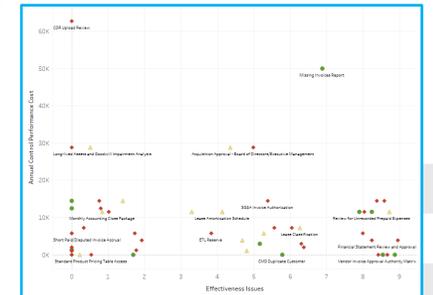
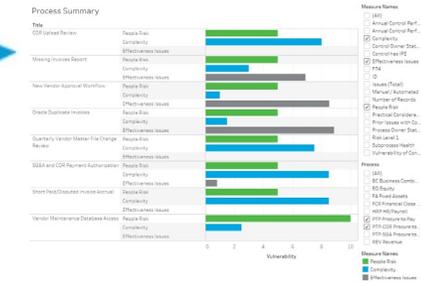
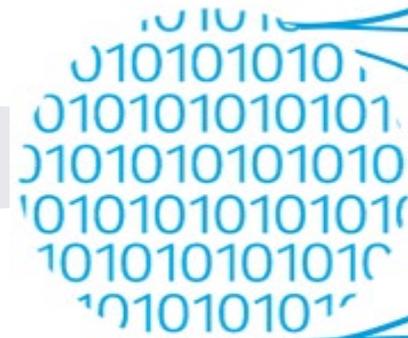
TRANSFORMATION & ANALYSIS

Extracted data is cleansed, transformed and analyzed to show YoY trends, key performance indicators and root cause details for risks and controls

RISK INSIGHTS REPORTING

Dashboard visualizations provide an executive summary view of enhanced risk and control insights

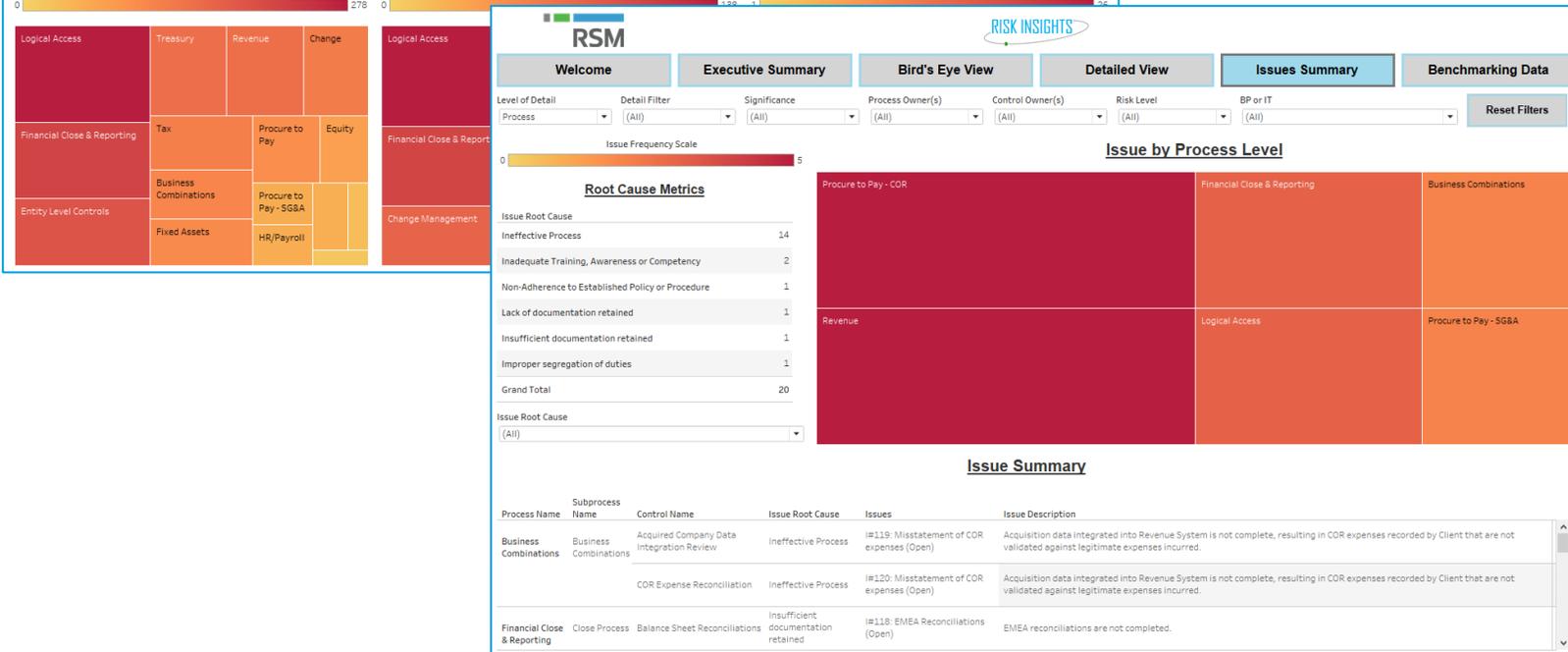
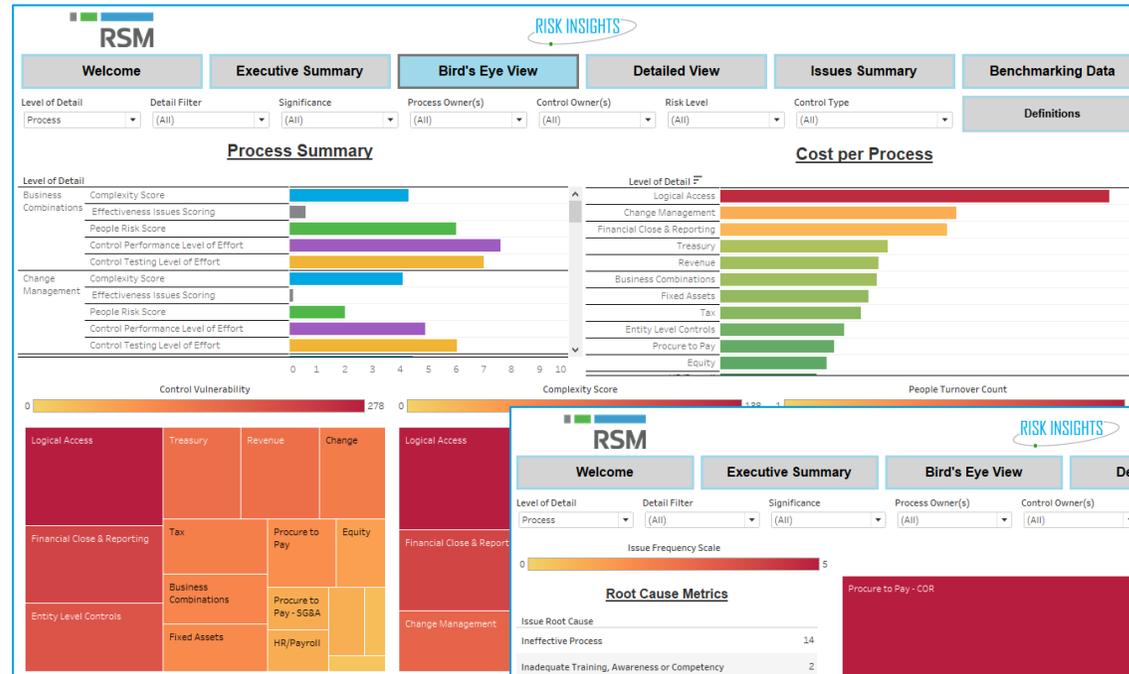
DATA FROM YOUR GRC PLATFORM



