



Security's Secret Weapon: Compliance as a Security Accelerator

Transforming SOC 2 and ISO 27001 into Real-World Defense

Hosted by MSECB

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- 20 years in cybersecurity, risk, and compliance
- Leads security & GRC at Calendly
- Expert in scaling security programs
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- 20+ years in cybersecurity and assurance
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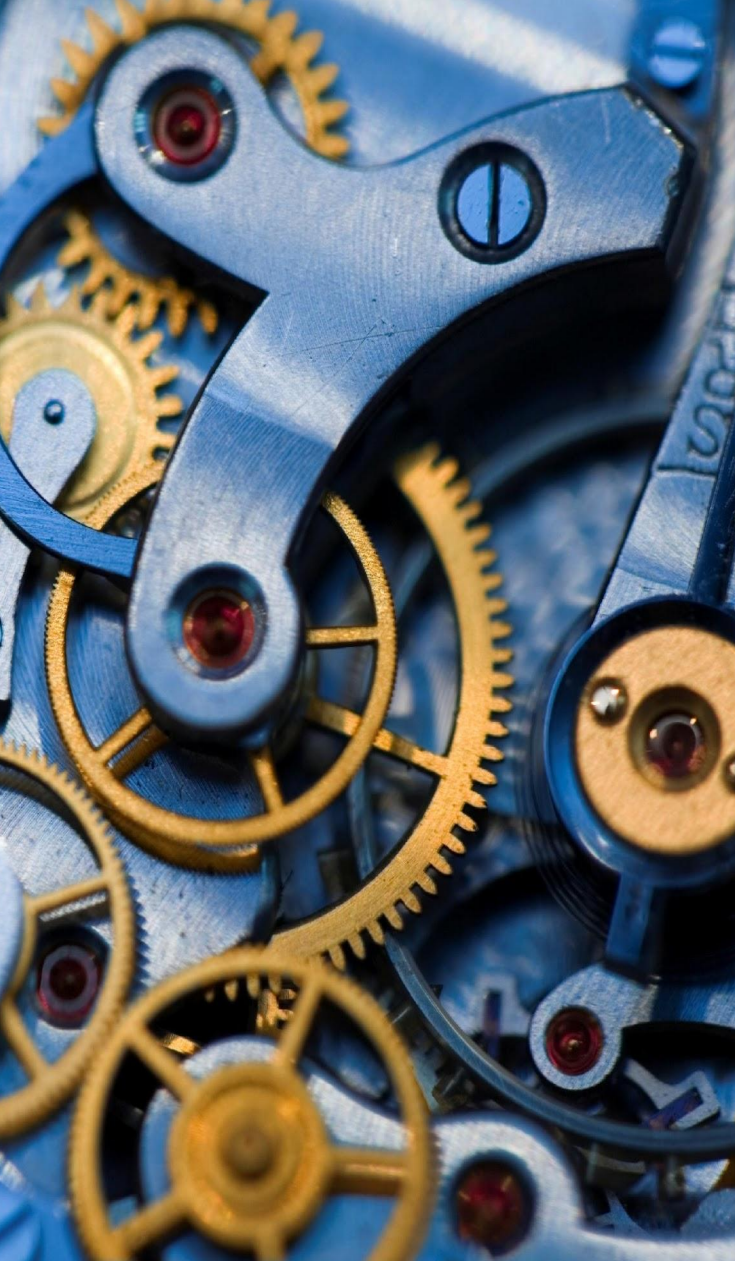


Compliance Has An Image Problem

Compliance Feels Like Bureaucracy

- **Checkbox Culture:** Controls implemented only to "pass the audit"
- **Slows Dev Velocity:** Manual policies, ticket bottlenecks
- **Low Signal, High Noise:** Vague language, security theater
- **Misaligned:** Don't support day-to-day technical operations
- **Outdated Templates:** "Policies" that no one reads or enforces

"It's for the auditors, not the engineers."



