



# ROBOTIC RELIEF

QUANTIFYING THE VALUE OF  
RPA FOR RISK MANAGEMENT

HOW CAN ROBOTIC PROCESS AUTOMATION  
BENEFIT YOUR ORGANIZATION?

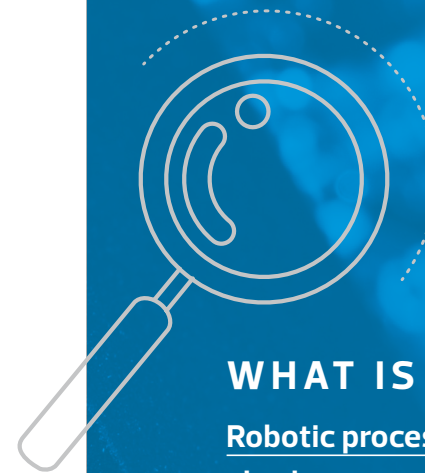
# ➤ Automation is essential

The last decade has seen exponential growth in the number of laws, regulations, social issues and other factors that must be considered as part of an organization's risk management and compliance processes.

While software tools are becoming more prevalent for managing risk and compliance workflow and documentation, in many organizations risk management and compliance activities still involve manual activities and rely on disparate systems with disconnected data. This environment undermines efficiency and visibility, and may introduce audit and compliance risks.

Robotic process automation (RPA) for risk management can dramatically shrink manual work, building faster and more reliable processes. RPA is widely used at many companies and can deliver great benefits, but adoption often lags in middle market companies. At the same time, RPA use cases are often focused on traditional high-volume business processes and rarely involve risk management and compliance. This isn't for lack of applicability, but rather lack of consideration.

This guide offers insights on how broaden the use of RPA to improve risk management efficiency and capabilities.



## WHAT IS RPA?

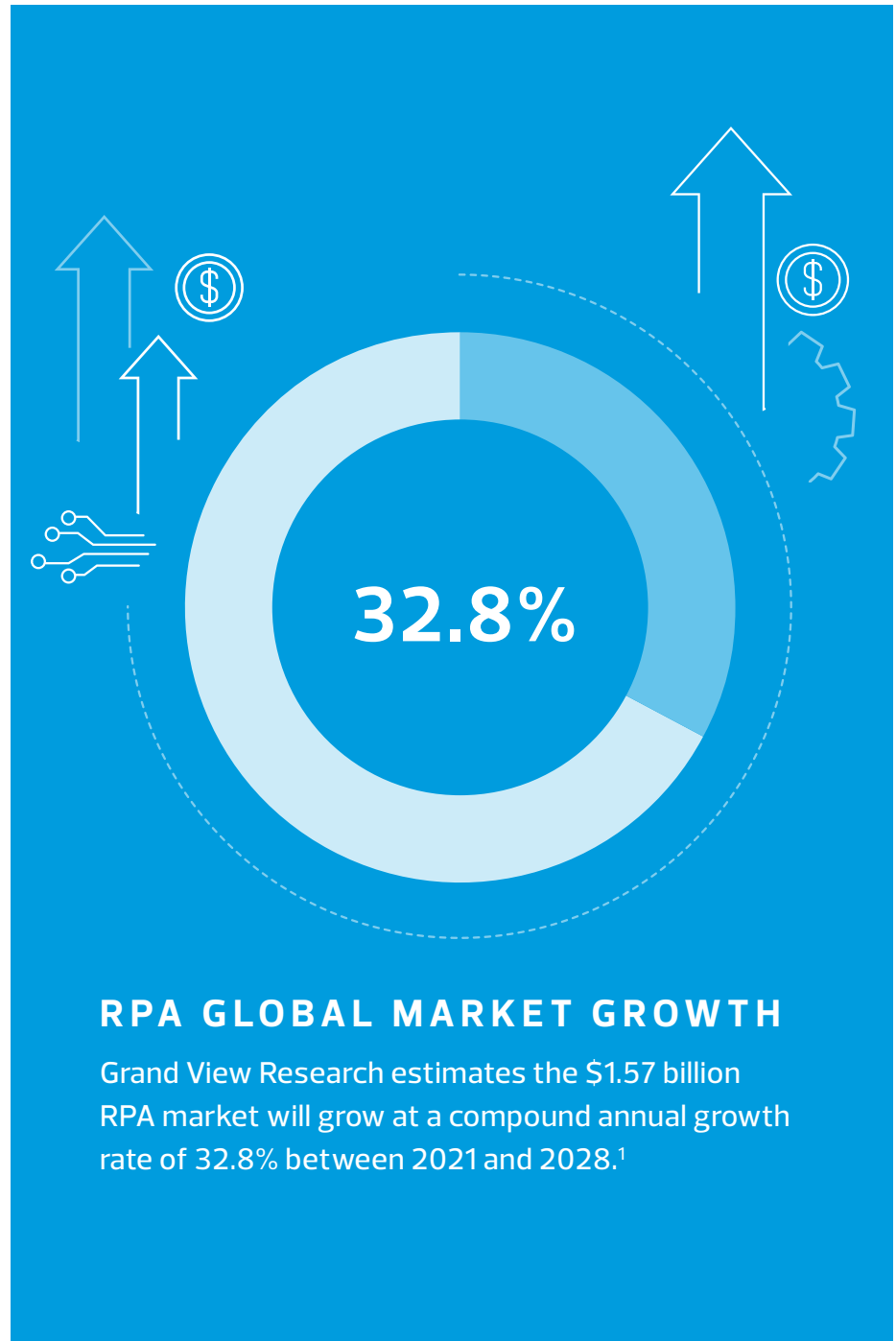
Robotic process automation, also known as software-driven automation, employs software robots to complete structured, repeatable and logic-based tasks by mimicking the actions, including keystrokes and mouse clicks, taken by people.

