**Module 12.2 – Compliance**

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**Compliance**

Providing compliance in a regulated environment is essential. What is compliance? Compliance is adhering to every law, regulation, and ethical guideline that applies to your business (Byrne). Organizations may have different internal and external rules from stakeholders, regulators, and the organization. The organization promises to meet the regulations. Otherwise, there will be consequences, such as fines or criminal charges. In contrast, compliance is a great showcase to enhance customer trust, improve security, and prevent penalties and legal issues when the organization meets all the regulations. Therefore, the organization should regularly monitor compliance.

According to Lange, continuous compliance is an ongoing process that helps organizations maintain adherence to regulatory and security standards in real time. There are a few steps to achieve continuous compliance. It starts with assessing and planning, in which the organization identifies the regulations and standards, and analyzes the gap between current and related rules. Then, the organization will establish a transparent, well-documented process to maintain compliance and implement compliance tools and technologies. Next, the organization will train employees to become familiar with the process and foster a culture of compliance. The organization still needs to monitor compliance and check the report constantly. Finally, organizations should audit and verify the improvement areas in response to the regulatory and technological changes.

Why does an organization want to monitor compliance? Compliance monitoring helps organizations identify and address risks early to avoid legal issues. It can improve organizational reputation because meeting regulatory requirements constantly can boost confidence in stakeholders, partners, and customers. In audit fieldwork, the most commonplace methods of gathering evidence are still screenshots and CSV files filled with configuration settings and logs. We aim to create alternative methods of presenting the data that clearly show auditors that our controls are operating and effective ((Haver, 2021). Compliance monitoring streamlines the regulatory reporting because it monitors the real-time telemetry data. Telemetry data includes system logs, user activities, and configuration changes. The organization can detect the anomalies, violations, and security threats quickly.  It fixes the gap between DevOps and auditors and compliance officers. Telemetry data allows auditors to monitor products and reduces the risks associated with errors and fraud. Monitoring compliance can reduce the risk of legal actions. Therefore, the organization needs to keep monitoring compliance.

Overall, compliance is an excellent way to show the organization's integrity, improve the trust of customers, and enhance the organization's security. Continuous compliance keeps the organization aligned with the latest regulations because it monitors the organization by using automation tests, code reviews, and overviews of real-world telemetry data. Real-time telemetry helps organizations detect vulnerabilities, potential security issues, and system performance. Bill Shinn, principal security solutions architect at Amazon Web Services, points out that there is a gap between DevOps, auditors, and compliance officers. By integrating compliance into everyday operations, organizations can prevent violations, strengthen stakeholder confidence, and increase efficiency. It fills the gap between DevOps, auditors, and compliance officers. It is essential to implement continuous compliance because it ensures organizations will apply the latest regulations, improve their reputation, save costs, and reduce security risk.

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