

Making GRC Manageable: Modulo Risk Manager Next Generation (NG)

Abstract

Organizations worldwide face daunting challenges when it comes to risk control and compliance across the enterprise and IT. They must know and understand an often dizzying range of compliance requirements and guidance on recommended standards and practices. They require visibility into risk and compliance controls throughout the business. They need insight into the effectiveness of their efforts—and they must have all this capability in an affordable package that makes risk management and compliance easier and more efficient, rather than adding to the burden.

With its Next Generation (NG) platform serving these IT and enterprise Governance, Risk management and Compliance (GRC) needs, Modulo Risk Manager further extends Modulo's reputation for offering an enterprise and IT GRC platform that is easy to deploy, use, understand and maintain. New Web-based technologies and a SaaS option support new features for an enhanced user experience, increased depth and flexibility of insight, multi-language support, expanded content, and an API that increases the ability to integrate Modulo Risk Manager with an even wider range of controls. Together, these capabilities continue Modulo's tradition of more than 25 years as a company, and more than 10 as a pioneer of GRC management, of offering a readily adopted, highly efficient, and eminently usable platform that eases risk management and compliance efforts rather than adding to their complexity.

Issues

The management of risk has become a global business priority—especially in the wake of a worldwide economic crisis precipitated in part by gaps in the management of credit and market risk throughout the financial services industry. This crisis has been one of the more dramatic examples of how risk management in one domain translates into real impact in a number of others, and can have truly global consequences.

Today, risk management has become a particularly sensitive issue in light of the fundamental integration of IT with nearly every aspect of business. Information technologies make it possible for businesses of any size to have a global reach. Instantaneous communications and the ability to deliver high-value content on demand are central to the success of many. Complex supply and demand chains are woven together by the fabric of IT. To separate IT from the business would effectively be impossible today, regardless of the nature of the organization.

HIGHLIGHTS

Vendor name: Modulo

Product name: Modulo Risk Manager

Product function: Platform for consolidating and improving the efficiency of management for enterprise and IT Governance, Risk Management and Compliance (GRC) initiatives

Vendor contact: <http://www.modulo.com/Contact-Us>

Pricing information: A package of risk, compliance, incident management, business continuity and policy management modules available as on-premises software under perpetual licensing starting at US\$30,000, or as SaaS starting at US\$25,000 per year.

Availability: Generally available, with local language and local support available in markets worldwide, including US-based consulting and support in North America.

This is why the management of enterprise and IT risk become critical. No longer can organizations afford to pursue practices such as information security as a sideline. Assuring protection, integrity and control over sensitive information and technology assets that directly impact everything from convenience to the safety of life is becoming increasingly vital—particularly as risks have grown along with technology, and threats increase in prevalence and sophistication. A number of regulatory compliance initiatives have arisen directly out of public concern regarding the responsibility of organizations to assure these important priorities.

These concerns pose no small challenge for today's business. The sheer scope of the challenge can raise serious obstacles to assuring responsible and consistent enterprise governance critical to effective risk management. The complexity of technology amplifies the challenge of managing risk. The number of compliance mandates that have arisen to raise standards for risk management in recent years has become overwhelming for some, particularly for the most complex, heavily regulated, or distributed enterprises.

These organizations need tools to assure consistency for enterprise governance efforts, improve risk management, and reduce the impact of compliance so that regulatory initiatives are not defeated by the burdens they impose. In particular, organizations need tools for:

- Bringing coherence to a wide body of guidance, standards and practices for assuring consistency in enterprise governance and risk control, helping organizations to “implement once, and comply with many” wherever possible.
- Centralize visibility into, and vigilance over, adherence to risk management practices and compliance requirements across a number of business processes and technologies.
- Automating risk management processes across complex environments.
- Provide strategic insight into enterprise governance, risk management and compliance initiatives, to better direct decision-makers on the best use of the management investment.