## ➤ Cost savings and agility benefits

Audit and compliance present enormous challenges. Manual tasks slow these processes and, combined with turnover, can cause inconsistencies and costly errors. As a result, a growing number of organizations are turning to RPA to make compliance-related tasks more efficient, while increasing the effectiveness of these activities by generating more timely output, since software bots don't take vacations or mind working on holidays. This helps reduce the overall cost of compliance—especially when combined with third-party outsourcing or co-sourcing options.

With an outsourcing/co-sourcing approach, organizations can be more agile and flexible by scaling staffing as needed. They can gain access to advanced technology platforms, which are purchased and maintained by the third party, that deliver real-time visibility into events while automating tedious manual processes. You can also free up time and capital from constantly hiring, training and maintaining staff.

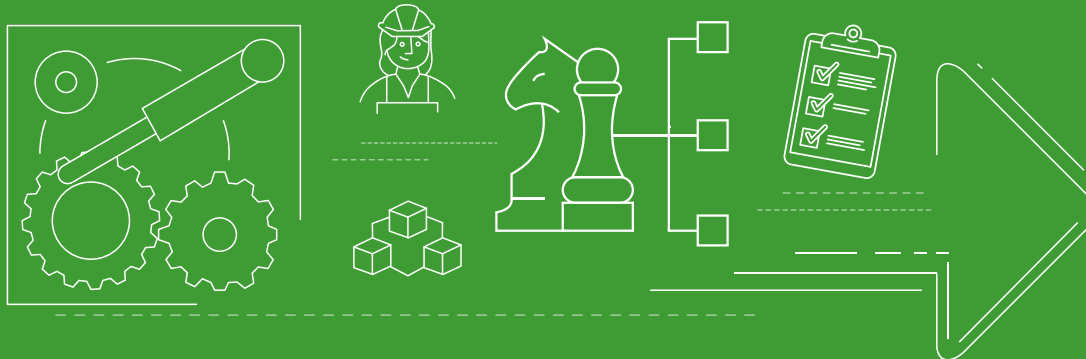
<sup>1</sup>Grand View Research, *Robotic Process Automation Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report by Type, by Service, by Application, by Deployment, by Region, and Segment Forecasts*, 2021–2028, April 2021



## USE CASE

# Optimizing resources for Sarbanes-Oxley testing

Automated testing can prove transformative for risk management. It drastically reduces—and in some cases eliminates—manual processes. For example, one organization we recently worked with automated its Sarbanes-Oxley testing to trim several hundred hours of manual work. Another is now saving thousands of dollars per audit cycle—while improving risk management with more frequent testing through automation and detecting problems early before they snowball.



## OUTCOME

When companies reduce or eliminate manual tasks, staff can use that saved time to tackle more strategic work. It's also easier to achieve continuous innovation and ensure there are no gaps in compliance processes.

