Risk, Compliance, and IT:
5 Things Compliance Officers Need to Know

Your organization's data and the way it is handled by your IT applications can make all the difference in being -- and remaining -- compliant with regulations and legislation. As such, Compliance Officers and IT must align objectives to ensure compliance across the organization. Here are 5 things you should know about IT and compliance, and why you should discuss compliance with your CIO.

1. **The IT Imbalance** - IT has two goals: delivering innovation that enables business growth, and maintaining current business support. Yet budget constraints mean many IT organizations are challenged simply to "keep the lights on." Regulatory compliance adds further pressure to overworked IT resources -- and they will need to cope with future regulations, too. The right technology can make a significant difference between compliance and being at risk. Technology that simplifies mainframe application complexity, makes application development more efficient and safe-guards compliance during application testing helps IT assure current compliance more effectively. This same technology will enable IT to handle future compliance demands more easily, as well as provide the needed innovation that keeps business profitable.

2. **Compliance Compels Insight** – Core business applications are usually very complex, straddling the entire enterprise. Changes needed for compliance inevitably impact the biggest, most complex systems. Application understanding technology – technology that can examine and dissect those core systems -- enables IT to better cope with change by helping identify and isolate impacted parts across the range of IT applications. Being able to pinpoint the areas that require change avoids risk and helps accelerate the needed compliance changes.

3. **IT Application Changes Enable Compliance** – After determining where changes are needed, IT must execute them both accurately -- to avoid time-consuming rework and high-profile system failure -- and quickly to meet deadlines and budget. However this change process is often anything but effective or efficient; cumbersome processes or technology often create bottlenecks to progress. Modern technology solutions allow a more collaborative and efficient change process within your IT department. The best technology solutions use the most popular and inclusive tools available today, enabling greater IT productivity and efficiency. In turn, this IT productivity and efficiency enable needed compliance-related changes to be made more rapidly and with greater confidence.

4. **Compliance Change Testing Should Mitigate Risk** – Typically, IT uses rigorous testing processes before application release to remove any errors. But risk is re-introduced if live customer data is used in that testing. Sensitive data should be - but isn't always –hidden from view during testing. Automated technology helps satisfy privacy regulations to ensure compliance. It also enables better corporate data governance by removing the risk of sensitive information misuse if company property is lost, stolen, or used improperly.

5. **Compliance: An Opportunity for IT Productivity** – The right technology can enable IT to meet the needs of the Compliance Office quickly, efficiently, and without risk, while still satisfying the business' innovation agenda. Compliance does not have to be an IT burden. By collaborating with the CIO, Compliance Officers can help align business and IT, and ensure the right IT technology is deployed for compliance-related insight, change and testing. Compliance, instead of a burden, becomes the catalyst for operational efficiency as well as the driver of future innovation and business profitability.

Learn more about Micro Focus Enterprise Solutions for organizational compliance: schedule a discussion about risk, compliance, and IT by contacting Micro Focus at 877-772-4450. You can also learn more by visiting our website at **www.microfocus.com**

About Micro Focus

Micro Focus provides technology that allows organizations to unlock the value of their core business applications. With innovative software that enables superior application knowledge, development and testing, Micro Focus can help Compliance Officers and CIOs remove risk, ensure IT compliance and enable greater IT productivity while significantly reducing IT costs.