Qualys Security Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) is a cloud service for conducting business process control assessments among your external and internal parties to reduce the chance of security breaches and compliance violations.

To conduct business process control assessments, organizations must poll their third parties — like vendors and partners — and their internal staff and teams. Doing this manually, with email and spreadsheets, is erratic, slow, inefficient and costly. That puts your organization at increased risk of data theft, cyber crime, IP espionage, brand damage and government fines.

Qualys SAQ automates, centralizes and streamlines this entire process, including survey design, questionnaire distribution, response monitoring, data aggregation and report generation. With Qualys SAQ, you’ll quickly and precisely identify risky security and compliance gaps among internal and external parties. Because it is built upon the Qualys Cloud Platform, Qualys SAQ lets organizations automate the business process risk assessments at scale, meeting the requirements of even the largest companies.

Features

Intuitive campaign design

SAQ helps create campaign questionnaires with due dates, notifications, assigned reviewers, various answer formats, question criticality, answer scores, evidence requirements and varying workflows. You do this using SAQ’s wizard and its simple, drag-and-drop web UI. You can also use SAQ’s library of out-of-the-box templates covering common compliance standards and regulations, such as the EU’s GDPR.

Simplified questionnaire distribution

There’s no need to set up user accounts. Organizations enter vendor emails and SAQ auto-provisions the surveys. Respondents complete surveys on browser-based forms, and can delegate questions they can’t answer. As deadlines approach, administrators can trigger reminder emails to respondents. Organizations can also set up recurring campaigns.
Qualys SAQ automates business process control assessments of third parties and internal teams — making the process agile, accurate, centralized, scalable and uniform across your organization.

Automated campaign tracking
SAQ captures responses in real time and aggregates them in one central dashboard, so administrators can see campaigns’ progress. SAQ displays charts updated live, and lets administrators drill down to individual respondent questionnaires, and slice and dice results. Administrators can manage multiple campaigns at different stages of completion.

Comprehensive, customizable reports
SAQ generates proof of compliance with detailed reports and caters to a variety of users, including upper management via executive-level dashboards, as well as auditors and compliance officers with more granular views of the data. SAQ can also be used for polling your employees and managers in internal audits and documenting compliance.

Benefits

**Simpler campaign monitoring**
- Lets you easily track survey response progress, ensuring all questionnaires are completed and returned.

**Easier data collection**
- Captures and stores survey answers online, eliminating the need for manual data entry of responses.

**No more use of email, spreadsheets**
- Streamlines and centralizes management of campaign process via cloud-based dashboard.

**Scale and performance**
- Allows you to run multiple, concurrent survey campaigns with thousands of respondents.

“Questionnaire is easy to use and to customize. Having it delivered via the cloud allows us to easily assess third parties.”

Randy Barr
VP & CISO at Saba
SAQ streamlines your third-party and internal risk assessment processes right from the questionnaire creation phase. With SAQ, you easily design in-depth surveys to make business-process control assessments of security policies and practices of third parties and internal staff, and their compliance with industry standards, regulations and internal requirements.

- Let SAQ's wizard walk you through the creation of campaigns, including assigning deadlines and configuring notifications
- Create questionnaires with SAQ’s drag-and-drop UI, or tap SAQ’s template library of surveys for regulations like HIPAA, Basel 3 and SOX, and industry standards like PCI
- Require that respondents attach evidence files for certain answers
- Form questions with various types of answer formats, such as multiple-choice check boxes, drop-down menus and open-ended text boxes
- Configure questions to be dynamically shown or hidden based on a prior response
- Design campaigns with different workflows: Accept surveys once they’ve been completed by respondents, or require extra steps, such as supervisor reviews and approvals
- Assign criticality levels to questions, and a score for answer options in the questionnaire templates. The question criticality scale is customizable with labels and answer weights
- Allow respondents to delegate questions to peers that are better able to answer them

Launch and track campaigns from SAQ’s central console

The traditional way of conducting these risk assessment surveys – emailing questionnaires and tracking responses on a spreadsheet – no longer cuts it. SAQ automates these audit campaigns and makes the process agile, accurate, comprehensive, centralized, scalable and uniform across your organization.

- Enter respondent emails in the SAQ web console and SAQ auto-provisions the surveys, sending out links to the web-based questionnaires
- Centrally manage and track the progress of all of your campaigns
- Monitor response activity in dashboards updated in real time, and literally watch as questions are answered
- Let supervisors review the format and content of questionnaires before they’re launched and even while a campaign is in progress
- Set up recurring campaigns that need to be run with a specific frequency
- Support a wide variety of risk assessment use cases within your organization and externally with your vendors, contractors, partners and consultants, including:
  - Auditing current vendors to make sure they remain compliant
  - Evaluating vendors bidding for your business
  - Assessing for the first time a key supplier you just signed up
  - Conducting a “postmortem” assessment of a slip-up by one of your third parties
  - Verifying your employees understand IT security and compliance policies and procedures
Simplify the process of responding to questionnaires

If the process of filling out a risk assessment questionnaire is cumbersome, this will affect the quality and thoroughness of answers provided by respondent, as well as their timeliness for completing the surveys. SAQ makes the task intuitive with a raft of convenient features designed to make life easier for respondents, including:

- Quickly and efficiently completing questionnaires from any browser at any time
- Securely attaching evidence files with drag-and-drop convenience
- Delegating questions to other users or user groups based on their role
- Receiving reminder emails regarding due dates and completion status

Streamline GDPR procedural risk assessments

The EU’s GDPR compliance process requires organizations to perform procedural risk assessments, which SAQ can assist you with. Its GDPR-specific questionnaire templates break down requirements and help assess business readiness for compliance. Using these out-of-the-box questionnaires will save you time, effort and resources as you assess GDPR procedural compliance and generate reports based on responses. SAQ’s GDPR questionnaire templates include:

- GDPR Business Readiness Self-Assessment
  Designed to identify key areas where operational changes will be required and to assist the organization in prioritizing efforts for the GDPR compliance.

- GDPR Data Inventory and Mapping
  Helps in assessing the process to identify, locate, classify and map the flow of GDPR-protected data.

- GDPR Accountability and Responsibility Assessment
  Helps in assessing the process of accountability and responsibility in terms of data governance as per GDPR requirements.

- GDPR Data Privacy Assessment in Operations
  Focuses on assessing the appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect EU residents’ personal data from loss or unauthorized access or disclosure.

- GDPR Third-Party Vendor Assessment
  Helps to identify and assess the requirements of the third-party vendors you share personal data of EU residents with.

- GDPR Data Incident and Breach Notification Assessment
  Helps in the assessment of GDPR’s data breach notification and communication requirements.

- GDPR Data Protection and Privacy Impact Assessment
  Helps organizations in the assessment of the privacy risks and data protection safeguards of new projects.

Document, visualize and share campaign results

The goal of these campaigns is to quickly and precisely identify IT security and compliance gaps among your network of third parties, and within your organization, so you can take appropriate action. SAQ gives you all the tools for displaying, understanding, analyzing and acting on the collected data.

- Provide high-level dashboards for executives and detailed views for internal auditors and compliance officers
- When generating reports, filter data by question criticality and answer scores to derive an overall risk score or identify high risk areas
- Create custom dashboards designed to reflect the risk and compliance postures of specific third parties
- Slice and dice campaign results using a variety of criteria, such as by vendor, respondent or specific questions
- Generate proof of compliance with detailed reports
It’s an out-of-the-box solution that’s centrally managed and self-updating.

Request a full trial (unlimited-scope) at qualys.com/trial

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