

Establish an Effective System of Internal IT Controls to Mitigate Risks

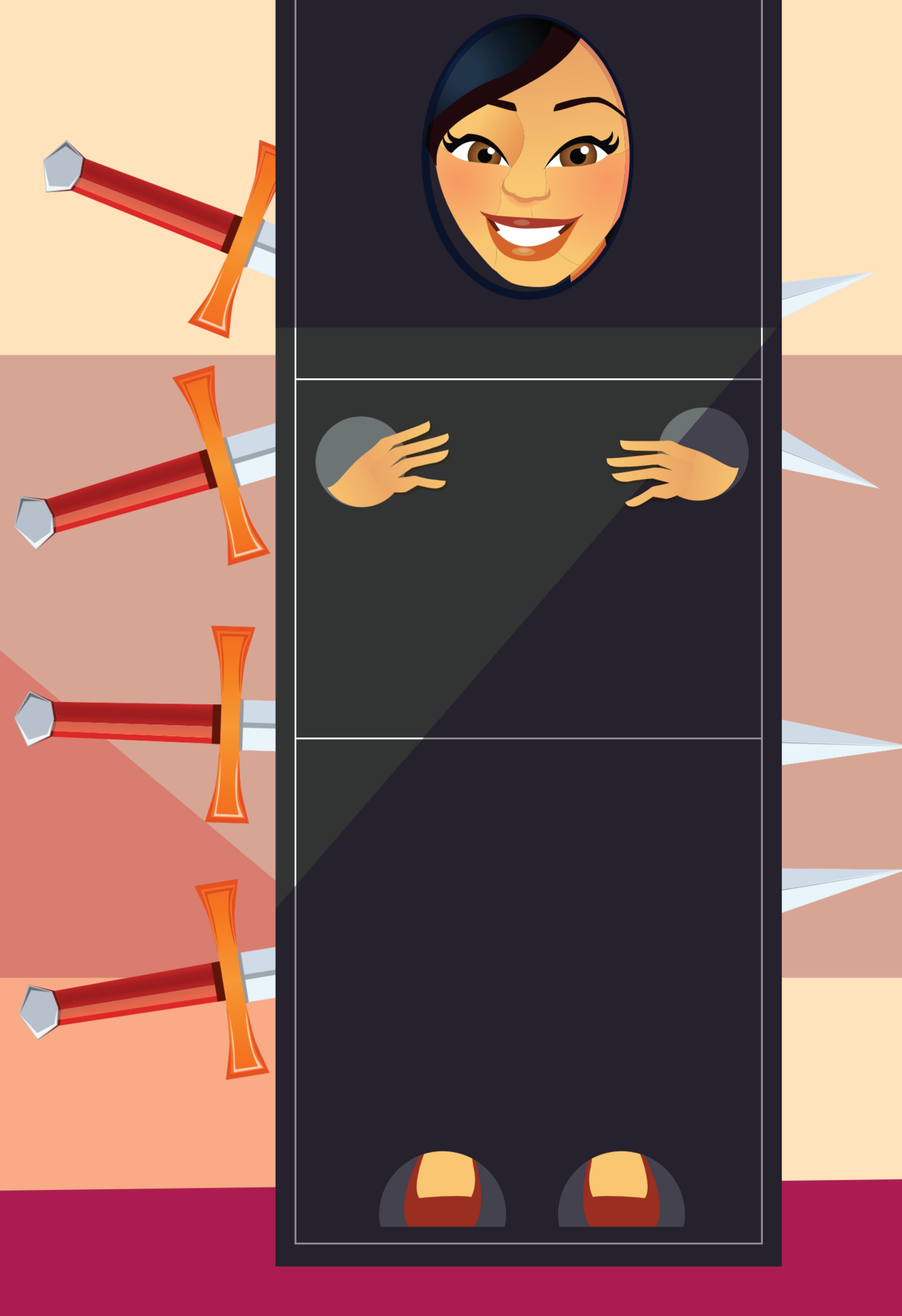


The only thing worse than a *lack* of control is the *illusion* of control.

Deficiencies in controls could result in a serious breach for the company, or worse – the loss of your job.

Despite these drastic consequences, improving the system of internal controls remains a low priority for many IT organizations and their leaders.

You don't need to implement every control. Maximize your risk mitigation at a low cost by focusing on your organization's greatest risks.



If you can't see it, it *doesn't exist*. Effective controls require *proof of existence*.

Internal controls are only as effective as the level of adoption; ensure that controls are communicated and enforced to supercharge adoption.