What can we learn?

Facilitates meaningful discussion around control environment optimization:

- How can complex controls be automated?
- What are the most vulnerable process areas?
- What areas have the most turnover or dependency on an individual?
- Why did controls fail this year?
- Which controls are the most costly?



Continuous risk assessment concepts

What's the difference?

Continuous monitoring:

Purpose: To ensure that business processes and controls are working as intended and to identify any anomalies or deviations from expected performance.

Focus: Mainly concerned with the operational aspects of What's the difference? an organization, such as compliance with procedures, efficiency of operations, and reliability of financial reporting.

Continuous risk assessment:

Purpose: To anticipate and respond to changes in the organization's internal and external environments that might impact its ability to achieve its objectives.

Focus: More strategic and forward-looking. Considers a variety of factors that could pose risks to the organization, including changes in market conditions, regulatory environments, technological advancements, and internal process changes.

In summary, continuous monitoring is more about ensuring current processes and controls are functioning correctly, while continuous risk assessment is about understanding and responding to current and potential future risks

Example risk indicators

Internal:

Spike in high-priority IT tickets open > 3 days for an application that has been historically stable

% turnover within management in a division differs from other divisions

Increase in customer complaints using words and phrases like “late” or “wrong product”

A control owner for several key SOX controls had a recent had a significant HR change (e.g., change in department or departure from organization)

External:

Sudden and significant increase in negative sentiment for a key business partner (based on news & social media comments)

Proposed new legislation affecting a key market segment gaining traction based on automated news analysis

The D&B credit rating of a sole-source vendor drops significantly

Key to successful continuous risk assessment: risk scoring

As you mature your data-driven risk assessment, you may ultimately find yourself monitoring hundreds of KRIs to identify items for investigation. Aggregating risk scores (by location, division, manager, customer, etc.) can help focus efforts in the riskiest areas.

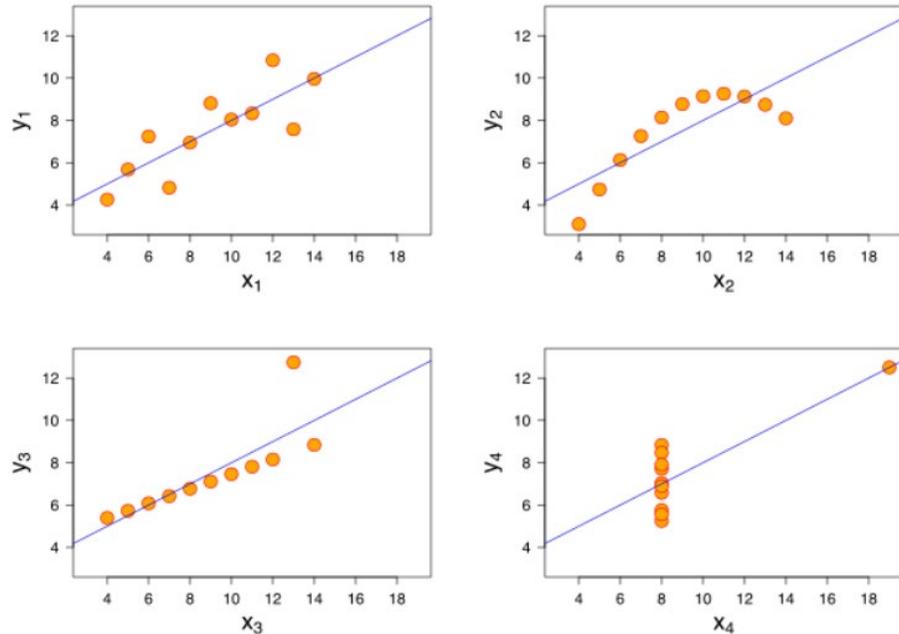
Combining:

- **Rule based analytics** such as round payments, missing fields, duplicate transactions, etc.
- **Statistical analytics** such as unusual debit/credit account combinations, abnormally high amounts for given budget line item, etc.
- **External data** such as third-party due diligence screening information.
- **Machine learning** to tailor scoring based on historical investigations.

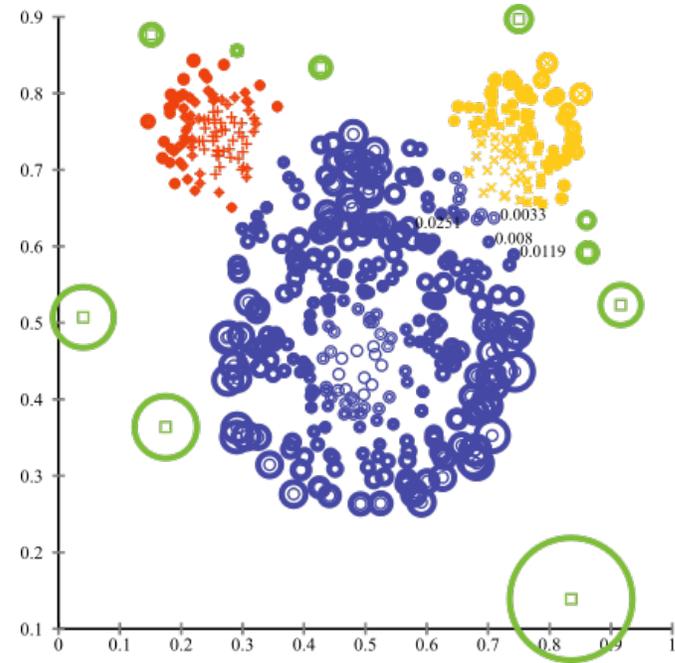


Advanced risk-related analytics

Advanced algorithms: anomaly detection using clustering



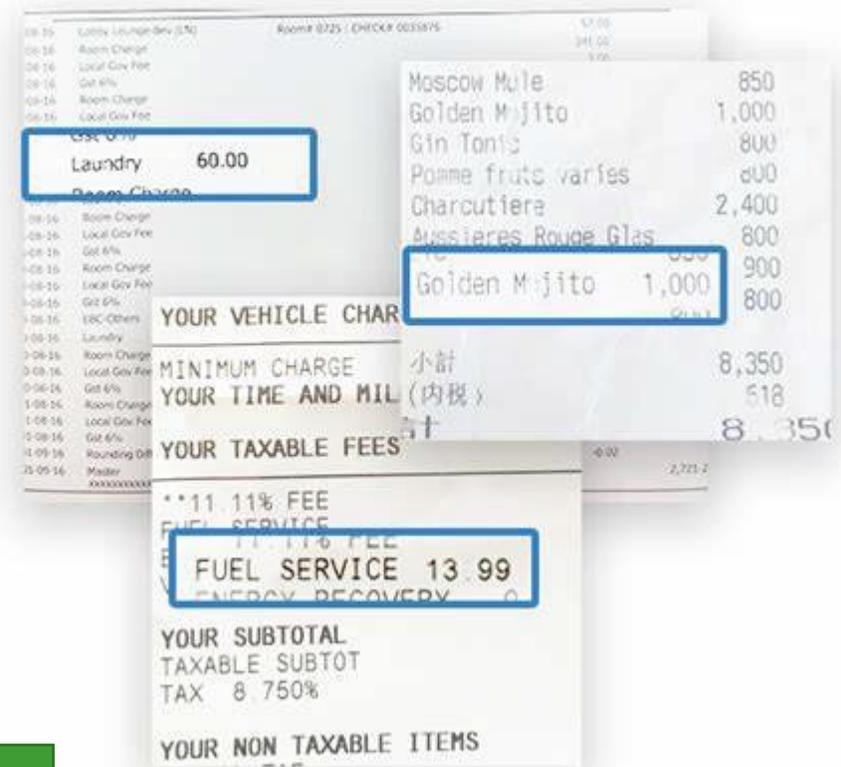
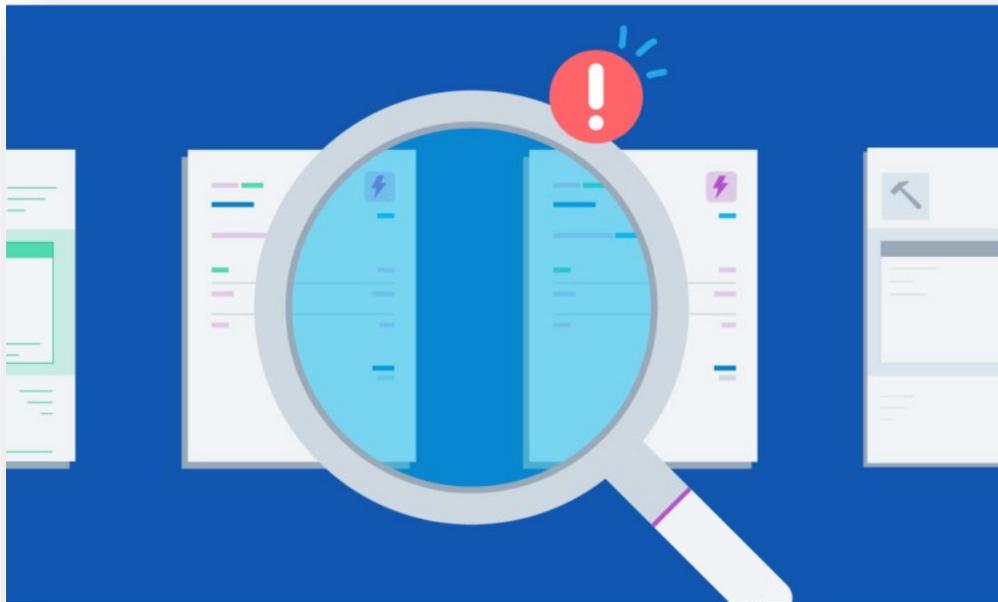
Calculating an average is so 1990s (Anscombe's quartet)



