

How Platform.sh Cut 900 Controls

**Achieving Peak Efficiency in
Global Compliance Through
Multi-Framework Harmonization**



**75% Reduction in
Compliance Controls**



\$2 Million Dollar Savings



**5 Steps to Building a
Compliance Culture**



Joey Stanford

VP of Security and Privacy

"We reduced our controls by 75%, translating into more efficient audits and a significant cost savings."

The Challenge of Managing Compliance at a Global Level



Platform.sh, a leader in the Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) industry, found itself struggling with a complex compliance landscape.

As the company expanded globally, the need to comply with multiple regulatory frameworks—such as SOC 2, ISO 27001, and GDPR—created a daunting challenge.

Over time, these frameworks led to an overwhelming accumulation of more than 1,100 controls, straining resources and delaying operational efficiency.

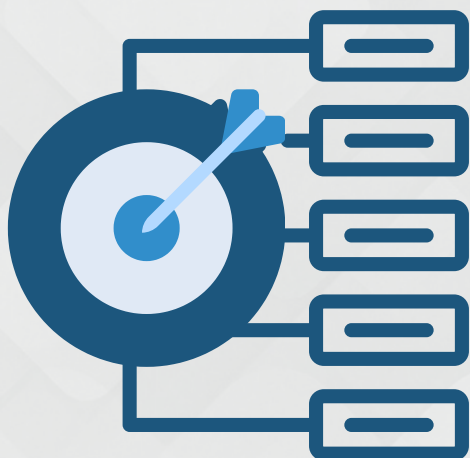
With the expertise of risk3sixty, the organization adopted a multi-framework harmonization strategy. This involved consolidating similar controls across different frameworks into unified controls that could satisfy multiple requirements simultaneously.

For example, instead of maintaining separate policies for SOC 2, ISO 27001, and GDPR, the company developed a single set of policies that met the most stringent requirements across all frameworks.

This approach not only reduced the number of controls but also ensured consistent adherence to the highest standards.



A Better Way to Adapt While Removing Complexity



Joey Stanford, the VP of Security and Privacy, played a key role in this transformation, emphasizing the importance of aligning compliance efforts with business objectives and customer needs.

By doing so, Platform.sh was able to maintain customer trust while reducing the internal burden of compliance.

One of the most significant components of this framework harmonization strategy was the creation of the CORES approach, a proprietary one that allowed the organization to map and integrate new compliance frameworks as they emerged, ensuring quick adaptation to changing regulatory landscapes without adding unnecessary complexity.

CORES Approach



Consolidate requirements so there's only one way to do it.



Operationalize the schedule of work and with more frequency.



Reuse evidence across audits when possible.



Extend existing controls to meet demands.



Standardize one process and use it everywhere.

Operationalizing The Framework Harmonization Strategy

With the harmonization strategy in place, the focus shifted to operationalizing the compliance efforts to ensure that the new approach could be maintained over time. This involved integrating compliance activities into daily operations, automating as many processes as possible, and establishing a culture of continuous improvement.

Leveraging tools like Jira and fullCircle, a platform developed by risk3sixty, Platform.sh was able to manage and monitor compliance activities efficiently.

These tools allowed the company to schedule compliance tasks throughout the year, ensuring consistent and efficient evidence collection and control testing.

By front-loading compliance activities and conducting internal audits on a more frequent basis, potential issues were identified and addressed long before they became problems during formal audits.



Another important aspect of the implementation was the concept of "continuous audit." Rather than waiting until the end of the year to gather evidence and prepare for audits, they adopted a continuous auditing approach. **This meant that compliance evidence was collected and verified throughout the year, reducing the end-of-year audit burden and ensuring that they were always audit-ready.**



The operationalization of the harmonization strategy also involved a strong focus on documentation and process standardization. By creating clear, standardized procedures for compliance activities, the company reduced variability and ensured that all team members understood their roles and responsibilities.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Reduction

The results of the harmonization and operationalization efforts were impressive. **Platform.sh reduced its control count by 75%, from over 1,100 controls to just 288.** This significant reduction translated into more efficient audits, with less evidence to manage and fewer audit findings.

The streamlined approach also led to substantial cost savings, estimated at nearly \$2 million dollars annually.

In addition to the tangible benefits, Platform.sh experienced a cultural shift. Compliance was no longer seen as a burdensome requirement but as a strategic initiative that added value to the business.

