
Governance of Identity and Access

Governance addresses the proper management of organizations. It is a structure of relationships and processes that control the enterprise to achieve its goals while balancing risk versus return.

Governance of Identity and Access Management sustains alignment of Business, Operations, Technology and Compliance objectives to appropriately mitigate risk and derive tangible value from a cross-functional IAM discipline.

What's covered?

- Identification of key stakeholders with authority to advance a broad IAM vision
- Centralized prioritization and alignment of key objectives
- Secure funding required to advance IAM directives
- Sanctioning cross-functional IAM-related Policy, Process and Procedures
- Program Orchestration across multiple, related initiatives
- Defining and managing metrics
- Authority to enable significant cross-functional change

Capabilities include

- Business-to-Information Security Alignment
- Business Risk Identification
- Communication Planning
- Security Strategy
- Security Policy Framework
- Security Architecture
- Define IAM Stakeholder Roles, Organizing Model and Relationships

Governance structures align executive focus and endorsement vital for cross-functional initiatives such as Identity and Access Management

By adopting a standard governance framework, such as the Control Objectives for Information and related Technology (COBIT), enterprises realize a number of key benefits:

- The Wheel Exists: Time is a precious commodity. Why spend all of it developing a framework based on limited experience when internationally developed standards already exist.
- Structured: The framework of models provides an excellent structure that organizations can follow helping everyone to be on the same page because they can visualize what is expected.
- Best Practices: The standards have been developed over time and assessed by hundreds of people from organizations across the globe. The cumulative years of experience reflected in the models can not be matched by a single organization.
- Knowledge Sharing: By following standards, people can share ideas between organizations, benefit from user groups, websites, books etc. Company-specific approaches do not offer this vast perspective.
- Auditable: Without standards, it becomes far more difficult for auditors to effectively assess control.

Risks of not having an effective Governance structure:

- Competing and conflicting priorities with no demonstrable progress
- As-is complexity may remain until a clear, unified vision is established
- Lack of executive interest or funding