Evolution of Compliance Frameworks

- **From Checklists to Security:** Frameworks are evolving from regulatory checklists to security-centric guidelines.
- **Impact of Breaches:** Major breaches exposed the need for stronger security frameworks.
- **Scope Imbalance:** Broad frameworks (NIST CSF) are seen as weak; specific ones (PCI DSS) are too rigid.
- **Balancing Act:** Modern frameworks blend specific controls with adaptive security strategies.
- **Future Focus:** AI-driven threats demand frameworks that are both comprehensive and agile.

Understanding the Compliance “Why”

What Compliance Really Delivers

- **Drives Revenue:** Assurance opens access to sell into new markets
- **Credibility:** Validates security investments meet industry standards
- **Operational Rigor:** Forces repeatable, measurable security practices
- **Enterprise Trust:** Creates intangible asset that improves business valuation

"Security + Compliance = Trust"



Compliance Drives Security Rigor

Make Security Repeatable, Auditable, and Measurable

- **Repeatability:** Build controls once, enforce them everywhere via automation
- **Auditability:** Clear, documented control coverage — no more "tribal knowledge"
- **Measurability:** Track security posture over time and quantify improvement

"If you can't measure it, you don't control it."

Compliance Unlocks Resources

Compliance as a Catalyst for Security

- **Strategic Funding & Benchmarking:** Align security investments with mandates and provide benchmarks to justify budgets and resources.
- **Resource Planning Through Compliance:** Links compliance controls to specific staffing and tool requirements.
- **Compliance-Driven Tooling:** Links NDR, SIEM, ASM tools to compliance controls and security outcomes
- **Executive Visibility:** Compliance KPIs track security progress and emphasize the need for ongoing investment and risk mitigation.



How Compliance Transforms Audits into Security Wins

Security-Driven Audit Approach

- **Reframing Compliance Audits:** Shift from a checklist mindset to a proactive security assessment.
- **Control Validation:** Test controls against industry standards
- **Vulnerability Focus:** Identify exploitable gaps, not just compliance issues.
- **Threat Mapping:** Align controls with emerging threats.
- **Actionable Insights:** Turn audit findings into targeted security measures (e.g., patching, MFA, continuous monitoring).

Compliance as a Continuous Process

The Path to Security Resilience

- **Lifecycle Stages:**
 - **Assessment:** Identify control gaps, vulnerabilities, and risk areas through audits and assessments.
 - **Monitoring:** Implement tools (e.g., SIEM, NDR) for control effectiveness and threat activity visibility
 - **Improvement:** Continuously refine controls based on evolving risks and audit findings
- **Continuous Monitoring:** Real-time tracking, integration of security tools, and automated alerts.
- **Validation Loop:**
 - Audit findings drive targeted security improvements.
 - Continuous feedback cycle ensures controls remain effective against evolving threats and regulatory changes.

Compliance as a Security Accelerator – SOC 2 & ISO 27001

- **Risk Assessments:** Identify business-critical risks beyond standard security scans.
- **Third-Party Controls:** Map vendor controls to internal standards, preventing gaps.
- **Data Classification:** ISO 27001 enforces data retention policies to reduce insider threats.
- **Audit Trails:** SOC 2 mandates detailed logs, aiding forensic analysis.
- **Incident Response:** ISO 27001 requires incident response plans tied to business continuity.
- **Management Review:** Regular executive reviews ensure alignment of security controls with evolving risks.