The success of this compliance strategy also provided a competitive advantage in the marketplace. By demonstrating a commitment to meeting the highest standards across multiple frameworks, the company was able to attract and retain customers who placed a high value on security and compliance.

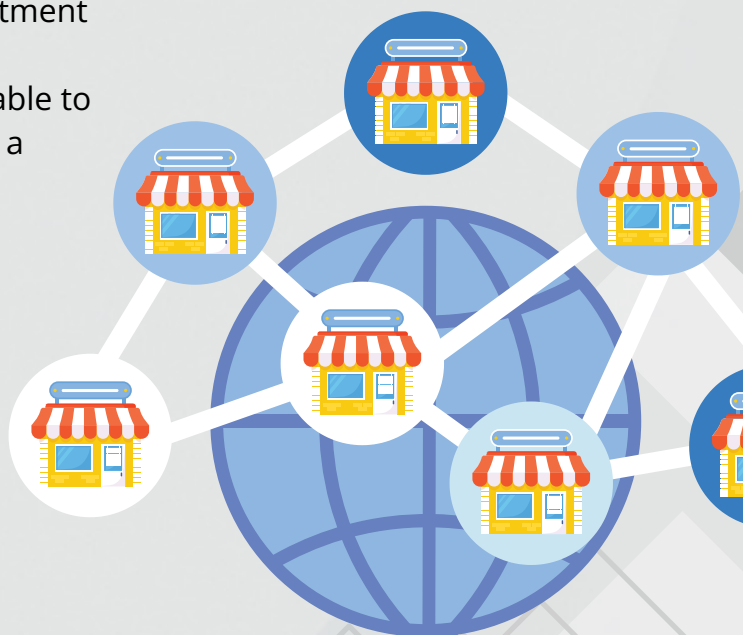
This, in turn, supported growth and expansion into new markets.



Reduced control count by 75% - From 1,100 to 288 controls



Annual Cost Savings of nearly \$2 million dollars annually



5 Steps to Building a Compliance Culture



Align Compliance with Business Objectives

Compliance should be seen as a strategic initiative that supports the business, not just a check-the-box exercise. By aligning compliance efforts with business goals and customer needs, organizations can turn compliance into a competitive advantage.



Simplify and Consolidate

Managing multiple frameworks independently can lead to inefficiencies and increased costs. By consolidating similar controls across frameworks, organizations can reduce their compliance burden while still meeting rigorous standards.



Operationalize Compliance

Integrating compliance activities into daily operations and automating processes where possible ensures that compliance efforts are consistent and sustainable over time.



Foster a Culture of Continuous Improvement

A commitment to continuous improvement and a proactive approach to compliance can help organizations stay ahead of regulatory changes and maintain audit readiness.



Leverage Technology

Tools like fullCircle and Jira can help organizations manage and monitor compliance activities more efficiently, reducing the manual effort required and ensuring that evidence is collected and verified throughout the year.

Turning Compliance into a Catalyst for Growth

This journey highlights the power of strategic efficiency in navigating complex global compliance.

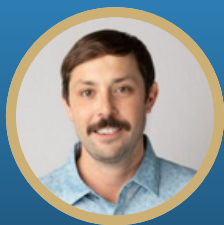
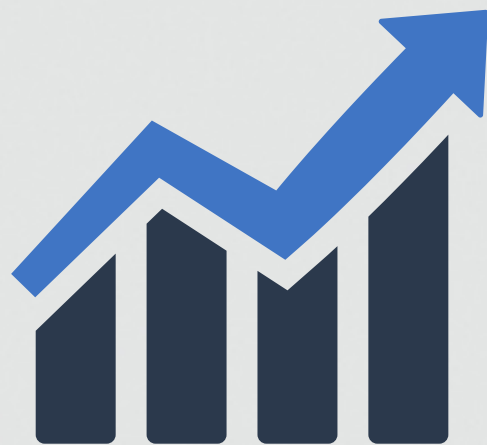
By streamlining and harmonizing their approach with the help of risk3sixty, Platform.sh not only reduced its control count by 75% but also positioned compliance as a key asset for the business.

This case study highlights the importance of aligning compliance initiatives with broader business objectives, embracing continuous improvement, and using technology to drive meaningful outcomes.

Platform.sh's success is a reminder that with the right strategy, even the most daunting challenges can be transformed into opportunities for growth.

Their story serves as a guide for organizations looking to enhance their compliance efforts and achieve long-term success.

Interested in learning more about how multi-framework harmonization can save you time and money? Reach out to us to learn more.



Contact us today!

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