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How Axonius Made Audits with Schellman More Collaborative and Over 60% Faster with Anecdotes

The Challenge

As a cybersecurity company, Axonius prioritizes GRC. They selected Anecdotes to help manage and continuously improve their GRC program. "The platform has helped us organize audit evidence and actively monitor the effectiveness of our controls through real-time alerting". Said Megan Epperson, Cybersecurity Leader at Axonius. "This allows Axonius to quickly identify gaps and potential risks in our security framework."

Axonius is also leveraging Anecdotes' risk management capabilities to strengthen the link between risks and controls. This includes not only identifying inherent risks but also calculating residual risk based on control weighting and testing, providing real-time insights into their security posture.

While they appreciated the automation Anecdotes provides, Axonius wanted to continue working with their auditor of choice, Schellman.

AXONIUS

Axonius gives customers the confidence to control complexity by providing a system of record for all digital infrastructure. With a comprehensive understanding of all assets, including devices, identities, software, SaaS applications, vulnerabilities, security controls, and the context between all assets, customers are able to mitigate threats, navigate risk, decrease incident response time, automate action, and inform business-level strategy — all while eliminating manual, repetitive tasks.

And while many top auditors use the Anecdotes auditor portal, some, like Schellman, prefer to use their own tool. This meant that a solution was needed to automate the sharing of evidence between the two platforms, in order to eliminate manual effort and potential errors.

> "Anecdotes automated much of our evidence collection, but sharing that evidence with our auditors still required manual work. My team had to download the data from Anecdotes and upload it to AuditSource, our auditor's preferred tool. This was a time-consuming and error-prone process. However, Anecdotes' direct integration with AuditSource eliminated these manual steps, streamlining our audits and significantly reducing the time to enable the team to focus on other priorities."
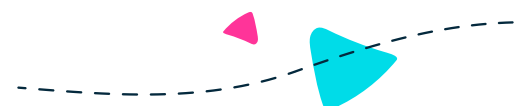
Megan Epperson, Cybersecurity Leader, Axonius

The Solution

Anecdotes and Schellman are long-time partners. To deliver the best combination of GRC technology and services, it only made sense to integrate the Anecdotes platform with Schellman's proprietary audit management tool, AuditSource. "Anecdotes has built a platform that is highly customizable and scalable, which allows Schellman and Anecdotes to collaborate on how we can create a better audit experience for our customers". said Jeff Schiess, Managing Director at Schellman.

The Anecdotes developer team coordinated with Schellman to build an integration that bridges the Anecdotes Compliance OS and AuditSource. Now, a simple toggle sends evidence marked "ready for audit" directly to AuditSource. Behind the scenes, this workflow includes an additional check for quality control in AuditSource before the auditor sees the information. This final check gives customers extra assurance that they are only sharing relevant data with the auditor.

This integration enabled faster audit prep and execution, allowing Axonius to leverage Anecdotes' customization capabilities to scope the evidence to meet Schellman's requirements, and Schellman's auditors accepted the automatically collected evidence. The integration significantly reduced the time and resources required for Axonius's audit process.

Anecdotes enables organizations to proactively identify and address potential risks, and the Axonius GRC team effectively utilized this functionality to prepare for their audit. This proactive approach allowed them to set clear expectations with the auditor, fostering trust and collaboration by acknowledging potential concerns and outlining their mitigation strategy. This mature posture impressed the auditors, including Kristen Wilbur, Principal at Schellman. "Axonius did a great job with Anecdotes' tools. They did the work and that is what made this so successful."

From Schellman's perspective, the evidence Axonius sent through the Anecdotes integration arrived exactly as they expected. "It looks no different from my end than when a manual user uploads this evidence. The only difference is that I see it's been uploaded by the Anecdotes API server," said Jason Rosenbaum, Manager at Schellman.

Schellman is a leading provider of attestation and compliance services. Schellman is the only company in the world that is a CPA firm, a globally licensed PCI Qualified Security Assessor, an ISO Certification Body, HITRUST CSF Assessor, a FedRAMP 3PAO, and most recently, an APEC Accountability Agent. Renowned for expertise tempered by practical experience, Schellman's professionals provide superior client service balanced by steadfast independence.

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The Results

✅ **Gap Analysis and Detection:** The flexibility to analyze data, query it, and automate monitoring on the Anecdotes platform gives Axonius the ability to proactively identify and address potential issues in real-time, ensuring ongoing compliance and audit readiness.

✅ **Collaboration with Auditor:** Axonius fostered a strong relationship with its auditors by leveraging Anecdotes to diligently prepare for the audit in advance and maintaining open communication. This proactive approach facilitated a smooth and efficient audit experience for both Axonius and Schellman.

✅ **60% Time Savings:** By automating data collection with the Anecdotes Compliance OS and using the AuditSource integration to deliver evidence directly to Schellman, Axonius accelerated its audit process by 60%, saving valuable time and resources for both parties.

Moving Forward

Axonius has already established a mature GRC program, but the company continues to strengthen and streamline its efforts. To further optimize its processes, Axonius intends to leverage Anecdotes Playbooks to proactively address potential risks and automate remediation efforts. This will enable the team to maintain a robust and continuously improving security posture.
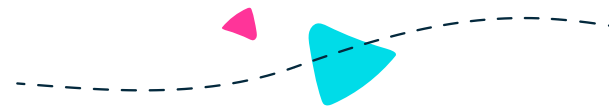
"Anecdotes enabling my team to automate evidence collection and creating a seamless integration with Schellman's preferred audit platform has significantly streamlined our audit processes, resulting in substantial time and resource savings."

Megan Epperson, Cybersecurity Leader, Axonius

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Learn more by visiting **www.anecdotes.ai**

Anecdotes' platform enables GRC teams to strengthen and scale their GRC program. By giving GRC teams actionable GRC data, which is instantly mapped to any use case, coupled with analysis tools and configurable automations, Anecdotes empowers GRC teams to quickly identify gaps—and attest to their organization's state of compliance with confidence.