

Four Ways You Can Help Your Organization Mitigate Risk

As long as there is money and valuable data, there will be fraud attempts and threats to security.



Protect the Payment

Implement an electronic payment solution, such as virtual cards and ACH transactions, to provide greater protections than paper checks, mitigating the risk of payment fraud. Electronic solutions allow for defined roles and permissions and privileges, separation of duties, configurable business rules, complete audit trails, hierarchical access, administrative controls for security settings, and parameters (such as the amount, supplier, location, or date) for approved payments.



Secure the Operations

Accounting teams should establish operational procedures and controls for the execution of payments, including multiple approvals, payment limits, segregation of duties, rotation of job responsibilities, and a clean desk policy. Accounting teams should also ensure that all employees responsible for paying suppliers are properly trained, with regular refreshers to help detect internal and external threats (including cyber and social engineering schemes) to sensitive information.



Fortify the Network

Implement advanced anti-virus applications to detect and quarantine any malware that may have reached the PC used to generate payments. Strictly limit the application software that you allow to run this PC. You can also fortify your network by securing e-mail communications, using a vulnerability management program using the most up-to-date version of payment and accounting applications, and implement technology to detect threats across their network.



Lock Down Compliance

Businesses require compliance oversight and audit assurance, no matter the payment mechanism. Ensure you are a NACHA compliant and safeguard your payments by undergoing a SOC and PCI assessment. Lastly, lock down compliance by ensuring you have a way to check suppliers against the OFAC list.

The Bottom Line

Businesses have too much at stake to leave themselves vulnerable to soaring payment fraud. A single fraudulent incident could cost a business big money. And accounting teams could lose weeks of valuable time investigating and remediating payment fraud. Developing a holistic risk management strategy provides accounting teams and the businesses they work with the upper hand against bad actors.