Steps

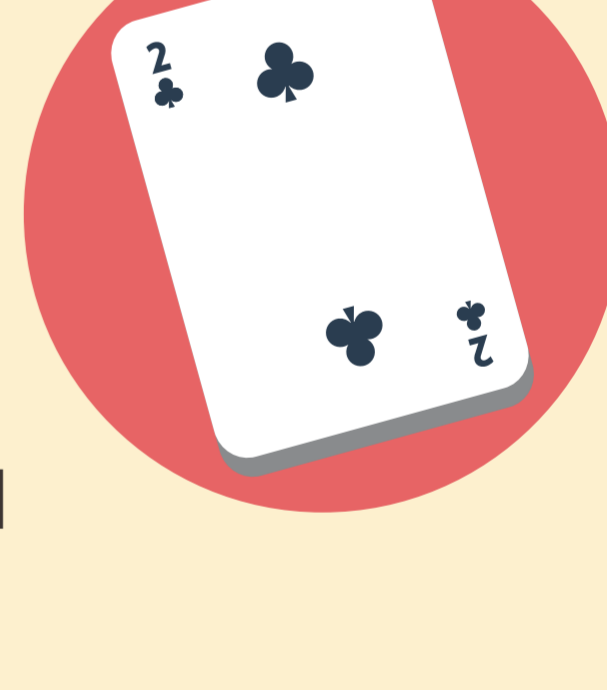
1. Assess need for controls

Assess your control system from both a risk-based approach (top-down) and a business-process approach (bottom-up) to ensure comprehensive coverage.



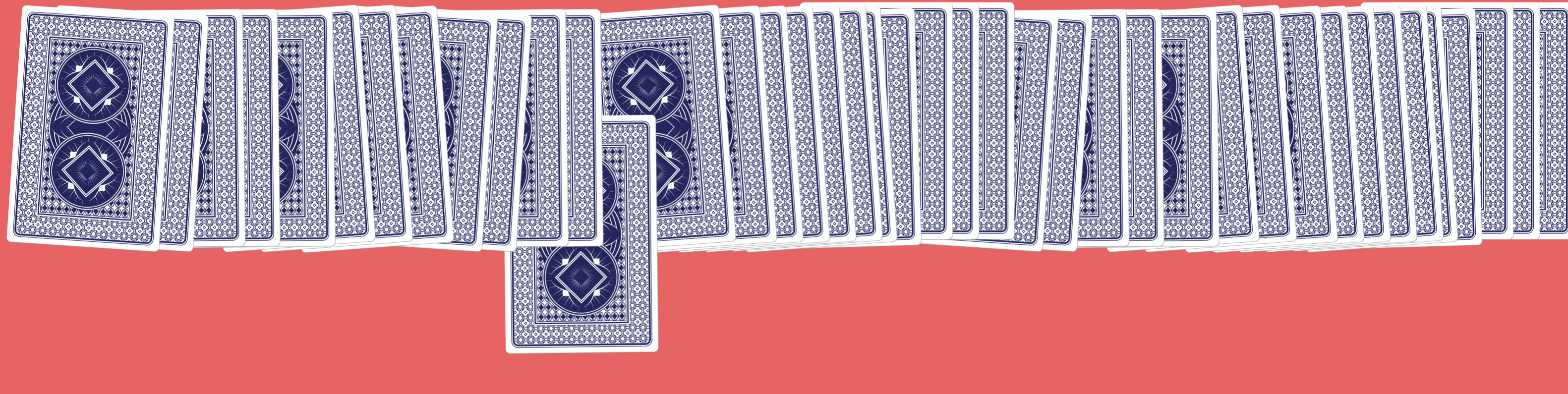
2. Assess control coverage

Dependent on the severity of the risk, the combination of types of controls will differ to ensure the level of control matches the determined level of risk.



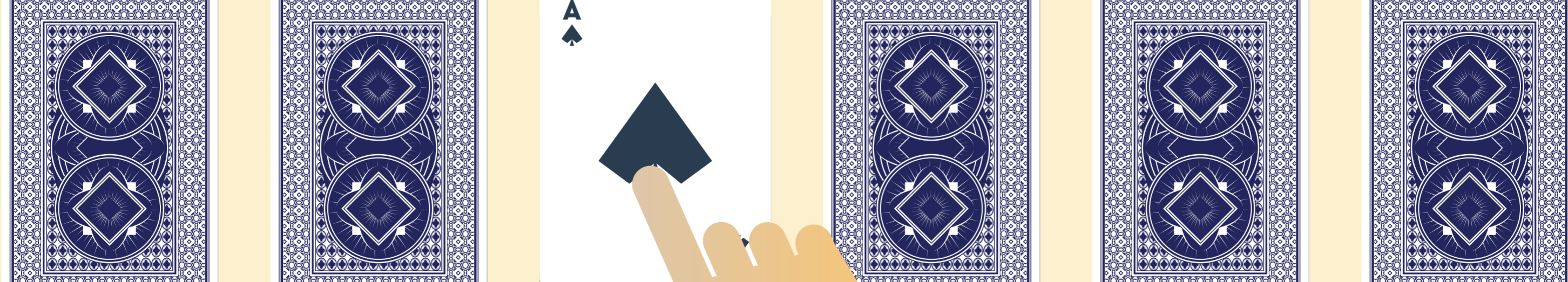
3. Establish controls

Design controls by consulting with the people who actually use the process and then communicate them effectively to ensure adoption.



4. Monitor and evaluate controls

Risks are constantly changing. Your control system must keep up with the pace of change or it will become ineffective.



5. Assemble proof of effective controls

Provide artifacts to auditors.



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