

Take a Portfolio Approach to Policy Management



Find the right balance between risk mitigation and operational efficiency.

The need for a new policy is generally initiated in response to a new regulatory compliance standard or industry framework, or because of a mandate from the business which requires some degree of guidance over a new initiative.

Approaching policy creation in this reactive manner often results in an excessive number of documents that are narrow in scope and don't address the underlying risk.

A study by Cisco showed that the majority of employees and IT professionals believe that their organization's security policies need improvement and updating:

"A lot of employees are saying, 'This is the way I'm working now,' so a lot of these IT policies need to catch up."
- John Maddison, Vice President of Marketing, Fortinet Inc.



Policies lag behind changing business and technology demands and compliance requirements.



Employees complain that policies restrict them from doing their job.

77%



77% of IT professionals believe their policies need updating.

47%



47% of employees believe their policies need updating.

MANAGE

YOUR

POLICIES

LIKE A

Think of your portfolio of policies like a high-powered engine.

Policies should work together like a well-oiled machine.

PORTFOLIO

You need a framework for establishing the right mix of IT policies to adequately support the business while mitigating risks.

Find the right balance by managing your policies like a portfolio.

- The need for policies should be driven by risks and their impact on your processes.
- You don't need a policy for everything; focus your efforts on policies that mitigate your greatest risks.
- Your policies should be consistent with one another and provide adequate coverage of your greatest risks without becoming redundant or overwhelming to the user population.

PROJECT STEPS

1
Establish your policy governance processes

Just as a financial advisor is well-informed on the state of your investments, your governance committee members should have in-depth knowledge of the policy and risk landscape.

2
Assess IT's risk landscape

Build the portfolio that is right for the organization. Your organization's risk tolerance will determine how robust your portfolio needs to be.

3
Create a policy action plan

Document your activity. Creating an action plan that defines the work that needs to be done will keep your policy development initiatives on track.

