



**compliant**

compliant

your complete

Sarbanes-Oxley Compliance Solution.





## The Problem:

Publicly traded companies and SEC registrants are all too familiar with the obstacles associated with Sarbanes-Oxley compliance efforts. Most executives and auditors who endured the rigors of Year 1 compliance will agree that just gaining an understanding of the requirements imposed by the legislation and the external audit firms has been a monumental task in itself. The lack of an affordable, flexible compliance tool tailored toward Sarbanes-Oxley compliance has only compounded the problems associated with this costly, time-consuming effort. With few options available, most organizations have been left to their own devices, being forced to rely on a system composed of nothing more than volumes of unrelated spreadsheet, word processing, and text files stored on a corporate file share. This process is inefficient, insecure, and inaccurate.

Undoubtedly, there are tools available that are being marketed as Sarbanes-Oxley tools; very expensive tools with outrageous price tags that most organizations cannot afford to pay. Most of these tools existed before the legislation was enacted or before anyone made it through the first year of compliance. As a result, these tools do not fully address the specific requirements of Sarbanes-Oxley compliance; most are generic controls databases or document management systems that have been repackaged for Sarbanes-Oxley.

As auditors and technology experts, we set out to solve these problems through development of a compliance tool built specifically to help our clients manage their Sarbanes-Oxley Compliance efforts more efficiently and effectively.


## The Product:

Compliant Solutions, LLC introduces Compliant 1.0, a browser-based auditing tool designed by former Big-4 auditors fed up with the inefficiencies associated with traditional audit tools. Compliant is unlike anything on the market today because it was built by former audit managers and industry leaders who understand the obstacles associated with compliance efforts; this experience is what makes Compliant different. Our founders are in the unique position to understand the needs of every potential user of the tool, from internal audit staff to external auditors and executive management.

Compliant was built with one goal in mind: to increase the ongoing efficiency and effectiveness of an organization's compliance efforts, particularly Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. Most importantly, we built this tool to be dynamic and easily adaptable to any change your organization may undergo. Those organizations lucky enough to have an integrated compliance management tool are probably locked into the rigid structure or audit methodology imposed by that tool. As auditors and managers ourselves, we understand that the most common changes, such as changes in business processes, changes in external auditor or changes in legislation can turn an organization's well-established audit methodology upside down. An inflexible tool that cannot change with your organization only decreases efficiency and increases your costs, leaving you right back where you started.

We know that throughout the years, all organizations will experience these types of changes and as a result, we have built a tool that is flexible enough to change with your organization, regardless of how your business changes or who performs your external audit.

**“With Compliant, you don't have to modify your audit methodology to fit the tool – you can structure the tool to fit your audit methodology. Every client has the ability to customize his or her audit structure within the tool to meet the needs of the organization.”**



# Product Features:

Compliant tracks every aspect of the company's controls in accordance with the standards set forth by the government and standard-setting boards such as COSO and PCAOB. The tool comes complete with online templates for all of your controls documentation and testing needs. These templates are based on the worldwide accepted COSO framework and include standard PCAOB data requirements. Behind these templates lies a relational database that allows for quick and easy reporting on any fields selected. The relational database infrastructure plays a significant part in reducing rework and data entry errors, ultimately improving the accuracy of your reporting. With Compliant, you no longer have to spend endless hours modifying your spreadsheets to suit the audience you have to address. We've designed the system in such a way that you need only input the information one time, via an intuitive interface. From there, your reporting options are endless. With Compliant's powerful reporting engine, management can easily report on any aspect of the control infrastructure, creating ad hoc reports that can be sorted, grouped, and filtered as needed. Some of Compliant's features include:

- **Robust Reporting Engine**
- **Task management features**
- **Document management**
- **Automatic Roll-forward of documentation from previous years**
- **Control gap and remediation management**
- **A mechanism for communications with external auditors**
- **Import/Export Functionality**
- **Review note manager**
- **Version Control**
- **Knowledgebase**
- **Industry-specific guides**
- **Detailed revision history**
- **Role-based security**

In addition, Compliant includes an end-user customizable Dashboard. The Dashboard serves as the main page of the application where all users will be able to obtain quick-hit information about project status, control deficiencies, remediation efforts, etc. Because it can be customized by the end-user, the Dashboard is easily adaptable for each of the different users who will be utilizing the tool: executive management, internal compliance professionals, external auditors, etc.