Modulo Risk Manager: The Next Generation

Among the vendors serving the market of technologies for meeting these needs, Modulo has carved out an enviable position. With over 25 years as a company focused on enterprise and IT risk management, Modulo was among the first in the market with a competitive product offering for IT GRC more than ten years ago—long before some of today's competitors recognized the challenges posed by a rising tide of compliance mandates and risk management demands.

Ease of deployment and use, straightforward integration with a wide range of risk controls, and a distinctive emphasis on worldwide requirements are just a few of the qualities for which Modulo has been recognized over many years.

The maturity derived from this heritage has long been evident in the quality of the company's offering in a number of ways. Ease of deployment and use, straightforward integration with the wide range of risk controls, and a distinctive emphasis on worldwide requirements are just a few of the qualities for which Modulo has been recognized over many years.

Today, Modulo continues to expand these capabilities for organizations that need tools to improve the efficiency and performance of risk management and compliance efforts, without over-taxing resources the business requires to maintain its competitive edge. The current “next generation” of Modulo Risk Manager is built on modern Web technologies that provide a number of new advantages, allowing for considerable flexibility in making the platform adaptable to customer needs for usability, scalability, reporting and analytics, and integration with other management resources.

Enhanced Usability

While Modulo Risk Manager has long had a reputation for making GRC guidance and management insight readily accessible across a wide range of customers, recent improvements have augmented these capabilities.

- **Enhanced user experience:** Web-based technology enables Modulo Risk Manager to enhance the quality of what is already a positive user experience. An improved user portal incorporates the ability to create and tailor dashboards for rapid yet meaningful insight into areas such as GRC status, and issues that have been remediated or treated or where treatment is currently in progress. The visual mapping of policies and regulations to specific controls and color-schemed risk matrices enable organizations to quickly grasp compliance gaps, helping to improve program management. Role-based access control enables the definition of functionality according to the user's role in the organization or in compliance or risk management efforts, helping to standardize views into current status—from the detail required by operational staff to senior executives requiring a high-level overview of efforts. Modulo even offers capability for mobile platforms, including an application for accessing Modulo Risk Manager from Apple's highly successful iPhone.
- **Multi-language support:** With its roots in the demanding risk management requirements of South America, where examples of advanced enterprise risk management technologies abound, Modulo has long stood out for its service to the needs of a global market. Today, that support is evident in a multi-language platform that supports localization not only for the requirements of global organizations, but for those who must adhere to requirements that transcend geographical or political boundaries, such as privacy regulations that govern the movement of data across borders.
- **Enhanced workflow:** Risk management processes often require structured workflows or standardized procedures in order to assure consistency in management and to avoid risk or compliance gaps. To help organizations better embrace these realities, Modulo has enhanced its remediation and workflow capabilities to assure that risk issues are tracked consistently and comprehensively. Enhanced process management includes highly customizable capability that allows customers to create a number of processes tailored to their unique requirements, such as on-demand queries into the status of specific projects. The capability also supports the escalation of risk and compliance issues, helping to assure more consistent gap closure and the remediation of unacceptable risks.

Today's Modulo Risk Manager is built on modern Web technologies that provide a number of new advantages, allowing for considerable flexibility in making the platform adaptable to customer needs for usability, scalability, reporting and analytics, and integration with other management resources.

Advances in Architecture and Content

The ability to collect input from a number of control sources is essential for a GRC platform, which serves to consolidate visibility into the overall control posture. This means more than just scalability and performance, however, even though these are both vital for the largest or most demanding environments. It also means the ability to integrate with a wide range of controls throughout the enterprise, and to embrace an extensive body of knowledge concerning practices and compliance requirements worldwide.

Today's Modulo Risk Manager has expanded in these areas to better serve its global customer base:

- **Enhanced scalability:** A GRC platform must not only collect input from a wide range of controls. It must also be able to extend the reach of this visibility throughout the most distributed organizations. Modulo has made a significant investment in the scalability of its control collection architecture, which today features more than 5,000 automated collectors and integration with several

vulnerability management systems to support audit and policy enforcement in the most distributed, geographically dispersed environments. Other features include asset inventory enhancements that allow visual correlation of assets, to controls for better managing risk priorities.