4
Develop policies

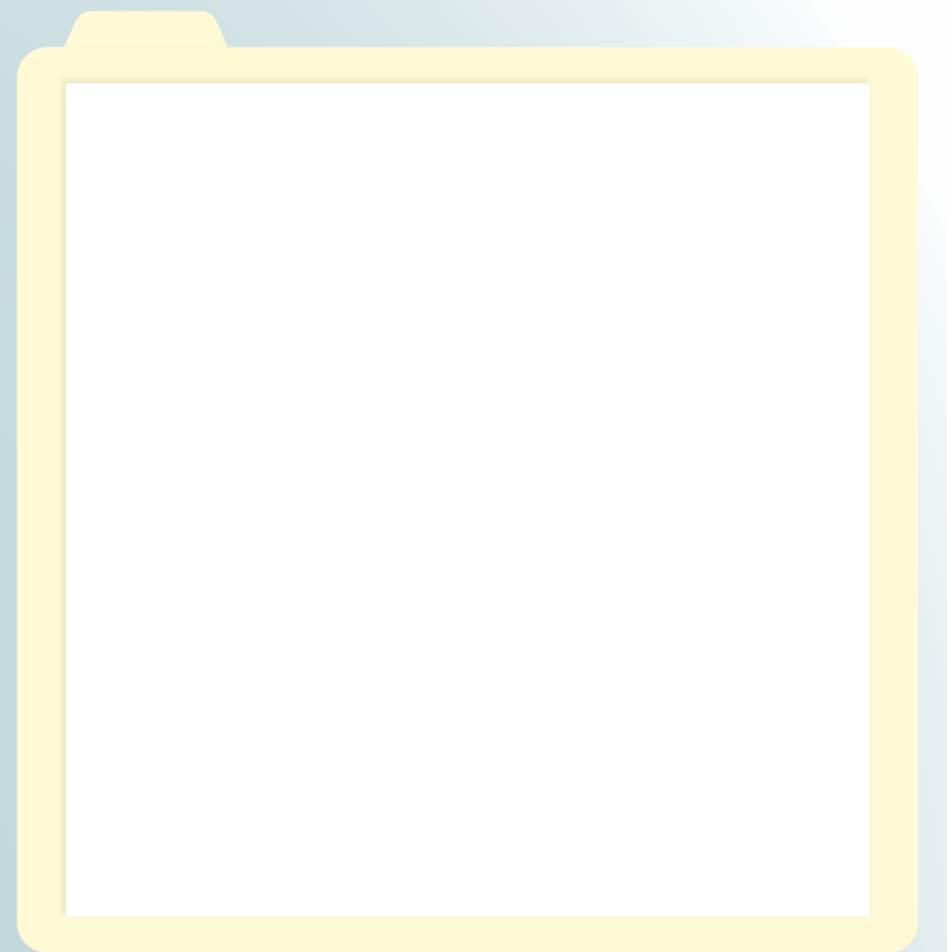
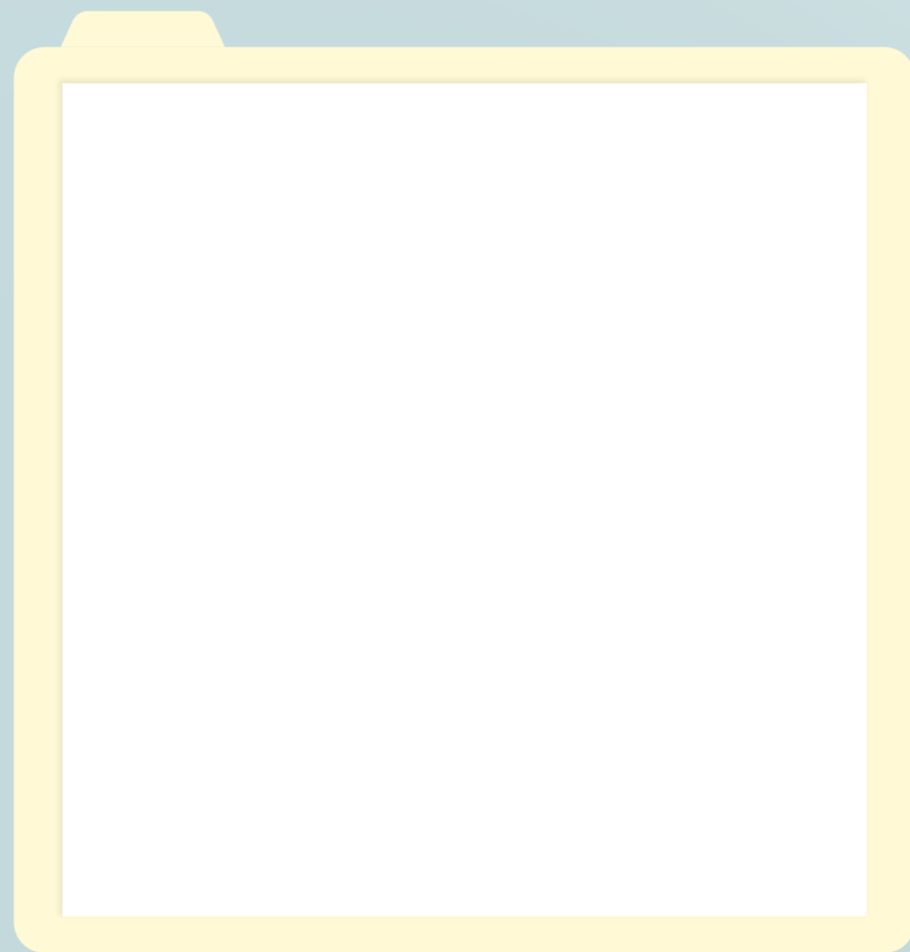
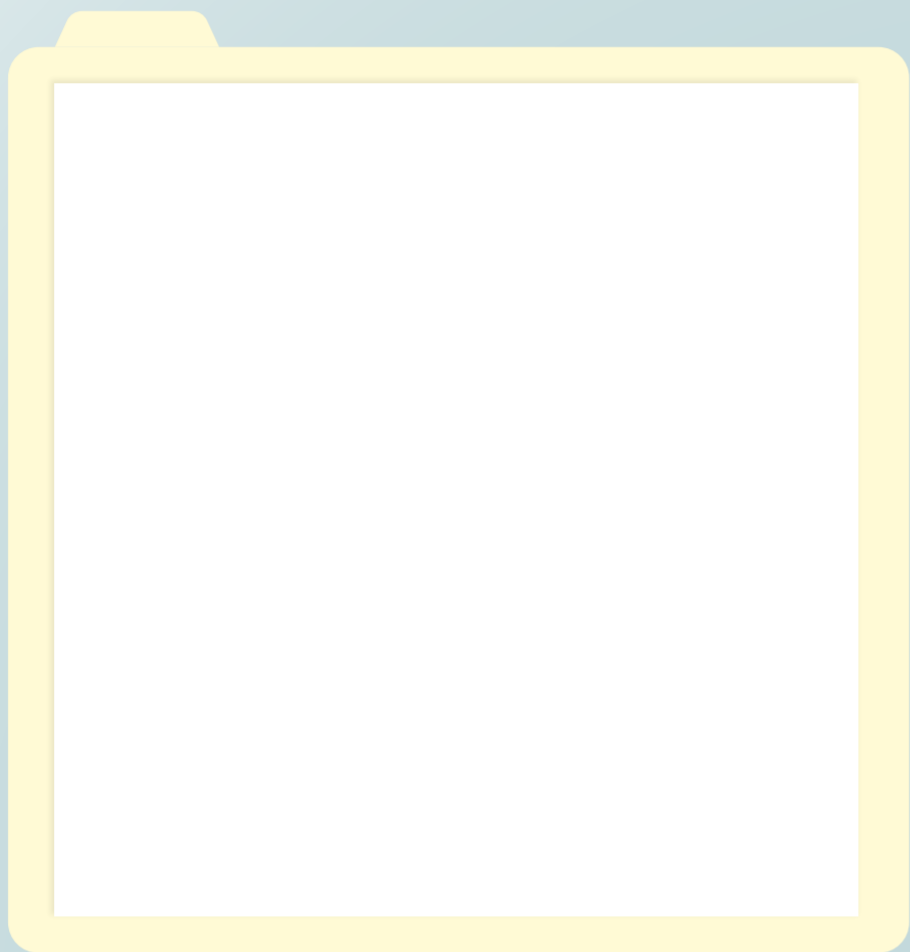
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6
Monitor & reassess the portfolio

Don't ignore changes in the market! KPIs will provide you with insight into the continued validity of policies.

5
Communicate policies

Communication of a policy is almost as important as the policy itself. Having a communication plan will help ensure end users are both aware of and compliant with your policy initiatives. A 2008 global Cisco survey showed that while 77% of companies had acceptable use policies in place, only 51% of users knew they existed.



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Source: TechTarget, "Survey: IT's cloud, BYOD policies don't deter Gen Y use"