RESEARCH REPORT

The TPRM Efficiency Index.

An analysis of 93 organisations, 607,803 artefacts, and 630,563 hours of TPRM labour.

PROTECHT | VISO TRUST
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Executive summary.

Third-party risk management (TPRM) programs are quietly consuming an enormous amount of enterprise resource, and not in the obvious places, but in painstaking manual review of vendor-supplied artefacts.

This report presents findings from an analysis of 36,856 vendor assessments conducted across 93 organisations, surfacing a pattern that has remained largely invisible to security and procurement leaders: artefact review, follow-up coordination and redundant manual work represent the dominant labour cost in modern TPRM programs.

>> The data reveals that AI-assisted workflows can eliminate a significant share of this burden, enabling teams to scale their programs without an increase in headcount, and to redirect critical energy to essential risk decisions.

About Protecht and VISO TRUST.

Protecht acquired VISO TRUST in 2026, bringing AI-powered vendor assurance into its connected risk management platform. Together, Protecht and VISO TRUST connect evidence review and assessment with vendor intake, tiering, ownership, approvals, findings, actions, monitoring and reporting, helping teams make faster decisions and maintain more defensible oversight across the vendor lifecycle.

About this research.

This report analyses activity from 93 organisations using VISO TRUST. The platform collects and reviews vendor evidence, helping teams form an initial risk view and focus human attention on gaps, context and decisions.

The pages that follow examine one important part of vendor risk management: the time and effort involved in vendor assessment and artefact review. The findings show how much capacity AI-assisted workflows can release for higher-value risk work.

Dataset at a glance.

36,856	93	607,803	630,563
Vendor assessments analysed	Organisations analysed	Artefacts reviewed	Estimated TPRM labour hours saved

1 The hidden tax of TPRM

Ask any TPRM leader where their team's time goes, and the instinctive answer is usually assessments. The reality this data shows is more specific and solvable. The number one cost driver is artefact review: the manual reading, control mapping and gap analysis of security documents.

These artefacts arrive in bulk, require specialised interpretation and demand hours of attention before a risk decision can be made. When multiplied across hundreds or even thousands of vendor relationships, the problem becomes unmanageable.

> There's no way to sustain it long term as a manual questionnaire and process. Think about the entire process, that could be a five, six, seven-week process... and then you're making some life decisions as to whether this vendor is okay. It's a little arbitrary.
>
> ~ **Jeff Deakins**, CISO, James Hardie

Why artefact review consumes more time than teams realise.

Different artefact types carry materially different review burdens. SOC 2 reports, for example, require deep reads to map controls, identify gaps and assess audit scope - a process that can consume an hour or more per document. ISO, HITRUST and PCI certificates are moderately intensive.

SIG and CAIQ questionnaires are structured but still demand manual interpretation. Policy and procedure documents are shorter but still require contextual review.

The important distinction: The assessment itself is not the only burden. The repeated work required to collect, read, map, validate and follow up evidence is what constrains scale.

2 Key findings.

Aggregate efficiency findings.

66%	66%	248,771
Reduction in total TPRM labour	Reduction in artefact-review time	Artefact-review hours saved

Company-level impact.

The aggregate figures above are compelling, but the per-organisation data tells an equally compelling story. Across the 93 organisations in this analysis, the average impact of AI-assisted TPRM workflows was:

Metric	Per-organisation impact
Hours saved per organisation	6,780 hours
Labour cost saved per organisation	More than $847,000 USD
Time saved per assessment	17.1 hours
Artefacts processed per organisation	6,535

At a fully loaded analyst rate of $125 per hour - a conservative estimate - the dollar value of reclaimed time is substantial.

Reading the results: The two 66% figures are related but distinct. One describes the reduction in total TPRM labour; the other describes the reduction in artefact-review time.

3 What teams do with reclaimed time.

The value of efficiency gains is not purely financial. When TPRM teams are no longer constrained by review backlogs, the character of their work changes. Organisations in this dataset report four shifts:

1. Access more vendors

Programs are no longer artificially capped by analyst bandwidth. Teams can onboard, assess and monitor larger vendor populations without additional headcount.

2. Reduce vendor backlog

Automation shortens the lag between onboarding and risk evaluation, turning long queues into manageable workflows.

3. Increase depth of analysis

With routine extraction handled by AI, analysts can focus on control gaps, context and decisions that require human judgement.

4. Improve TPRM scalability

TPRM workflows can scale alongside vendor growth without the increase in labour that has historically constrained programs.

> Without [VISO TRUST], we would need 10 or 15 people. And are you really going to get the budget for 10 or 15, when you have a need in identity or incident response or somewhere else?
>
> ~ **Jeff Deakins**, CISO, James Hardie

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4 Methodology.

For each organisation, we analysed the total volume of vendor relationships, assessments and artefacts processed.

1.

Workload baseline
From this, we estimated the hours a traditional TPRM team would require to manage the same activity.

