

TalaTek TiGRIS  
*Enabling Risk & Control Processes*

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## TALK TO US . . .

We look forward to hearing from you and learning what you think about GRC 20/20 research. GRC 20/20 is eager to answer inquiries from organizations looking to improve GRC related processes and utilize technology to drive GRC efficiency, effectiveness, and agility.

# TalaTek TiGRIS

## Enabling Risk & Control Processes

### Complexity Hinders Organizations

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Organizations operate in a complex environment of risk and controls that interweave through departments, functions, processes, technologies, roles, and relationships. What may seem an insignificant risk in one area can have profound impact on other risks and cause compliance issues. Understanding and managing governance, risk management, and compliance (GRC) in today's environment requires a new paradigm in managing these interconnections and relationships through a common approach to conducting assessments and managing risk. This is true in traditional organizational environments as well as the new era of cloud environments in which there is shared responsibility for security, risk, and control between the organization and the cloud-hosting environment.

GRC departments are scrambling to keep up with multiple initiatives that demand greater oversight of risk and controls across activities, processes, and information. Most organizations approach these issues reactively — putting out fires of security, risk, and compliance wherever the flames are hottest. As these pressures mount, GRC teams often fail to think strategically, as they are too busy reacting to issues. Organizations need to step back and think strategically; to figure out how to streamline resources and use technology efficiently, effectively, and with agility to manage and monitor assessments across their environment.

A reactive approach to risk and control assessments is not sustainable in an environment of growing pressures and is a recipe for disaster that leads to:

#### Higher cost, from . . .

- **Wasted and/or inefficient use of resources.** Silos of reaction to risk and control needs and issues lead to wasted resources. Instead of leveraging processes and resources to meet a range of risks and compliance requirements, assessments are developed haphazardly in documents, spreadsheets, and emails that take a lot of time to manage. Organizations often try to relieve the symptoms instead of thinking how to address the root causes. GRC teams end up with different internal assessment processes, systems, and documents/spreadsheets 'in play' to meet individual risk and control needs.
- **Unnecessary complexity.** Multiple risk and compliance approaches introduce complexity that in turn adds overhead costs and increases inherent risk. Manual processes are impossible to streamline and manage consistently, introducing more opportunities for risk and controls to fail or go unmonitored. Inconsistent

assessment processes also produce inconsistent documentation, which further confuses security, regulators, and the line of business.

### Inability to align with the organization, resulting in . . .

- **Lack of agility.** Complexity drives inflexibility. Manual document-centric approaches become so wrapped up in spinning individual risk and control assessments and reacting to them that support of the business is degraded. GRC staff, along with the business, are bewildered by a maze of varying documents and approaches that are not designed with any consistency or logic, and they struggle to apply and assess this in today's modern business and cloud environments.
- **Vulnerability and exposure.** A reactive approach leads to more exposure and vulnerability. Complexity means departments are focused on their own silo of risk, and no one sees the big picture across assessments and the interconnections of risks and controls. No one looks at risk and control exposure holistically or contextually, with regard for what is good for the business in the long run. Varying and independent manual assessment efforts around the organization and cloud lead to difficulty demonstrating control, resulting in confusing audits and assessments.

A reactive manual and document-centric approach to managing risk and controls leads not only to greater vulnerability and exposure but also to higher costs for the organization. Addressing risk, security, and control across a series of disconnected projects and assessments leads to inefficiency in management and operations, wasted spending on redundant approaches, and a greater burden to the business.

**The bottom line:** When organizations approach security and control in scattered documents and disconnected processes, it is not possible to be intelligent about risk and compliance decisions that impact the broader organization, its operations, and adherence to regulations and standards. Organizations need an integrated assessment architecture that delivers 360° contextual intelligence for risk, security, and control.

## TalaTek TiGRIS

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### Enabling Risk & Control Processes

TalaTek provides the TiGRIS GRC management solution that GRC 20/20 has researched and evaluated that can manage risk and controls in complex, distributed, and dynamic environments, particularly cloud environments. TiGRIS delivers an integrated platform that can be used to manage, deliver, and report on a range of risks and controls to a range of frameworks, standards, and regulations.

GRC 20/20 finds that the TiGRIS solution enables organizations to be efficient, effective, and agile in their GRC management processes for both the traditional organization environment and the modern cloud environment. TiGRIS is well suited for use across

industries and organizations, from small to large, to manage the range of risk and control processes they are conducting.