Clustering is a better way of anomaly detection

Computer vision for compliance violations and fraud detection

Integrating technology with AI and computer vision in an organization’s T&E process can help detect issues that would often be missed, such as reimbursement for duplicative invoices or unauthorized line items.



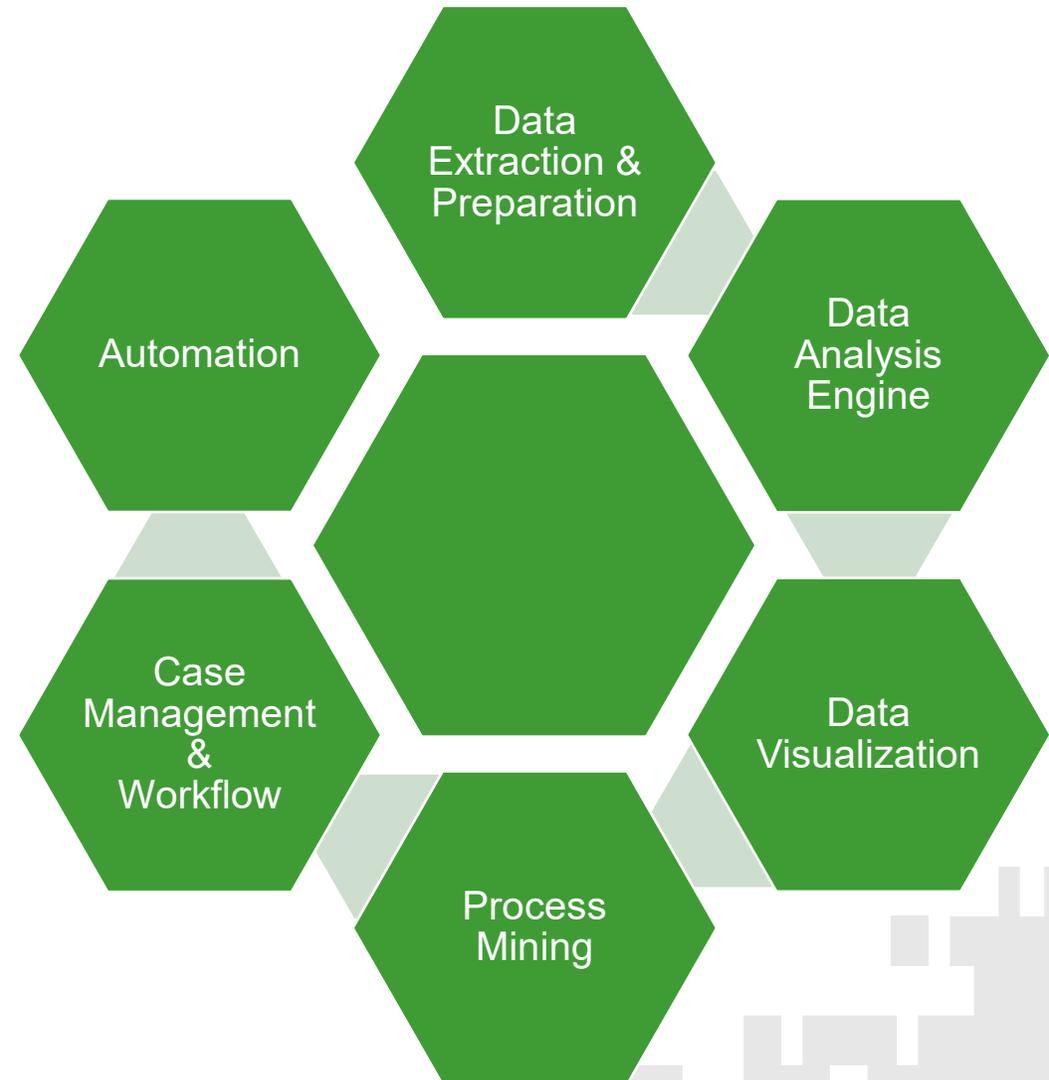
In more advanced use cases, AI and ML could even compare receipt amounts to prices listed on a menu or website

