SmartSuite

Framework / IT Governance / Other

COBIT 2019

COBIT 2019 is a governance framework that helps organizations govern and manage IT to meet business goals, risks, and compliance.

What it is

COBIT 2019 (Control Objectives for Information and Related Technologies) is a governance and management framework for enterprise information and technology that helps organizations establish, monitor, and enhance effective risk management, cybersecurity controls, and regulatory compliance practices. The framework provides a structured approach for aligning IT processes with organizational goals and regulatory requirements.

Published by ISACA, COBIT 2019 is used globally by enterprises, auditors, and IT leaders to support the governance of information systems, data protection, and the management of technology risk. The framework covers a wide range of focus areas, including information security, risk assessment, privacy governance, operational resilience, and compliance oversight.

At a glance

PUBLISHER ISACA	TYPE Framework	VERSION 2019
EFFECTIVE 2019	DOMAIN IT Governance	FAMILY Other
REGION United States	ADOPTION MODEL Regulatory Compliance	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY High

Source: https://www.isaca.org/resources/cobit

Why it matters

- **Strengthen IT governance** Enable clear accountability and oversight for technology processes, improving alignment with organizational objectives and strategic priorities.
- **Enhance compliance support** Provide a structured framework to demonstrate adherence to regulatory requirements and simplify audit preparations for IT controls and data protection.
- **Promote operational resilience** Support business continuity by guiding risk management, incident response planning, and the protection of critical technology assets.
- **Improve risk management** Facilitate the identification, assessment, and mitigation of information and technology risks across diverse business units and environments.

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How SmartSuite supports COBIT 2019

Governance Objectives Library
Structure governance and management objectives with ownership, scope, and outcomes.

Policy and Decision Tracking
Centralize governance decisions, approvals, and accountability for IT and risk outcomes.

Control Testing and Assurance
Plan assessments, document results, and track corrective actions across objectives.

Risk and Performance Alignment
Connect governance objectives to enterprise risks, KPIs, and performance metrics.

Third-Party and Service Oversight
Track provider obligations, reviews, and evidence for outsourcing and service delivery.

Board-Ready Reporting
Generate reporting views across objectives, maturity, issues, and improvement plans.

Common framework mappings

COSO ERM 2017 | ISO/IEC 20000-1 | ISO 27001:2022 | ISO 27002:2022 | ITIL 4 | NIST CSF 2.0

Official resources

COBIT 2019 Framework
Defines governance and management objectives for enterprise information technology.

isaca.org/resources/cobit

COBIT 2019 Implementation Guide
Provides detailed guidance on implementing COBIT 2019 practices.

isaca.org/resources/cobit

COBIT 2019 Design Guide
Outlines the process for designing a tailored governance system using COBIT 2019.

isaca.org/resources/cobit

COBIT 2019 Framework Introduction and Methodology
Describes the components and methodology of the COBIT 2019 framework.

isaca.org/resources/cobit

Frequently asked questions

What is COBIT 2019 used for?
COBIT 2019 is used as a governance and management framework to align information technology processes with business goals, ensure effective risk management, and support regulatory compliance across enterprise IT systems. It guides organizations in establishing control objectives, monitoring performance, and addressing cybersecurity, privacy, and operational resilience.

Is COBIT 2019 a mandatory or certifiable framework?
COBIT 2019 is not mandatory or certifiable like some regulatory standards, but it is widely adopted as a best-practice framework. Organizations use it to design, assess, and strengthen their IT governance and internal controls to satisfy external audit requirements and demonstrate compliance with regulatory expectations.

What is the scope of COBIT 2019 and to which organizations does it apply?
COBIT 2019 is applicable to organizations of any type or size seeking to improve IT governance, control, risk management, and compliance. Its flexible design factors and domain-based structure allow organizations to tailor the framework to their specific regulatory, operational, and strategic needs.

What key concepts or artifacts are central to COBIT 2019 compliance?
Key artifacts in COBIT 2019 include management objectives, governance objectives, control activities, goals cascade, capability assessments, and performance metrics. The framework emphasizes assigning accountability, defining policies, and documenting processes and controls to support evidence-based oversight and compliance.

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How is COBIT 2019 implemented in practice?

Implementation involves mapping enterprise and stakeholder goals to governance objectives, identifying and addressing risks, defining controls and processes, and conducting continuous monitoring using maturity models and performance indicators. Organizations tailor COBIT 2019 to their environment by configuring design factors and conducting regular gap analyses.

How does COBIT 2019 relate to other standards such as ISO 27001 or NIST RMF?

COBIT 2019 is compatible with other frameworks like ISO 27001, NIST RMF, and ITIL, offering a high-level governance structure that can incorporate detailed controls and procedures from these standards. It is often used as an overarching framework to map and manage multiple compliance and risk management requirements.

What are ongoing compliance requirements for COBIT 2019?

Ongoing compliance includes periodic risk assessments, capability and maturity reviews, regular updates to controls and policies, evidence collection, and tracking corrective actions. Continuous monitoring and reporting are crucial to demonstrate effective governance and maintain readiness for internal and external audits.

How would SmartSuite support COBIT 2019?

SmartSuite supports COBIT 2019 by providing integrated solutions for risk tracking, control management, centralized policy governance, and evidence collection. Its compliance modules enable organizations to map COBIT objectives, manage remediation workflows, ensure audit readiness, and generate comprehensive reports and dashboards for executive oversight and regulatory review.

License included / downloadable: No COBIT 2019 is published by ISACA. Access to the official framework documentation typically requires purchasing the official publications or obtaining them through authorized sources. License not included with platform

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/cobit-2019-control-objectives-for-information-and-related-technologies

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