

Automated Governance

Most organisations govern retrospectively: the work happens, then somebody samples it. Automated governance turns each policy, standard, and control into a machine-readable rule that is evaluated as the work runs, so a breach is visible in minutes rather than at the next audit.

Governance that runs with the work

A control that lives in a document depends on somebody remembering it. A control that lives in the process runs every time the process runs. The difference shows up in the numbers: sampled assurance covers a few percent of cases, automated assurance covers all of them.

AGS translates your existing control set into rules bound to real activities in your event data. Each rule names the activity it watches, the threshold it enforces, the owner it escalates to, and the evidence it records.

- Rules are evaluated on live event data, not on a quarterly extract.
- Every evaluation writes an immutable record you can hand to an auditor.
- Breaches route to a named owner with the case attached, not to a mailbox.

From policy sentence to measurable rule

Policy language is deliberately broad; a rule has to be narrow enough to evaluate. The translation is mechanical once you have the pattern: isolate the measurable noun, attach a threshold, bind it to an activity, and name the owner.

"Invoices should be approved promptly" becomes "the Approve activity must occur within 48 hours of Invoice received, measured per case, owned by the Finance Operations lead". That sentence can be tested; the original cannot.

- Invariants: what must always be true — required steps, approval limits, segregation of duties.
- Prohibitions: what must never happen — same person raising and approving, payment without a match.
- Evidence: the recorded event that proves each answer. No event, no control.

What changes in the first ninety days

The first month is inventory and translation: what controls exist, which are testable today, and which need an event that is not yet captured. The second month runs the rules in observation mode so the team can see the true breach rate without anyone being judged on it. The third month moves the stable rules into enforcement with owners and thresholds agreed.

By the end of the quarter most teams have cut manual review effort sharply, and the audit pack is generated rather than assembled.

- Observation mode first — no surprises, no blame, real baselines.
- Manual review shifts from sampling everything to investigating exceptions.
- Evidence packs export on demand instead of taking two weeks to compile.

Video walkthrough — key points

1. Why late controls fail

- Sampled assurance covers a fraction of cases
- Breaches surface weeks after the work
- Evidence is assembled by hand

Most governance is retrospective. The work happens, then somebody samples a handful of cases and writes a report. By the time a breach is visible, the work has already gone out of the door and the evidence has to be assembled by hand. Automated governance reverses that order.

2. Turn policy into a testable rule

- Isolate the measurable noun
- Attach a threshold and an activity
- Name the owner and the consequence

A policy sentence is broad by design. A rule has to be narrow enough to evaluate. Invoices should be approved promptly becomes: the approve activity must occur within forty eight hours of invoice received, measured per case, owned by the finance operations lead. Now it can be tested.

3. Run the rule with the work

- Evaluated on live event data
- Immutable evidence per evaluation
- Exceptions routed to a named owner

Once a rule is bound to an activity in your event data, it runs every time the process runs. Every evaluation writes an immutable record, and any exception routes straight to the named owner with the case attached. Assurance becomes continuous rather than periodic.

4. Ninety days to continuous assurance

- Month one: inventory and translation
- Month two: observation mode baselines
- Month three: enforcement with owners

The first month is inventory and translation. The second runs everything in observation mode, so the team sees the real breach rate without anyone being judged on it. The third moves stable rules into enforcement. By the end of the quarter the audit pack is generated, not assembled.

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