Technology considerations

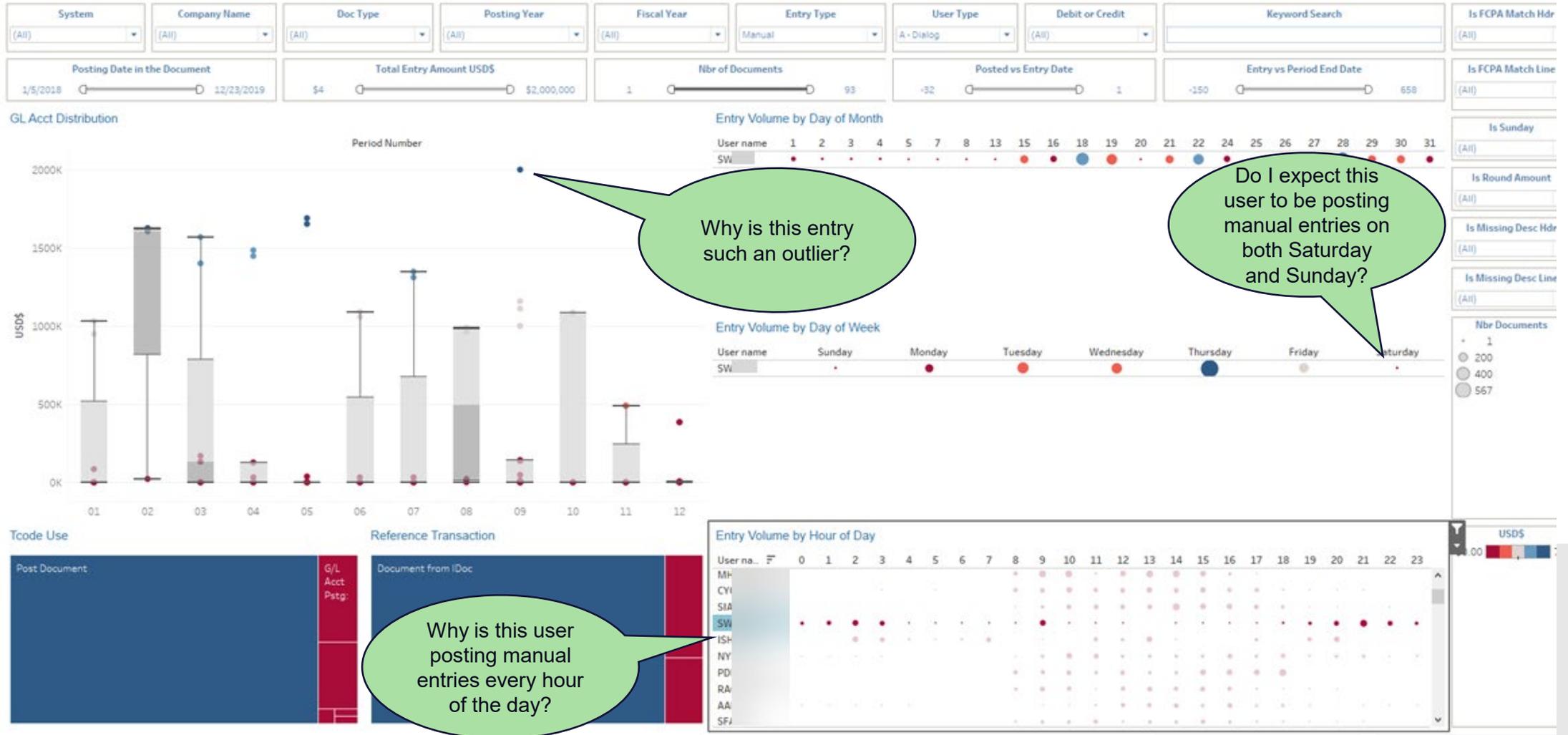
The risk analytics toolbox

Like a “normal” toolbox:

- Each category of tool serves a different purpose
- Inexpensive tools may get you started, but there’s usually a reason some tools cost more than others
- The tools you need depend on what you’re trying to accomplish
 - But for those of you who are frugal-minded, just because you “can” pound a nail with the back of a screwdriver doesn’t mean you “should”