GRC 20/20's evaluation of TiGRIS reveals that it:

- **Automates** risk and control assessment processes
- **Provides** an intuitive and easy-to-use interface
- **Documents** controls and requirements to satisfy regulators and stakeholders

TiGRIS is a solution that simplifies and strengthens risk and control processes in organizations. It is particularly well suited to meet the needs of the mid-market. GRC 20/20's evaluation, research, and interactions with TiGRIS clients have determined the following:

- **Before TiGRIS:** Clients of TiGRIS typically are replacing manual processes of risk and control management and assessment that are encumbered by homegrown databases as well as legions of documents, spreadsheets, and emails. Such approaches can be very manual, time-consuming, and prone to errors – particularly in aggregating and reporting on data that involves hundreds to thousands of documents and spreadsheets.
- **Why TiGRIS:** Organizations chose TiGRIS because they were looking for a single integrated information architecture to automate and manage risk, internal control, and security processes. Clients wanted an agile and intuitive solution architecture that could handle an integrated taxonomy of risks and controls. Clients state they chose TiGRIS because its capabilities met their needs and presented a lower cost of ownership – from acquisition through ongoing management – over competitors.
- **How TiGRIS is used:** Typical use-cases for TiGRIS vary to meet a variety of GRC challenges, such as a single regulatory requirement (e.g., GDPR), to cross-department integrated approaches to risk and control management. These include:
  - Internal control assessments
  - Application security assessments
  - Vendor risk assessments
  - Risk management
  - Standards and regulatory compliance (e.g., NIST 800 Series, GDPR)

- **Where TiGRIS has excelled:** Organizations state that TiGRIS has improved the quality of their GRC-related information, reporting, and processes. This improves overall visibility into GRC contexts across the organization, while eliminating the overhead of managing manual processes encumbered by hundreds to thousands of spreadsheets, documents, and emails. Clients find that the solution is flexible and adapts to their requirements, has the core capabilities needed, and provides them the ability to grow and mature their program over time. Overall, users find the solution is particularly easy to implement as it is a fully packaged managed service.

## What TiGRIS Does

GRC 20/20 has evaluated the capabilities of the TiGRIS solution and finds that it delivers an intuitive and robust risk and control management solution. It was developed to manage risk and controls in the traditional brick-and-mortar business world of the past, as well as in the cloud environments of today in the context of demanding requirements and dynamic business. TiGRIS automates what were once labor-intensive tasks associated with managing risk and controls. This functionality is essential for eliminating a maze of manual processes, documents, spreadsheets, email, and narrow point solutions.

TalaTek's SaaS GRC solution, TiGRIS, effectively and efficiently enables an organization's end-to-end risk and control management strategy by providing a platform to manage the lifecycle, from assessments to ongoing monitoring across the organization and its environments. This lifecycle that TiGRIS automates, includes:

- **Defining scope and requirements.** TiGRIS provides a thorough and robust framework of controls for risk management. This supports adherence and compliance to a range of regulations and standards, such as NIST, PCI DSS, ISO 27000, GDPR, CCPA, and more. Organizations can also add their own specific assessment requirements in context of the framework provided.
- **Assessment.** Utilizing the scope of requirements, the organization can then use TiGRIS to do the initial or annual assessments, or do a gap analysis of their organization or system against the requirements to validate and document controls.
- **Ongoing continuous monitoring and management.** Assessment is just the start and not a one-time effort. TiGRIS enables the ongoing monitoring, management, and reporting on risk and controls on a continuous basis. TiGRIS can be used to continuously manage and reassess the environment to ensure it is always compliant. This is critical in today's dynamic technology and business environments.
- **Issue resolution.** When issues are discovered, TiGRIS's custom-designed workflows and tasks can be configured to remediate the problem.
- **Documentation & reporting.** TiGRIS streamlines the documentation and reporting on controls. This saves significant time for staff who once had to

manually reconcile and validate controls, multiple standards under one platform, and assessments done in scattered processes, documents, and emails.

### *Foundational Capabilities in TalaTek TiGRIS*

Although TiGRIS can manage specific risk and control processes, it can also be used to manage the ongoing lifecycle related to risk, security, and control across internal processes and systems.

TiGRIS delivers the following risk capabilities to enable organizations to manage risk and controls, no matter the scope:

- **Risk management.** TiGRIS facilitates the identification, assessment, management, and monitoring of operational and IT risks across the organization. It enables the tracking and overall reporting on risk and risk exceptions.
- **Internal control management.** TiGRIS simplifies the management and assurance (i.e., audit) of internal control management and processes to assess and report on compliance controls to regulations and industry standards. This enables organizations to identify gaps, create risk treatment plans, track remediation activity, and continuously monitor compliance.
- **Configurability.** TiGRIS is designed to be highly agile and adaptable to each organization's unique requirements. The solution can evolve to accommodate the dynamic nature of risks and controls as well as changing business and regulatory requirements.
- **Content integration.** TiGRIS has integrated and mapped an array of frameworks, regulations, and standards for controls so the organization can assess once and comply with many.
- **Analytics.** TiGRIS delivers risk analytics that are intelligent through the triangulation of collected information across systems and initiates workflow for issue resolution when red flags occur.
- **Notifications.** TiGRIS provides notification through emails to alert stakeholders and others of programs and expectations; these emails include embedded links to assessment questionnaires and other risk and compliance tasks.
- **Workflow and task management.** The TiGRIS solution provides a full range of capabilities to flexibly build workflow and tasks. This includes both linear and parallel workflows, alerts on pending tasks that are soon due, and escalation of missed tasks.
- **Questionnaires, self-assessments, and surveys.** The TiGRIS solution delivers a full range of survey capabilities to gather information from stakeholders that include embedded instructions and validations to help ensure completeness and accuracy.



