

Cloudy Wednesday: How to Manage Cloud Risk

Welcome to Cloudy Wednesday. Every Wednesday, Evolving Solutions will focus on the latest news and information on cloud computing.

Building a GRC (governance, risk and compliance) program is one of the most important parts of creating a cloud security strategy. Ben Tomhave, in his article “How to Manage Cloud Risk” on CRN explains the five keys areas companies should leverage to create a robust GRC program.

1. **Survivability Strategy & Legal Defensibility:** Overall, a move to cloud-based services should include a new legal analysis of the liability exposure, along with a new strategic outlook that puts a premium on networked systems survivability.
2. **Formalized Methods:** It’s becoming vital that decision methodology and security practices be clearly documented and understood. It’s also imperative that environment visibility be maintained and that key metrics be defined and actively tracked.
3. **Policies 2.0:** Policies should map each policy requirement to a control requirement, which in turn should be mapped to a regulatory or business objective. The policy framework structure should be as lightweight as possible to improve comprehension by those subject to it.
4. **Enhanced Training & Awareness:** If a training and awareness program doesn’t help connect people to the rationale and importance of a policy, then it’s not going to win buy-in, and won’t improve decisions that have an impact on security.

Companies should re-evaluate programs so they educate personnel on expected behavior and improving the connection between peoples’ actions and the impact.

5. **Audit & Quality, Beyond Checkboxes:** The effectiveness of an audit routine is directly tied to the usefulness of the questions asked and the data generated. Tying audit and quality management to specific requirements, assets and objectives will create opportunities for improved visibility into practices, which will improve the organization’s ability to more effectively manage risk.

Written for Evolving Solutions, an IT Consulting and Services company. This post is no longer on their blog.