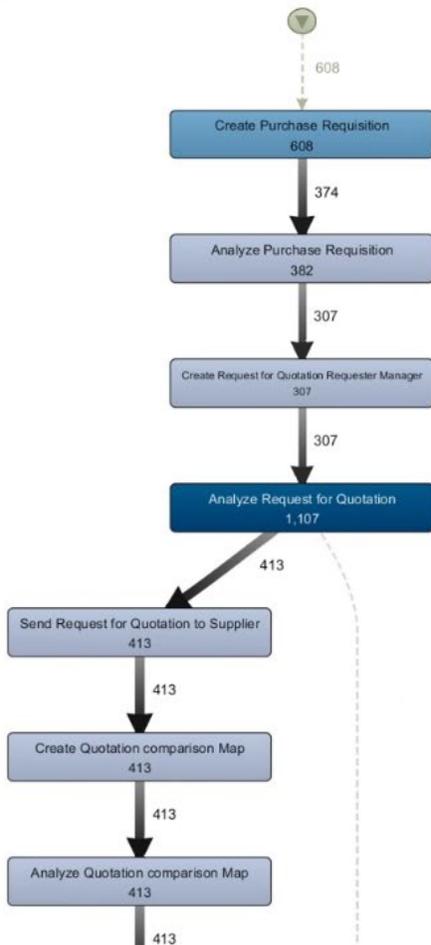
Data visualization can help spot risks



Process mining helps visualize risk specific to the process flow

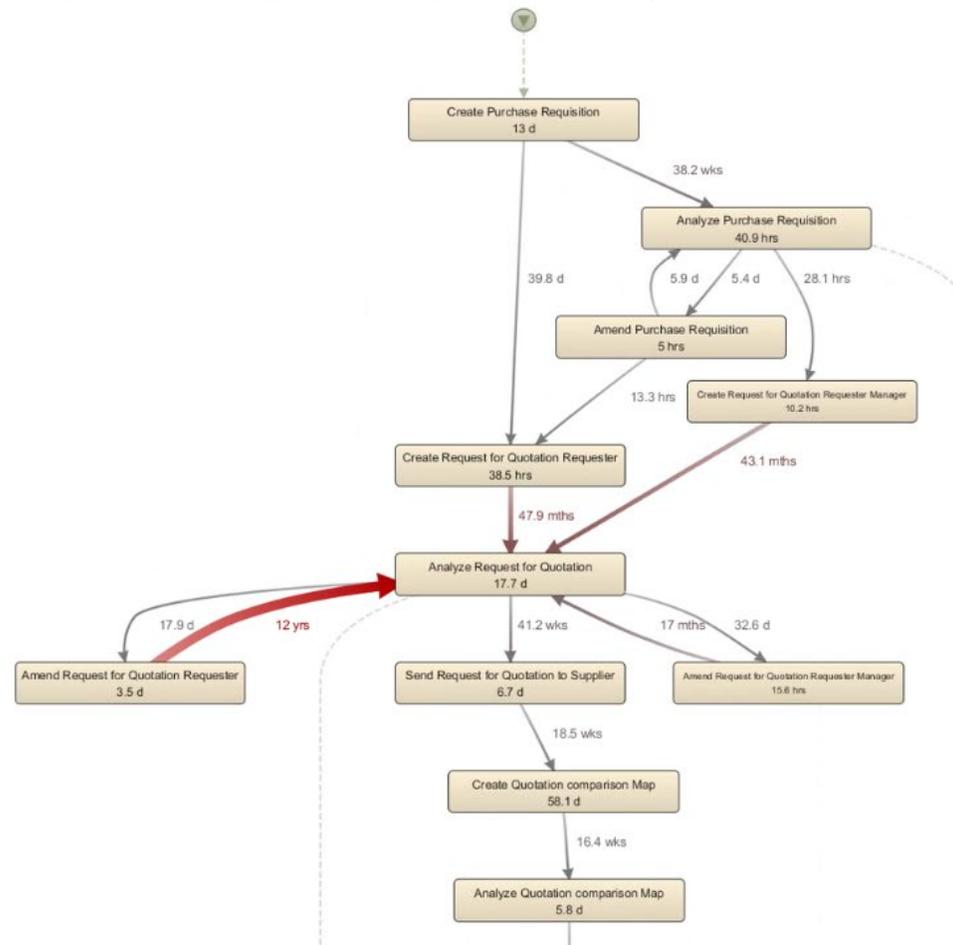
Ideal process

(what process owner usually has in mind)



Real process

(deviations, bottlenecks, etc.)



Event logs containing an event ID, timestamp, user ID/role can reveal the true nature of a business process

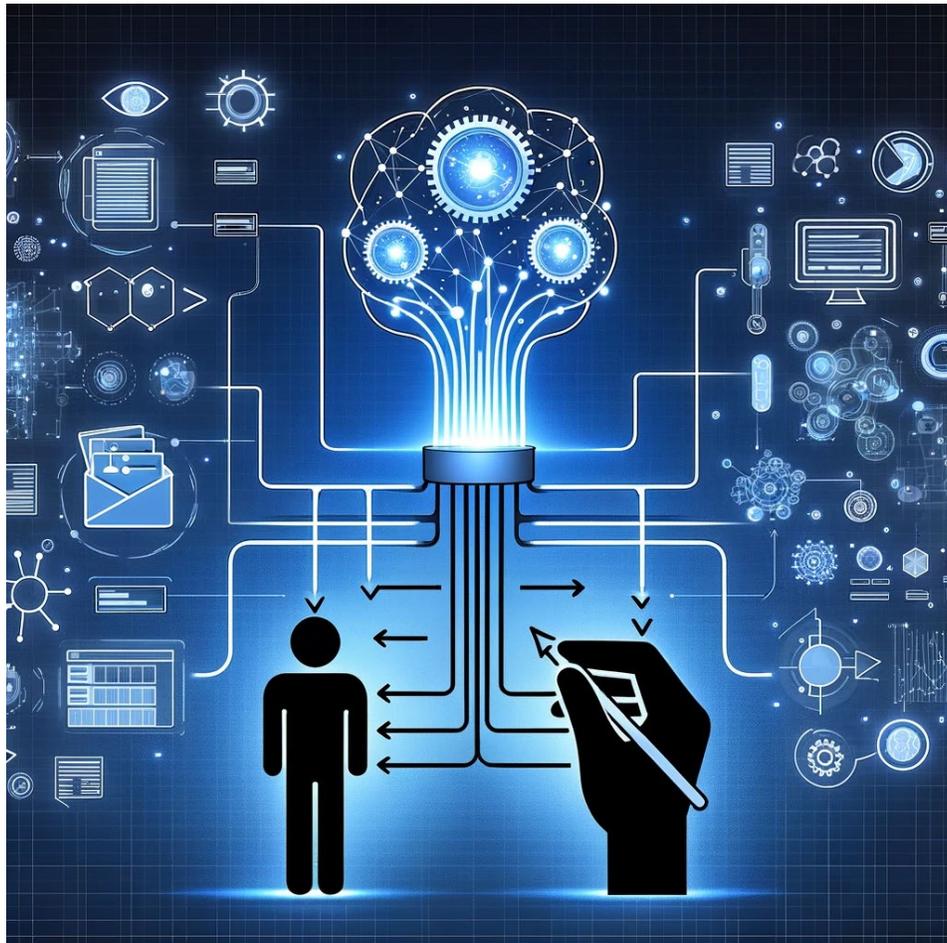
Process mining may show that actual process activity does not align with management's impression of how they think the process works