### Sarbanes-Oxley compliance services



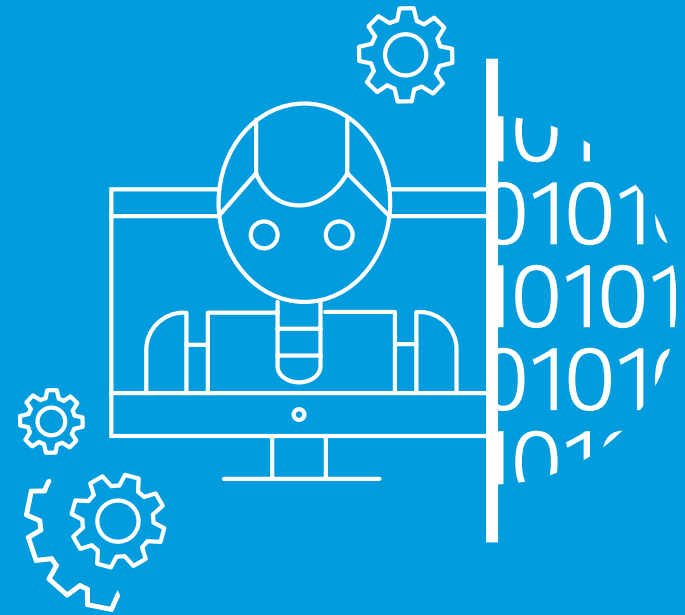
RSM offers a sustainable, top-down, risk-based Sarbanes-Oxley compliance program that can be leveraged to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

[Learn more.](#)

## ➤ Data and insights drive success

Data analytics offer a window into compliance events and processes. Ideally, they reveal outcomes and trends that can point to emerging changes in risk and lead to better controls and improved risk mitigation. A more automated audit and compliance environment allows organizations to aggregate the data from disparate systems and use it to refine and adjust practices across the enterprise.

What's more, all of this data can be made accessible through easy-to-use dashboards. When an organization has the right data available and understands how to apply it through risk analytics, it can create sustainable processes that can identify, quantify and monitor risk and thus dramatically improve compliance and overall risk management.



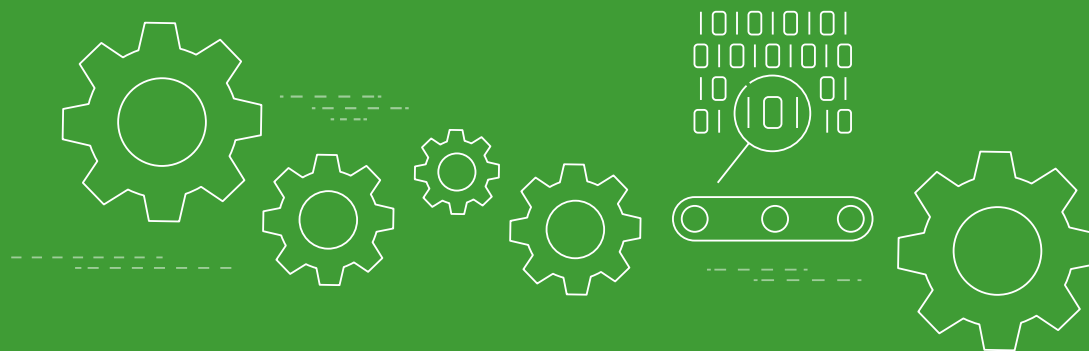
### DETECTING THE UNDETECTABLE

RPA transforms disconnected processes into structured, repeatable and manageable operations without disturbing critical business activities. Bots and machine learning have the ability to see patterns across massive quantities of data—and never need a break—so RPA can deliver insights that might otherwise go undetected.

## USE CASE

# A rapid, automated review of business entities

A financial services organization had compliance concerns related to several entities it does business with. In the past, the firm relied on staff to search various news and business-tracking sites to identify third-party risk—a process that could take weeks and was prone to human error. Subsequently, the firm deployed an application that uses natural language processing to scrape these websites, along with others that weren't practical during manual review.



## OUTCOME

These AI bots now collect a wealth of data about various strategic entities. The company conducts rapid assessments of these entities and better understands underlying market sentiment, allowing it to react quickly when sentiment starts to trend negatively. This process takes place in just hours, not weeks, with far better results.