# Benefits of Using Compliant:

- **Increased efficiency in Project Management**
- **Clear visibility into:**
  - **Project Status**
  - **Key Controls**
  - **Control Deficiencies**
  - **Design Improvements**
  - **Expected Remediation Dates**
- **Increased accuracy in reporting**
- **Improved communicates with External Auditors**
- **Elimination of manual rework**

# Solution Options:

The Compliant product is web-based and can be hosted by us or housed directly on a customer's intranet. The benefit to having Compliant host the application lies both in the extra security associated with having back-up copies of your documents stored offsite as well as in the reduction in hardware and software costs required to support the application. The majority of the products on the market require companies to invest heavily in specific hardware/software products that many companies may not already have. The hosted version of Compliant requires only an internet connection. The non-hosted version requires only Windows server and database software that most companies already have in place.





## Architecture:

Compliant is built entirely on Microsoft's .NET platform. Our hosted version allows companies to reap the benefits associated with this robust compliance tool without having to endure the hassle involved with software and hardware maintenance. Your users can access all application features from anywhere with a simple internet connection. The web-based architecture facilitates collaboration with all users around the world.

For companies who are more interested in maintaining the application in-house, we do offer a shrink-wrap version and we recommend Windows server 2000 or 2003, MSSQL Server 2000 Standard or Enterprise Edition, and Internet Information Services (IIS) version 5 or higher. Ease of administration, existing architecture, and compatibility with standard desktop applications are the main reasons we chose the .NET platform for Compliant.

## Services:

Compliant Solutions, LLC offers various services to assist our clients with their compliance needs. Some of these services include:

- Product Training
- 2004 Data Conversion efforts (for clients who wish to import prior year information into Compliant)
- Assistance with Audit Structure set-up
- Customization of forms and reports
- Controls Auditing

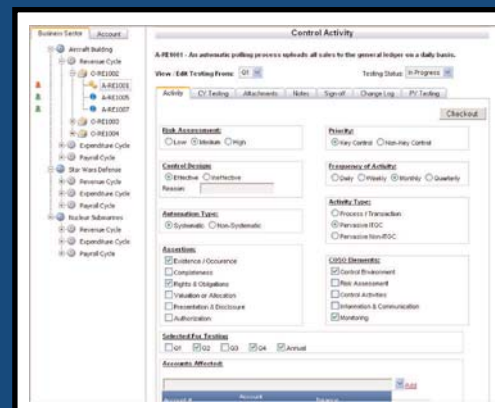
In order to provide our clients with the most up-to-date, valuable information regarding compliance issues, we have a team dedicated specifically to staying abreast of all changes in legislation, as well as industry-specific changes. This group of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) is dedicated to keeping the application current and providing you with the latest information regarding changes in:

- PCAOB
- COSO
- CoBIT
- 'Big 4' Methodologies
- Industry Control Standards

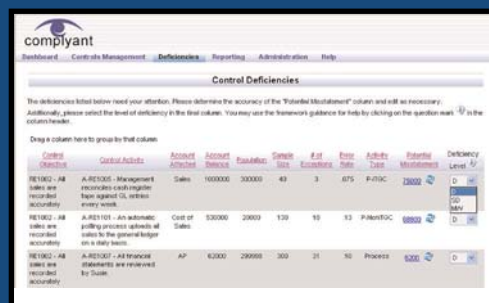
# Compliant tools



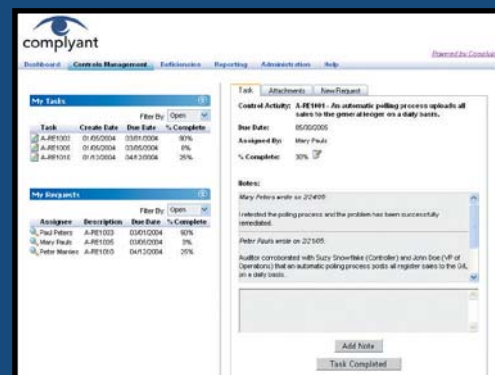
Dashboard



Controls



Deficiencies



Tasks

# Compliant Solutions, LLC

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