Discover Hidden or Emerging Risks

What process deviations don't we know about?

Is the process changing or getting more complex over time?

Case management and workflow set the foundation for AI



By routing suspected transactions/risks to the right people for analysis, you:

- Set the stage for taking action on risks closer to real-time
- Begin to differentiate between expected and unexpected risks
- Create a history of “tagged” cases

This data can now be used to feed machine learning algorithms to further improve your risk identification, quantification, and monitoring

Automatically generated reports reduce manual effort

Process Area	Control Description	Conclusion	Table Extract Date
Source to Pay (STP)	Duplicate Invoice Check has been enabled.	Exception Noted	08-21-2023

Test	Attribute Name	Pass	Fail
1	Check company code configured	7	0
2	Check invoice date configured	7	0
3	Check reference number configured	7	0
4	Flag for double invoices or credit memos enabled	20,044	8,539
5	Error messages properly configured	0	4
6	Double invoice validation field set to required	0	8

Company	Account	Check	Attribute 4	A4 Field Tested	A4 Field Tested (Description)
1000	0000404105	X	Pass	LFB1_REPRF	Check Flag for Double Invoices or
1000	0000404167	X	Pass	LFB1_REPRF	Check Flag for Double Invoices or
1000	0000404382	X	Pass	LFB1_REPRF	Check Flag for Double Invoices or
1000	0001000743	X	Pass	LFB1_REPRF	Check Flag for Double Invoices or
1000	0001015021		Fail	LFB1_REPRF	Check Flag for Double Invoices or
1000	IC1010		Fail	LFB1_REPRF	Check Flag for Double Invoices or

Example RPA/automation use cases

IT risk

Business risk

Compliance risk

Reusable task bots can be leveraged to perform manual, repetitive and time-consuming tasks. Examples include:



Task Automation
Assists a person in performing repetitive tasks

Tasks that have....

- Clear (yes/no) business rules
- Structured data
- Clearly defined steps/can be documented

- Data Comparison Utilities/Report Validation (e.g., compare two snapshots of the same parameter file or security report)
- Evidence Collection (e.g., collect data to support IT audits)
- Data Cleansing/Data Wrangling

- Collect data from publically available sources (e.g., interest rates) for audit procedures
- Audit workpaper preparations
- Issues management and reporting
- Resource Management
- Budget vs. Actual comparison

- Creation or Roll Forward of Audit Testing Lead Sheets
- Evidence Collection
- Reporting
- Continuous Monitoring and Testing
- Take Screenshot of evidence

Process bots can be leveraged to supplement human labor. Focusing human talent on more value added activities



Process Automation
Automates all or part of an end-to-end process

End to end audit and controls process that have...

- Clear (yes/no) business rules
- Structured data
- Clearly defined steps/can be documented

- IT Application Controls Validation (e.g., 3-way match configuration controls, UARs, change control)
- Database and O/S Compliance Monitoring
- IT Controls Performance (e.g., UAR)
- ITGC Testing (e.g. Change Mgt.)
- IT Configuration Testing

- Manual journal entry Invoice testing (data extraction, evidence collection, completeness and accuracy validation, workpaper creation)
- Reconciliation control performance
- Revenue recognition controls performance (reconciliation of shipment information vs carrier website data)

- AML Compliance Automation
 - OFAC Search and Update
 - 314 Listing
 - World Check Search
 - Negative News Search
- Insurance Compliance Reporting

Bots that can be leveraged to perform activities that require some level of judgment



Intelligent Automation
Learns and thinks like a person

A combination of technologies that...

- Extends basic automation capabilities
- Works with Unstructured and semi-structured data
- Requires capabilities outside of traditional RPA (e.g., AI, NLP, etc.)

- Conversion of unstructured or semi-structured scanned PDF documents to structured text that can be further processed and/or analyzed (e.g., change management evidence)

- Conversion of unstructured or semi-structured scanned PDF documents to structured text that can be further processed and/or analyzed (e.g., vendor invoices)

- Similar use cases plus....
- Contract review/key word search
- Fair lending analysis and reporting

RPA/Automation can drive improvements by enhancing the quality, accelerating the speed and expanding the coverage of risk processes.