- **API Availability:** In order to further enhance its capability for integration with a wide range of controls, Modulo Risk Manager now features an Application Programming Interface (API). An API offers a programmable way to integrate both “home grown” and commercial applications more directly with the Modulo platform, expanding control visibility with a more seamless approach. The use of Web technologies in today’s Modulo Risk Manager makes this integration more accessible across a wider range of resources.
- **Expanded knowledge base:** As technology continues to advance, so do its risks—as do compliance requirements for managing those risks. Organizations must therefore keep up-to-date with the latest guidance and regulatory requirements in order to assure the currency of the risk and compliance posture. Here, too, Modulo has grown, providing new and expanded content to the Modulo Risk Manager knowledge base on more than 20,000 controls to help its customers maintain this vital currency and insight into requirements and practices worldwide.
- **Availability as SaaS:** One of the advantages of Web-based development is the ability it gives technology to be adapted to a hosted model. By making Modulo Risk Manager available in a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) option, Modulo offers the advantages of GRC as a hosted service to customers who value this alternative. A SaaS approach can speed the route to adoption, making scalable technology accessible from day one of the customer relationship. Enhancements and upgrades can be managed by the service provider, such as content kept up-to-date with the latest compliance requirements and recommended practices. These advantages will have high appeal to customers who value these capabilities, further enhancing the ease of adoption, maintenance and use for which Modulo has become known.

Pricing and Availability

The next generation of Modulo Risk Manager is available today, with a package of risk, compliance, incident management, business continuity and policy management modules available as on-premises software under perpetual licensing starting at U.S.\$30,000, or as SaaS starting at U.S.\$25,000 per year. Support and consulting is available locally in the company’s global markets, with U.S.-based support and consulting available for customers in North America, Europe and Latin America.

EMA Perspective

Modulo Risk Manager has earned a reputation for ease of deployment, substantial out-of-the-box capability, and ease of integration with a wide range of risk management and compliance-supporting tools and technologies. The latter is effectively a requirement—but a daunting one regardless—for the competitors in this market. The range of primary management technologies that must be overseen is as broad as IT itself. For Modulo to be recognized for ease of integration with some of the most popular primary management tools in key domains is thus a remarkable accomplishment in light of the challenge of assuring enterprise governance, risk management and compliance priorities across the complex landscape of IT. The company’s achievement is particularly noteworthy in light of some of its major competitors, many of which are among the largest vendors of enterprise software and IT systems in the world.

For over 25 years, including more than 10 as a pioneer of what is today the market of GRC solutions, Modulo has succeeded because it has focused on the customer.

This highlights a key quality of Modulo as a company. For over 25 years, including more than 10 as a pioneer of what is today considered the market of GRC solutions, Modulo has succeeded because it has focused on the customer. It recognizes that even though compliance and risk management have become top priorities for organizations worldwide, they are not the primary objectives of most businesses. Modulo has recognized that a successful approach to management in these domains must be comprehensive, yet efficient. It must be deep, but also broad. By selectively choosing the capabilities that set efficient GRC management

apart, Modulo has quite simply developed a platform that is easy to deploy, use, understand and manage. With a distinctively international focus, Modulo Risk Manager helps organizations worldwide to achieve their strategic objectives in risk management and compliance, without breaking the bank—or the backs of working professionals who must deploy, use and manage it—with technology that eases the burdens of risk management and compliance, rather than adding to them.

About EMA

Founded in 1996, Enterprise Management Associates (EMA) is a leading industry analyst firm that specializes in going “beyond the surface” to provide deep insight across the full spectrum of IT management technologies. EMA analysts leverage a unique combination of practical experience, insight into industry best practices, and in-depth knowledge of current and planned vendor solutions to help its clients achieve their goals. Learn more about EMA research, analysis, and consulting services for enterprise IT professionals and IT vendors at www.enterprisemanagement.com or follow EMA on Twitter (http://twitter.com/ema_research).

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