VENDOR RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES BRIEF

Reduce Risk. Strengthen Oversight. Protect Your Business.

SPECIALIZED S|3 SECURITY SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL SECURITY CONSULTING SERVICES - VENDOR RISK MANAGEMENT

Third-party risk is business risk. We help you establish the oversight and accountability to lead it.

At S3 Security, we help organizations take control of vendor risk by turning uncertainty into insight and oversight into advantage. Our experienced Assessors work alongside your team to evaluate, enhance, and operationalize third-party risk programs that align with regulatory expectations and business strategy.

Whether you're building a new program or improving an existing one, we provide clarity, structure, and forward-looking guidance to reduce exposure and improve accountability across your supply chain.

EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST

Our team of seasoned Assessors brings deep experience in third-party cybersecurity and compliance. With extensive experience across regulated sectors including healthcare, finance, retail, and other highly regulated industries, they understand how to navigate complexity and deliver results that withstand scrutiny.

PROVEN RESULTS. REAL IMPACT.

We have supported hundreds of risk assessments and program builds across high-stakes environments. Our work helps executive teams improve oversight, meet due diligence obligations, and build trust with customers, partners, and regulators.

BUILT AROUND YOUR BUSINESS

Effective vendor risk management begins with alignment. We take time to understand your business model, vendor landscape, and risk appetite. Our strategies are pragmatic, scalable, and designed to support long-term growth and resilience.

We help you manage third-party risk with clarity, accountability, and confidence.

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VENDOR RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & ASSESSMENT

Your business is only as secure as the vendors you rely on.

S3 Security helps executive teams establish control and confidence across their third-party ecosystem through structured assessments, tailored risk strategies, and sustainable program development.

We focus on five core capabilities that empower teams to make informed decisions, reduce exposure, and build resilience.

Strong vendor risk programs are more than a checkbox. They are a strategic business function.

S3 Security delivers the structure, clarity, and support needed to manage risk at scale and protect your organization from third-party failures.

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VENDOR RISK PROGRAM MATURITY

Strong third-party risk management isn't built overnight. It evolves through clear structure, executive support, and continuous refinement. S3 Security helps organizations assess and improve the maturity of their vendor risk programs by aligning efforts with both regulatory expectations and business resilience goals.

We assess vendor risk maturity across five key dimensions:

01 | VISIBILITY

Do you have a complete, accurate inventory of your vendors and the systems or data they access?

> Immature programs lack visibility into their full vendor landscape, creating blind spots and compliance gaps.

02 | STANDARDIZATION

Are your onboarding, risk assessments, and oversight processes consistent and repeatable?

> Mature programs define and document processes that create clarity, reduce ad hoc decisions, and ensure accountability.

03 | GOVERNANCE

Is there executive ownership and cross-functional alignment for vendor risk?

> Strong governance includes defined roles, board-level reporting, and integration with enterprise risk, compliance frameworks, and vendor oversight responsibilities.

04 | MONITORING & INCIDENT READINESS

Do you regularly reassess vendors and respond to changes in their risk profile?

> Mature organizations use both periodic reviews and real-time alerts to stay ahead of evolving threats and vendor changes.

05 | CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Is your program reviewed and refined over time to reflect lessons learned and changes in the business?

> Leading organizations treat vendor risk as a living function, continuously adapting policies, tools, and performance metrics.

A mature vendor risk program drives better decisions, faster responses, and stronger stakeholder trust.

S3 Security delivers practical guidance, strategic insight, and board-ready clarity to help your program evolve with purpose.

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VENDOR RISK PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

S3 Security delivers a structured approach to vendor risk management. Our process aligns with regulatory expectations while enabling better decision-making, stronger oversight, and increased resilience.

We guide organizations through four key phases:

1

PROGRAM DISCOVERY & VENDOR INVENTORY

Establish a baseline by reviewing current policies, vendor lists, and stakeholder roles. We identify critical vendors, gaps in oversight, and areas where structure is missing.

2

RISK TIERING & ASSESSMENT DESIGN

Classify vendors by business impact and access level. We help define tailored risk criteria, questionnaires, and supporting tools to evaluate third-party risk consistently.

3

POLICY, PROCESS & CONTROL REVIEW

Evaluate onboarding procedures, access controls, contractual protections, and monitoring activities. We identify where documentation, enforcement, or governance needs strengthening.

4

FINDINGS, ROADMAP & EXECUTIVE REPORTING

Deliver a clear summary of risk posture, program maturity, alignment with regulatory expectations and improvement priorities. Includes actionable recommendations, a prioritized roadmap, and executive-ready materials for board, audit, or compliance reporting.

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ALIGNING WITH REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Vendor risk isn't just operational, it's also a regulatory requirement.

S3 Security helps ensure your third-party risk program aligns with the evolving expectations of auditors, customers, and compliance frameworks across industries.

We map your program to the specific control areas and documentation required by common industry frameworks such as:

- **PCI DSS:** Oversight of service providers, secure data handling, and written agreements with accountability clauses
- **HIPAA:** Required safeguards, Business Associate Agreements, and vendor breach notification procedures
- **NIST & CMMC:** Supply chain risk integration, access controls, and contractual security requirements for federal and DoD contractors
- **ISO/IEC 27001:** Information security management requirements for external parties and shared data environments
- **SOC 2:** Oversight of vendors that affect availability, confidentiality, and system security
- **FFIEC / GLBA:** Third-party management expectations for financial institutions, including contractual reviews and risk-based oversight

Whether you're preparing for a certification, audit, or client attestations, S3 Security ensures your vendor risk practices are defensible, documented, and aligned with recognized standards.

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TEST IT BEFORE YOU NEED IT

Even well-managed vendors can become the weak link.

A misconfigured system, shared credential, or delayed notification can quickly lead to a breach that impacts your entire organization.

S3 Security helps ensure your response strategy is tested, aligned, and boardroom ready.

Our Incident Readiness Support includes:

Third-Party Breach Tabletop Exercises

We simulate real-world scenarios to evaluate response readiness across legal, IT, executive, and compliance teams..

Escalation & Notification Mapping

Define what triggers an internal or external escalation and identify who needs to be notified when vendors are involved.

Contractual Language Review

Evaluate breach notification timelines, responsibilities, and liabilities embedded in third-party contracts.

Response Plan Integration

Align vendor oversight with the broader incident response strategy to ensure consistent action and communication.

Assessment-Ready Documentation

We don't just check boxes; we ensure your evidence stands up to scrutiny and satisfies assessor expectations.

Being prepared for a vendor-related incident shows maturity and foresight.

We help you build confidence across your leadership team and ensure readiness when it matters most.

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YOUR CYBERSECURITY PARTNER

S|3 SPECIALIZED SECURITY SERVICES

FLOAT ON

Cybersecurity and compliance to ward off any threat.

Wherever You Are in Your Risk Strategy—We're With You

At S3 Security, we meet you where you are—whether you're just beginning to assess risk or advancing a mature security program. We understand the complexities you face, and we know that one of the greatest benefits of strong compliance and cybersecurity practices is lasting peace of mind.

Our mission is to strengthen your organization's resilience, efficiency, and long-term success by aligning security strategies with your business goals.

With decades of experience guiding clients through evolving regulatory requirements and emerging threats, we are your trusted partner in navigating navigating evolving regulatory demands, emerging threats, and executive-level risk expectations.

CONTACT US

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