2.

AI-assisted comparison
We then compared that baseline against the hours required with VISO TRUST's AI and automation layer applied.

3.

Value of time reclaimed
The dollar value of reclaimed time is calculated using a conservative figure of $125 per hour for a compliance or TPRM specialist.

4.

Customisation note
This figure can be adjusted to reflect organisation-specific compensation structures.

>> These figures are modelled estimates derived from platform activity and the stated labour-rate assumption; they are not audited financial results.

5 Strategic implications for TPRM leaders.

The findings in this report point to a structural opportunity:

TPRM programs have been constrained not by strategy or technology but by the labour economics of manual artefact review.

> We can do it within a week. And if it's really urgent, we could do it faster. Vendors are pretty happy if it's done within two weeks, especially if they don't have to fill out a questionnaire.
>
> ~ **Arkadiy Goykhberg**, CISO, Branch

From constrained to informed

Traditional TPRM programs make implicit trade-offs: which vendors get assessed, how deeply and on what timeline. These trade-offs are driven not by risk equations but by analyst availability. When artefact review is no longer the bottleneck, teams can make assessment decisions based on risk exposure rather than capacity.

The backlog problem

Every day a vendor is onboarded and operational without a completed assessment is a day of unmanaged risk. Reducing assessment cycle time from weeks to days eliminates a category of risk that rarely appears in program metrics but is identified during breach post-mortems.

Scaling without headcount

The traditional TPRM model requires proportional increases in TPRM staffing. The data in this report suggests an alternative: AI-assisted programs can absorb significant vendor volume without similar headcount growth, preserving budget for higher-value security investments.

6 Looking ahead.

This analysis represents a point-in-time review of 93 organisations using the VISO TRUST platform. As AI-assisted TPRM workflows continue to mature, the efficiency index will continue to evolve - particularly as AI models improve.

The organisations that capture the greatest benefit from these shifts will be those that move now, building workflows, governance structures and analyst competencies to use AI as a first-line review capability.

> AI and LLMs are great at synthesizing context. What VISO TRUST does is leverage AI to answer a specific set of questions based on the documentation provided. This is a perfect example of using AI to solve a business process problem.
>
> ~ **Arkadiy Goykhberg**, CISO, Branch

The bottom line.

630,563
Estimated TPRM labour hours saved

MORE THAN $847k
Estimated labour cost saved per organisation

66%
Reduction in artefact-review time

The data is clear: The hidden tax of TPRM is real, it is large and it is solvable.

7 Turn time saved into action.

Reclaiming time from evidence review removes an important bottleneck. Its greatest value comes when faster assessments lead to consistent decisions and accountable follow-up across the vendor lifecycle.

Protecht combines VISO TRUST's AI-powered vendor assurance with connected workflows, governance and enterprise risk context. Teams can apply risk-based intake and tiering, carry assessment outcomes into approvals, findings and remediation, and keep vendor status current through monitoring and reassessment.

Each vendor record remains connected with relevant risks, controls, cyber, compliance, incidents and resilience. The result is more than a quicker review. It is a faster path from request to action, with the visibility and audit trail needed to support risk teams, executives, boards and regulators.

1. Access

Collect evidence and use AI-assisted analysis to focus review.

2. Decide

Carry outcomes into approvals, findings and accountable action.

3. Action

Connect vendor exposure with enterprise risk and reporting.

Move faster on vendor risk, with AI-powered assurance

See how Protecht and VISO TRUST
can reduce manual effort and connect vendor assessment with the wider risk lifecycle.

Book a demo

Explore the solution

ABOUT PROTECHT AND VISO TRUST

About Protecht.

While others fear risk, we embrace it. For over 25 years, Protecht has redefined the way people think about risk management. Through our people, we enable smarter risk taking by our customers to drive their resilience and sustainable success.

We help our customers increase performance and achieve strategic objectives through better understanding, monitoring and management of risk. We provide a complete solution of AI-enabled governance, compliance and risk management software supported by training and advisory services to businesses, regulators and governments across the world.

With our flagship SaaS GRC platform you can dynamically manage all your risks in one place: enterprise risk, cyber and IT risk, incidents, vendor risk, operational resilience, business continuity, compliance, internal audit, workplace safety and more. We're with you for your full risk journey.

About VISO TRUST.

VISO TRUST is a leading AI-powered third-party and cyber risk management platform that helps organisations automate and scale risk assessments, reduce manual workload and gain real-time visibility into vendor risk.

Trusted by security and risk professionals, VISO TRUST combines powerful analytics and continuous monitoring to deliver actionable insights that strengthen enterprise and supply-chain risk programs.

VISO TRUST is a Protecht company. Together, Protecht and VISO TRUST connect AI-powered assurance with vendor workflows, enterprise risk context and decision-ready reporting.

Visit our websites:
protechtgroup.com **visotrust.com**