Agentic AI's Role and the Future of Compliance

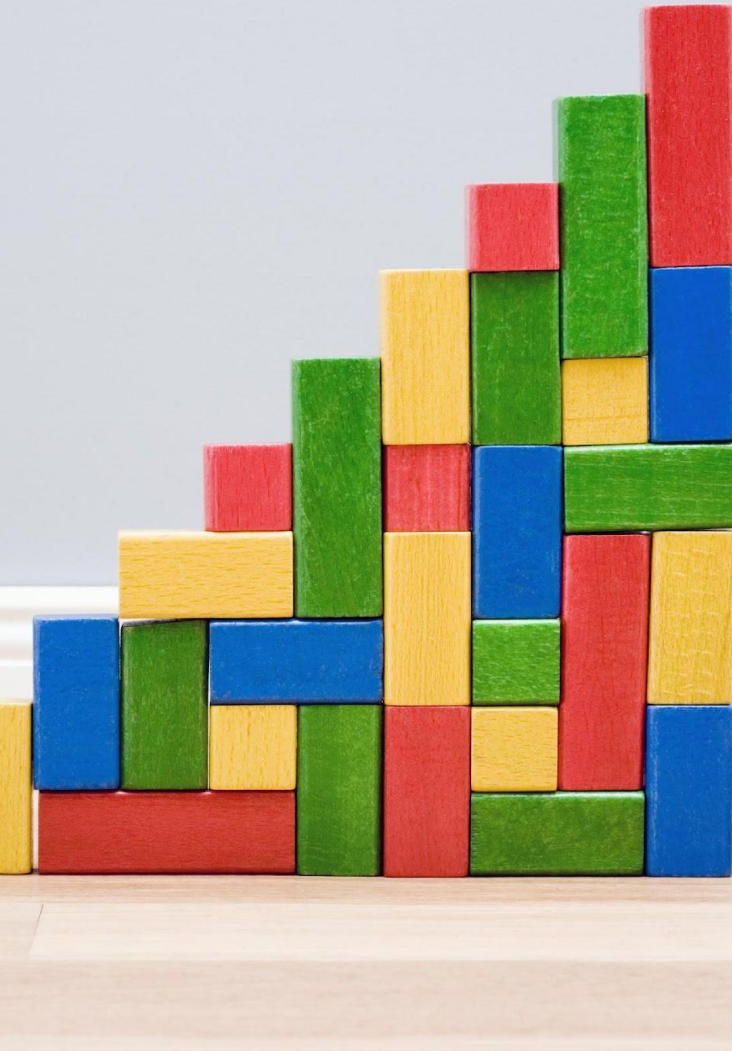
- **Anomaly Detection:** AI identifies deviations from baseline behavior in real-time.
- **Predictive Risk Analysis:** Forecast potential compliance violations based on threat patterns.
- **AI Integration:** AI tools for continuous monitoring, threat detection, and compliance tracking.
- **Optimization:** Automated control testing, risk scoring, and incident response.
- **Agentic AI:** Autonomous systems that detect and initiate risk mitigations without human intervention

Agentic AI's Audit Challenges

- **Non-determinism:** Unpredictable behavior; hard to replicate outcomes.
- **Opaque Decision-Making:** LLMs lack explainability, undermining auditability.
- **Autonomy:** Unauthorized security actions can trigger cascading failures.
- **Data Provenance:** Verifying data accuracy and origin is difficult.
- **Model Poisoning:** Adversarial inputs can manipulate AI behavior.
- **Drift & Versioning:** AI models change over time, compromising audit consistency.

Leveraging Compliance to Strengthen Security in Agentic AI

- **Risk Assessments:** AI risk checks uncover threats like model poisoning and data manipulation.
- **Data Integrity:** Ensures data accuracy – essential for AI decision-making.
- **Access Management:** Enforces role-based access to prevent unauthorized activity and AI model tampering.
- **Monitoring:** Detects AI anomalies and behavioral drift in real time.
- **Incident Response:** Predefined plans for AI breaches enable rapid response.
- **Transparency:** Audits document AI actions, aiding in investigations.





Key Takeaways and Action Items

- **Address the Compliance Image Problem:** Shift from a checkbox mentality to a strategic asset.
- **Educate on Compliance Value:** Boosts revenue, credibility, and operational discipline.
- **Security Rigor:** Highlight repeatable, auditable, and measurable security practices.
- **Resource Alignment:** Support budgets, staffing, and tools through compliance benchmarks.
- **Audits as Security Wins:** Transforms audits into proactive risk assessments.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** Real-time tracking and validation loop for ongoing security.
- **SOC 2 & ISO 27001:** Leverage third-party controls, data classification, audit trails, and management review to strengthen security posture.
- **AI Security Through Compliance:** Ensures the need for transparency, data integrity, access control, real-time monitoring, and incident response.



Q&A



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SOC 2 Accelerator + Guide

TrustNetInc.com/guides/SOC2-2-Compliance/



ISO 27001 Compliance Guide + Checklist

TrustNetInc.com/ISO-27001

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