Meet Gartner IT Score for Security & Risk Management

Introduction to Gartner IT Score for Security & Risk Management

Functional leaders use Gartner IT Score for Security & Risk Management to measure the maturity of their function in key activities, prioritize areas of improvement and plot the function’s path to improvement. This is an excerpt from a full report, which provides detail on a wide range of functional activities. Gartner IT Score for Security & Risk Management covers 30 functional activities across 7 functional objectives.

Here’s how it works

1. Measure the performance of the function in terms of:
   - Maturity. We ask a series of yes/no questions about how your function approaches and executes each one of a range of key activities and objectives specific to your function.
   - Importance. We ask you to indicate how important each of those activities is for your function to meet its enterprise objectives.

2. Prioritize.
   - See your maturity levels at a glance. On a simple bar graph, we plot the maturity level of each activity and its importance — and you get your first glimpse of where maturity and importance aren’t aligned. For example, your function may be highly mature in activities that aren’t very important to driving business priorities or highly immature in activities that are.
   - See your priorities in rank order, based on those gaps between maturity and importance. Immediately you can see what should be your highest priorities for improvement if your function is to drive business goals effectively. You also see which activities need less attention.

3. Improve. We provide you with steps to take on your path to improvement in whatever activities the data shows to be the biggest significant opportunities for improvement.
   - “A Pathway to Maturity” lists action steps required to reach the next level in each specific activity.
   - Recommended related resources provide associated insights. In some cases, a Gartner advisor delivers the report and helps with prioritization and action planning.

Read on for more insights and recommendations you might receive on an individual activity. A complete report shows you the current status and improvement path for all activities and objectives in your function.
How mature are your functional activities?

Gartner IT Score for Security & Risk Management benchmarks your self-assessment to provide you with a current maturity score by activity.

Maturity: Measured on a scale ranging from 1 (Low) to 5 (High), maturity measures how advanced an organization's development is in a functional activity relative to Gartner's best practice research. Maturity scores are refined with a (+) or (-) to indicate intermediate levels of maturity.

The set of activities as mapped here is subject to change.

Source: Gartner

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How do maturity and importance compare?

Gartner IT Score for Security & Risk Management plots your benchmarked maturity score against the importance you assign to that activity in terms of its criticality for your function to meet enterprise business objectives.

Select Findings

**Lowest Maturity**
- Secure Data
- Secure Network Edges

**Highest Maturity**
- Secure Applications
- Support Audit

**Highest Importance**
- Manage Policy
- Measure Performance

- Discover and Remediate Vulnerabilities
- Plan Budget
What are the high-priority areas for your function?

Gartner IT Score for Security & Risk Management rank-orders your improvement priorities, based on the gap between maturity and importance. The Activity Priority Index (API) identifies where the function is less mature in activities of greater importance. A higher API score indicates a greater priority to the organization.

The Activity Priority Index identifies where the function is less mature in activities of greater importance.

Highest Priority
• Manage Policy
• Support Audit
• Measure Performance and More Activities

Lowest Priority
• Manage Security Events
• Define and Conduct Risk Assessments
• Identify and Track Threats

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High-priority area: Manage Policy

How the SRM function structures and documents a policy program to ensure business requirements are met

Path to Maturity
Start doing the following to achieve the next level of maturity:

• Account for variations in business needs

Level 1
Document policies in ad hoc manner, or not at all

Level 2
Create a set of policies in response to regulatory findings.

Level 3
Define policies through a formal and structured process. Separate policy statements from technical standards. Account for variations in business needs.

Level 4
Approve policy through a committee with business representation. Separate policies based on audience and subject matter.

Level 5
Assess the business impact of security policies. Trigger policy review based on changes in circumstances.

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Manage Policy
Sample recommended resources

**Featured resources**

*Information Security Policy Library*
Download and use security policies based on peer practice.

**Foundational practices**

*Ignition Guide to Drafting Information Risk Appetite Statements*
Align policies with a commonly understood risk appetite statement to ensure risk mitigation efforts are in the company’s best interests.

**Progressive practices**

*IDEXX’s Power User-Led Policy Development*
Incorporate feedback from power users within the company in order to tune and update policies in line with how work is changing.

*Usable Policy for Decision Makers (SRI International)*
SRI’s security and risk management leaders rethink information security policies as a tool to enable independent, informed risk decision making across the enterprise. To achieve this, SRI collects and implements real-time user feedback to make policies, standards and guidelines more usable.

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