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Why IT leaders must act now to gain audit and compliance confidence in 2026
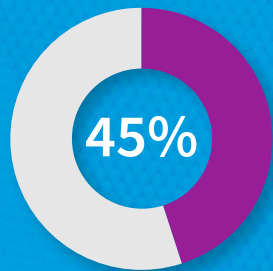
Insights from the *Flexera 2025 State of ITAM Report*

The latest insights from Flexera's 2025 State of ITAM survey underscore the critical consequences of failing to address regulatory and audit demands in a proactive manner. Uncover the potential for cost containment, improved security and innovation that comes with the right tools.

Explore the perspectives of over 500 IT leaders on the mounting compliance challenges and the proactive tactics employed to maintain control.

2025

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State of ITAM Report

ITAM influence grows with expertise in managing complex IT asset data

Audit costs continue to increase while the importance of managing financial concerns grows
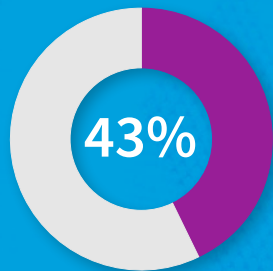
The state of audit readiness

45%

45% of enterprises paid $1M+ in audit fines in the past three years

Audit costs extend beyond the bank—they stall initiatives and erode trust

76%
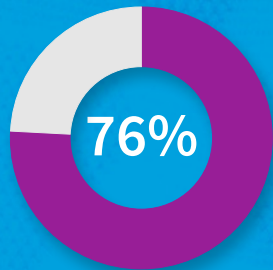
76% of ITAM teams manage audits

Audit response is a shared responsibility across the IT department

43%

Confidence in IT estate visibility dropped from 47% to 43% year over year
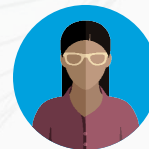
As cloud complexity grows, visibility and confidence decline

Who's feeling the pain and why?

CIOs/CTOs
Budget unpredictability and poor visibility of the IT estate

CISOs
Asset gaps leading to security risks

Head of risk and compliance
Inaccurate reporting and unnecessary fines

IT procurement
Vendor pressure and license waste

» Compliance increasingly impacts SAM success

Unsurprisingly, audit compliance is becoming increasingly important for SAM teams when it comes to judging the success of their initiatives.

What's causing a lack of compliance confidence?

	WHAT?	WHY?	THE SOLUTION
Evolving cyber security regulations	With emerging technology such as AI, regulatory and compliance frameworks are rapidly evolving	Outdated tools are struggling to keep up, creating more work for already under-resourced teams	ITAM tools that simplify compliance by aligning asset data with reporting standards
External threats	Confidence in IT estate visibility dropped from 47% to 43% year over year, raising concerns about unseen vulnerabilities	Incomplete visibility increases exposure to attack vectors from unmanaged devices	Modern ITAM tools that integrate with security solutions to detect and protect assets across all environments
Vendor audits	50% of respondents were audited in the past three years by Microsoft, followed by IBM (37%) and SAP (32%)	Vendor audits continue to pose significant operational and financial challenges	Automate audit readiness to enable quick, accurate responses to vendor queries
Manual processes	25% of desktop software waste is linked to audit response inefficiencies at low maturity levels	Manual inventory and reporting processes slow down response time and increase risk	Replace spreadsheets with automation, providing real-time, contextualized inventory views

Are you compliance-ready?

DORA

☐ Can you proactively identify critical assets and risks?

☐ Can you execute the necessary digital resilience testing?

☐ Can you conduct risk assessments of third parties?

NIS2

☐ Can you assess and mitigate risks across your business?

☐ Can your team report incidents accurately within 24 hours?

☐ Have you adopted the right incident response, supply chain security and vulnerability handling practices?

Key takeaways to regain confidence and control

To move forward, consider these key takeaways that can help streamline compliance efforts and strengthen your ITAM strategy:

› Gain visibility across hardware and software assets to meet regulatory requirements

› Simplify complex regulatory challenges with normalized inventory and contextual enrichment

› Achieve audit readiness and reporting so you can mitigate risk and avoid costly penalties

› Ensure integration with major technology tooling

› Proactively manage redundancy, lifecycle currency and vulnerabilities

Turn compliance chaos into strategic confidence

In a world of accelerating IT complexity and tightening regulatory scrutiny, technology teams must be proactive. This isn't just about compliance today; it's about preparing for emerging regulations and requests, such as those related to ESG and AI.

About Flexera

Flexera helps organizations understand and maximize the value of their technology, saving billions of dollars in wasted spend. Powered by the Flexera Technology Intelligence Platform, our award-winning IT asset management, FinOps and SaaS management solutions provide comprehensive visibility and actionable insights on an organization's entire IT ecosystem. This intelligence enables IT, finance, procurement and cloud teams to address skyrocketing costs, optimize spend, mitigate risk and identify opportunities to create positive business outcomes.

More than 50,000 global organizations rely on Flexera and its Technopedia reference library, the largest repository of technology asset data. Learn more at **flexera.com**

» NEXT STEPS

Learn how Flexera can help you reduce compliance risks and improve your IT visibility with confidence

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