## Benefits Organizations Can Expect with TiGRIS

Organizations are most likely to move to TiGRIS because they found that their manual document-centric approaches took too many resources to administer and only addressed specific areas of control, and they found things slipping through the cracks because of the continuous barrage of change. Some organizations chose TiGRIS because their existing GRC management solution was too complex or was too costly in the licensing and administration of the system.

Specific benefits organizations can expect from implementing the TiGRIS solution are:

- **Data integrity** with TiGRIS being the system of record for all risk assessment and control information.
- **Reduction in errors** by automating the validation of controls, removing errors from manual processes and reconciliation that were incomplete or incorrectly entered.
- **Significant efficiencies in time** through automation of workflow and tasks as well as reporting. Specifically, the time it took to build reports from documents and spreadsheets now takes a matter of seconds.
- **Collaboration and synergies** by providing a single platform with a consistent interface to manage assessment and interactions across departments instead of different departments doing similar things in different formats and processes.
- **Assess across multiple standards** as TiGRIS allows the integration and mapping of multiple standards to a common assessment. This allows organizations to assess once and validate and comply with several standards and regulations with similar requirements.
- **Standardized solution** that allows for a common assessment framework in a heterogenous environment that crosses cloud and non-cloud systems.
- **Consistency and accuracy of information** as all internal stakeholders have to conform to consistent processes and information collection. TiGRIS offers a single solution with a uniform and integrated assessment process and information architecture.
- **Accountability with full audit trails** of who did what and when; this particularly delivers value in fewer things slipping through the cracks.

## Considerations in Context of TalaTek's TiGRIS Solution

Every solution has its strengths and weaknesses and may not be the ideal fit for all organizations in all situations. Although GRC 20/20 has identified many of TiGRIS's positive attributes that can assist organizations in the consistent control management and monitoring of their environments, readers should not see this as a complete and unquestionable endorsement of TiGRIS.

Overall, organizations should have a high degree of satisfaction with their use and implementation of TiGRIS as a risk and control management platform. The solution's adaptability and ease of use is of a particular benefit to organizations. TiGRIS is agile by allowing distributed internal stakeholders to get what they need while providing consistency across functions involved.

GRC 20/20 finds that TiGRIS provides value in managing the lifecycle of risks and controls across departments and functions. As many organizations respond to growing regulatory requirements and risk exposure across their environments, they often enter a fire-fighting reactive mode to deploy a solution for specific purposes where the need for automation has been the greatest, given the organization's regulatory and audit pressures. TiGRIS enables greater efficiency, effectiveness, and agility in risk and control management processes.

## About GRC 20/20 Research, LLC

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GRC 20/20 Research, LLC (GRC 20/20) provides clarity of insight into governance, risk management, and compliance (GRC) solutions and strategies through objective market research, benchmarking, training, and analysis. We provide objective insight into GRC market dynamics; technology trends; competitive landscape; market sizing; expenditure priorities; and mergers and acquisitions. GRC 20/20 advises the entire ecosystem of GRC solution buyers, professional service firms, and solution providers. Our research clarity is delivered through analysts with real-world expertise, independence, creativity, and objectivity that understand GRC challenges and how to solve them practically and not just theoretically. Our clients include Fortune 1000 companies, major professional service firms, and the breadth of GRC solution providers.

## Research Methodology

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GRC 20/20 research reports are written by experienced analysts with experience selecting and implementing GRC solutions. GRC 20/20 evaluates all GRC solution providers using consistent and objective criteria, regardless of whether or not they are a GRC 20/20 client. The findings and analysis in GRC 20/20 research reports reflect analyst experience, opinions, research into market trends, participants, expenditure patterns, and best practices. Research facts and representations are verified with client references to validate accuracy. GRC solution providers are given the opportunity to correct factual errors, but cannot influence GRC 20/20 opinion.

**GRC 20/20 Research, LLC**  
4948 Bayfield Drive  
Waterford, WI 53185 USA  
+1.888.365.4560  
info@GRC2020.com  
www.GRC2020.com