### Third-party risk assessment services

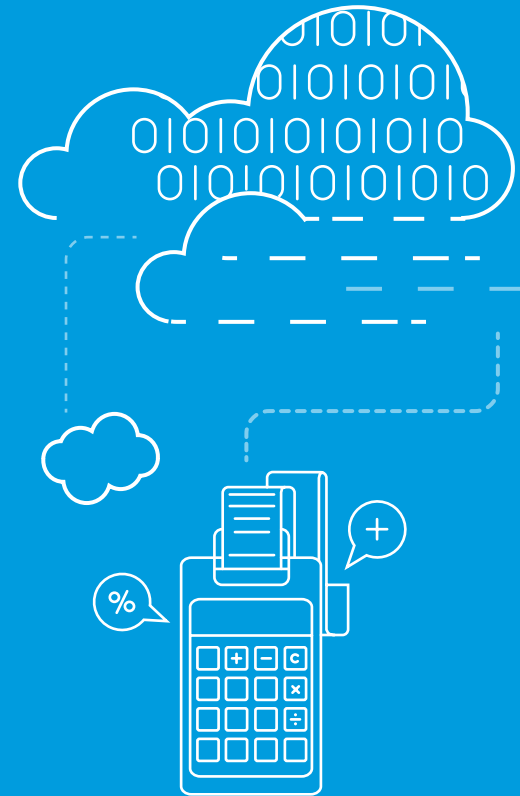
RSM can customize a disciplined approach to third-party risk management. [Learn more.](#)



## ➤ Blazing a path to better risk management

When organizations adopt RPA for risk management, tailor it to their goals and values, and support it with effective outsourcing and co-sourcing, they become better positioned to build out a compliance framework that can keep up with today's business needs.

Most importantly, organizations can use these strategies to reduce errors and lower risk. Yet, other benefits also accrue. Because this framework is highly scalable, skill and leadership gaps largely disappear. Since the risk management automation framework is always on, it can also greatly improve visibility into real-time changes in risk. Finally, internal audits can serve as an ongoing and always up-to-date resource, rather than a periodic static report.



### **AUDITOR ASSISTANT: INTERNAL AUDIT SOFTWARE**

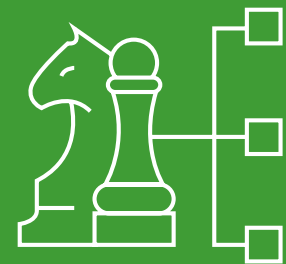
RSM's cloud-based software can help increase productivity, efficiency and standardization throughout the audit process.

[Learn more.](#)

## USE CASE

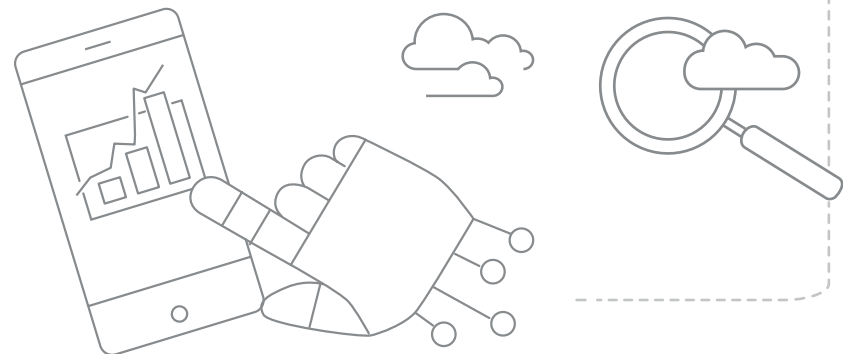
# Machine learning improves risk assessments

At a leading global bank, operational control owners categorize and enter risks into a centralized registry. Given the potential for human error in determining the level of a given risk, the bank uses machine learning to help predict risk classifications recorded by a system user. The system identifies any discrepancies between the predictive technology and the user inputs, providing an explanation of why that prediction was made. The user then has the opportunity to update the risk level in the system.



## OUTCOME

By applying machine learning to risk level assessments, the bank has been able to record more precise risk classifications, improve their risk response and obtain the appropriate risk resources.





RPA can transform the risk management function from a cost center with reactive processes to a proactive contributor of strategic value.

Not only does automation make programs more effective, it also provides business insights that enable a more strategic approach to managing risk.

RSM can provide both the technology tools and the business knowledge needed to find the right risk management solution for your unique organization.

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