Unified Structural Governance

#01 • eGRACS For You

One architecture, three levels of practice.

What Changes for You

One architecture, three levels of practice: governance, management and execution.

About this guide

eGRACS is a unified structural governance architecture. The other guides explain what it is. This one looks at it from the seat you work in: what the people at each level of governance, management and execution can expect to see change in their day-to-day work.

Everything here describes what the architecture is designed to make possible. Results depend on how it is implemented in your organisation.



Expectations flow down, evidence flows up, through one shared structure.

"The same architecture. A different day for each level."

Why a guide by level

Governance, management and execution see the same control environment from different places, and each tends to meet a different problem. Executives want a trustworthy picture. Managers want fewer parallel structures to maintain. The people performing and evidencing controls want to know what is theirs, and not to supply the same thing twice. The architecture is the same for all three; what changes for each is different.

Governance

Boards, executives, policy owners, heads of risk and audit

Could you trace one risk indicator to its owner and evidence today?

Today. New obligations tend to arrive as new projects, and the picture of the control environment is assembled by hand.

What can change. One common structure that requirements are related to, so a new obligation is placed against existing controls instead of starting fresh. A connected view in which one indicator can be followed down to its owner and evidence, where the records underneath exist, and which shows the gaps where they don't.

Ask your team. Where would a new obligation fit in our current control structure?

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Management

Control and process managers, GRC and risk leads, architects

How many control sets are you maintaining for rules that largely overlap?

Today. Parallel control sets and matrices, rework when rules change, and unclear boundaries between teams.

What can change. One control structure (120 controls, four tiers, three domains) that external requirements relate to. Dependencies between controls made visible, and a defined pathway to implement, evidence and assess. Change absorbed through mapping and a defined change process instead of a rewrite, with effort moving from maintaining structure towards improving controls.

Ask your team. Which of our controls depend on one another, and who owns each dependency?

Administration / Execution

Control operators, administrators, evidence coordinators

How many times have you supplied the same evidence to different people?

Today. Duplicate requests, unclear ownership of which control is yours, and a scramble at audit time.

What can change. Each control has a clear place and owner in the structure. One control can address several requirements, so related evidence can be organised in one place and related to each requirement it supports. Each requirement still defines what it needs. The three dimensions of a control show what is expected, how it is managed and what evidence is wanted.

Ask your team. For my control: who sets the expectation, which process do I follow, and where does my evidence go?

Beyond the hours: what is harder to measure

Some of what changes does not show up in a timesheet. These are intended benefits of working in one shared structure, and each is worth testing in your own team:

Governance: confidence in the answer to “what does our control environment actually look like?”

Management: a shared language across teams, and less friction at the boundaries between them.

Administration / Execution: fewer surprises, and work that is visibly tied to its purpose.

Less to maintain. More to improve. Clearer for everyone.

Full detail: eGRACS Whitepaper · Executive Brief · the Practice Golden Triangle, Control Golden Triangle and COR Triangle guides.

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