Ultimate goal: risk and regulatory compliance platform

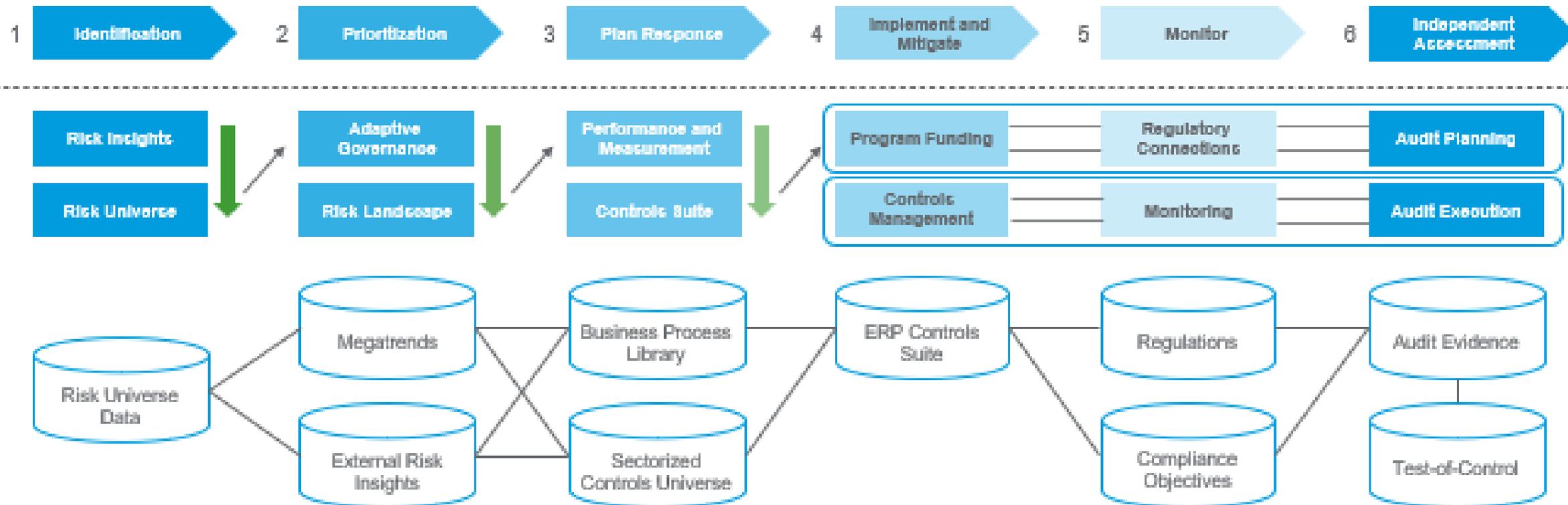
Linking systems and data management (APIs, GRC platforms and aspirations)

Connectivity Across the Lines-of-Defense

The real power of Risk and Compliance Management will be interconnectivity between existing GRC systems. There is currently no strong connection between identification of the different types of risk and the existing GRC programs that manage controls downstream:

Areas of Connectivity Needed

1. Connect Risk Landscape to external insights and perspectives.
2. Connect Risk Landscape to Controls Platform dynamically
3. Connect Monitoring Systems to Audit & Compliance tools



Key goals of a valued risk and regulatory compliance function

Horizon scanning

Create the ability to look into the future and identify risk and regulatory compliance that will impact the organization.

Provide information

Bring relevant insight to executive management about risks and regulatory compliance needs for better decision-making processes.

Response

Have systems and processes and technology in place that allow for an efficient and effective response to risk and regulatory compliance needs.

Analytics

Build the capability to take unstructured and structured internal and external data sources to determine cause and effect relationships for management.

Culture

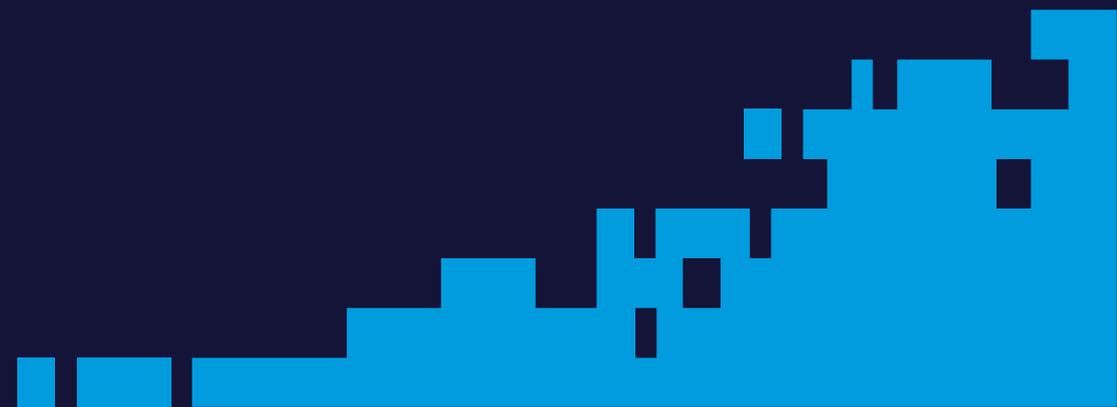
Create a risk management culture that instill efficient embedded activities into business processes to manage risk and regulatory compliance.

Communication/reporting

Create a cascading communication system that provides the right amount of detail at each level of management while providing drill down capability.

Wrap up and Q&A

Thank you





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