

# EMA Market Research Study



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## Governance, Risk, Compliance and Beyond: The Emergence of Strategic IT Risk Management

by Scott Cranford, Research Director, Security and Risk Management Practice

In recent years, the number and range of risks facing IT has exploded. From business malfeasance and insider risks to new and more malicious classes of security attacks, enterprises are challenged as never before to contain threats to critical information resources. The introduction of numerous regulatory and industry compliance measures has raised the challenge to the level of mandate: businesses must adopt a more consistent and comprehensive approach to IT governance. In each of these demands, a consistent theme is heard with increasing urgency: the enterprise must take a more strategic approach to IT risk management.

In today's technology-dependent enterprise, business risk managers increasingly recognize that IT controls are often the key to the management of a wide range of operational risks. Conversely, information technologists are embracing risk management practices in the management of business-critical information resources by:

- Taking a disciplined approach to IT control objectives in domains ranging from performance, availability, configuration, and change management to business risk, trust, and security controls
- Applying objective metrics for the measurement of IT risk control effectiveness
- Merging workflow and content management with policy and best-practices frameworks to help develop the consensus needed to establish governance and risk management policies and priorities

In this groundbreaking August 2007 report, Enterprise Management Associates (EMA) defines a new initiative arising to address this challenge: *Strategic IT Risk Management*. Strategic IT Risk Management seeks to unify siloed approaches to managing security, business, technology, and trust risks in IT, and to align them with strategic business objectives in ways that enable the enterprise to consistently manage and measure their control.

This report takes a look at the evolution of Strategic IT Risk Management and how it seeks to transcend silos of technology, process, and culture to provide the insight and control essential to managing risk strategy. It also examines the convergence of key technologies in multiple market segments, with a look at how they are building increasing maturity in layers of more comprehensive scope and capability.

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*Putting a Strategic  
IT Risk Management  
program into place can  
provide substantial  
benefits for the enterprise,  
not only in controlling  
threats to critical IT  
services, but also in  
giving the business a  
stronger competitive edge  
through more effective  
technology discipline.*

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# EMA Market Research Study

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Introduction

Background and Context: The Evolution of IT Risk Management

IT Management Is Risk Management

Driving the Trend: Security and Regulatory Compliance

Converging on Goals: Risk Management as the Objective...

...with IT Governance as the Means of Control

The Rise of GRC Platforms

What Does “Strategic” Risk Management Mean in IT?

Strategic Management vs. Strategic Risk

Strategic IT Risk Management and the Scope of This Report

What are the Challenges that Strategic IT Risk Management is arising to Address?

Senior Management Risk Visibility Is Often Blurred Across Silos and Through Layers

IT Operations Struggles to Rationalize Multiple Views of Criticality

Complexity and Proliferation of Technology Point Solutions

“Three P’s” Are Key: Policy, Process and Procedure

Strategic IT Risk Management Lifecycle

Strategic IT Risk Management Scope and Functionality

Qualifying the Landscape: Layers and Segments

The Four Layers of Strategic IT Risk Management

Strategic IT Risk Management Market Segmentation

IT Service, Operations and Security Management

Security Management

IT Service Management and Business Service Management

Information Management

The CMDB

“Next-Generation” Asset Management

Data Protection, Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity

Project Portfolio Management

Identity and Access Management

Configuration Audit and Control

Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)

Content Risk Management

Database Governance and Risk Management

IT Security Risk Management

Further Consolidation Likely

Policy Compliance and IT GRC Systems

Business and Financial GRC with IT Governance or IT GRC Modules

Enterprise Application Platforms and Integrators

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Looking Forward: The Future of Strategic IT Risk Management

Advances in the Automation of IT Management

The Evolution of IT Risk Metrics

Increasing Relationships between IT, Business and Financial Risk Management

Business Intelligence (BI) and Enterprise Decision Management (EDM)

Modeling and Enterprise Architecture

EMA's Perspective

Challenges Facing Strategic IT Risk Management

Lack of Maturity in IT Management

Lack of Consensus Among Stakeholders

Lack of Consensus on "Acceptable" IT Risk

Recommendations

Make the Most of Shared Opportunities

More Than Cooperation, Active Participation among Stakeholders Is Vital

Consensus Must Be Grounded in Reality

Make Room for Agility in Responding to Rapidly Changing Perceptions of Risk

Toward IT Risk Management Maturity

## About EMA

Enterprise Management Associates (EMA) is a leading industry analyst and consulting firm dedicated to the IT Management market. We provide IT vendors and enterprise IT professionals with objective insight into the real-world business value of technologies ranging from Security and Risk Management to SLM to CMDB. Learn more about our research services, our free online IT Management Solutions Center, and our IT consulting offerings at: [www.enterprisemanagement.com](http://www.enterprisemanagement.com)