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How to Manage your Spreadsheet Risk Across Multiple Business Units

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“Spreadsheets support critical business activities”

XLS

Spreadsheet News

Did an Excel
error bring
down the
London Whale?

Fannie Mae's
1.3 Billion-
Dollar Misstep

Fidelity
Investment's
Minus Symbol
Blunder



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“Do you understand your exposure to end user computing risk, and if so, how are you mitigating the risk?”



End-user computing applications (EUCAs), in particular spreadsheets, are increasingly supporting critical business activities, and the answer to the question isn't simple.



Organisations utilise EUCAs across their business without enough consideration for building in controls and adhering to best practice.

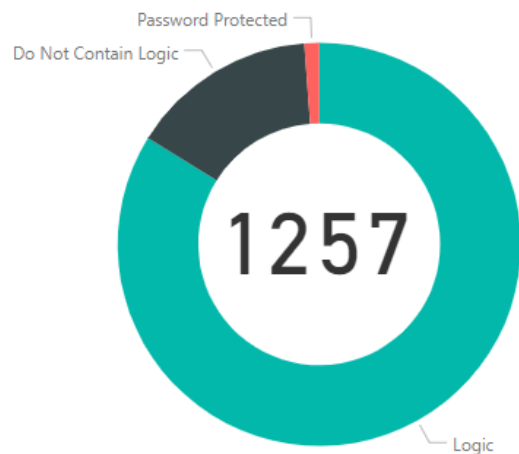


Some companies have defined and implemented detailed policies and procedures for the use of spreadsheets, but this will only mitigate spreadsheet risks if they are adopted and sustained across all material EUCAs.



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Number of EUCAs Analysed



Spreadsheets Last Modified

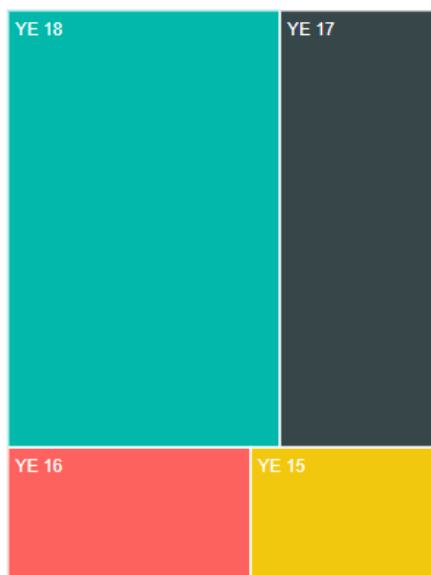
Less than 2 Years

943 75.02%

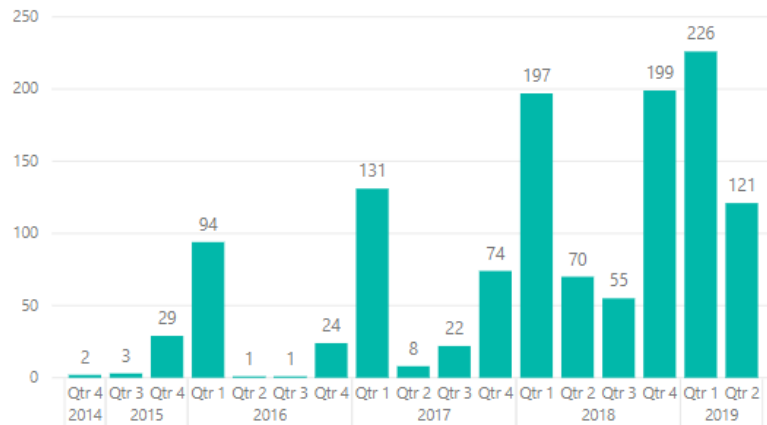
More than 2 Years

314 24.98%

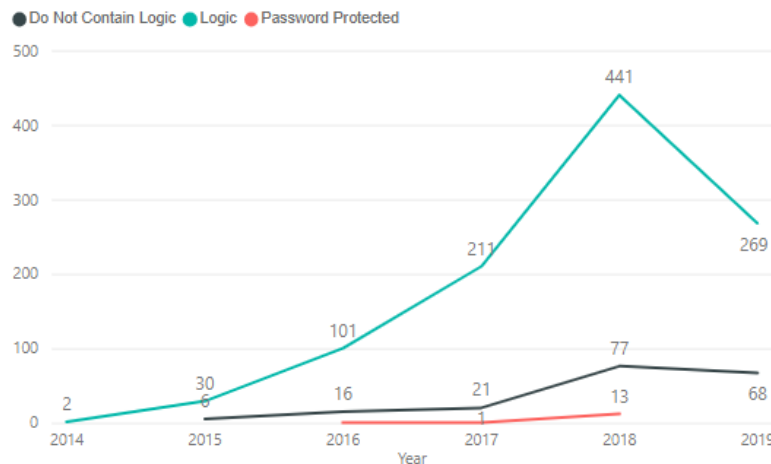
Folder Structure



Last Modified



File Creation by Type



Implement sustainable procedures and controls



Scope

- Define EUCAs
- Establish policies and procedures
- Conclude on EUCA ownership
- Determine EUCA population



Process

- Define and apply risk ranking metrics
- Determine control scope
- Define EUCA specific controls
- Apply controls to in scope EUCAs



People

- Defining roles and responsibility
- Establish governance
- Training and awareness
- Face to face engagement



Technology

- Define technology requirements
- Determine support strategy
- Implement technology
- Monitoring and reporting



Spreadsheet controls across 6 areas

We have determined 6 areas to assess the health of spreadsheets from a controls perspective. For each attribute there are best practice Standards to support the mitigation of spreadsheet risks.

Governance

Functionality

Security

Content

Documentation

Change



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Build a sustainable framework



Clear guidance on **scope** that is refreshed regularly.



Implement a **process** to include gap analyses and validation of controls. Use feedback to continually improve the standards.



Engage and lead **people** through cultural change. Establish Governance and Director ownership.



Use **technology** to monitor compliance and achieve efficiencies.



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Hold The Front Page!



Spreadsheet News



The robots are coming

- There is an ambition to automate EUCAs through robots
- Use of robotics is a current hot topic to improve spreadsheet controls and reduce people strain
- Our framework can be used as a mechanism to support robotics i.e. it is crucial to understand and refine spreadsheet risks before automation
- Robots can reduce human error but a spreadsheet risk framework is still required.



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Questions

Comments

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