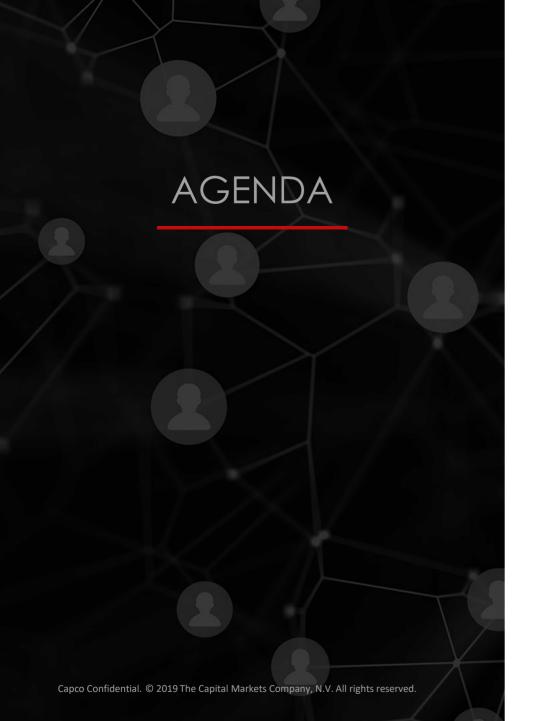
# THIRD-PARTY & VENDOR RISK MANAGEMENT

MANAGING THE RISKS RELATIONSHIPS CREATE

October 28, 2020

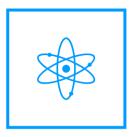
Stephen J. Bowe



01	Introduction to Third-Party Vendor Risk Management
02	Risks associated with using third-party/vendors
03	Protections for your institution
04	Regulators' expectations
05	Enforcement Actions

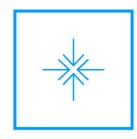
# THIRD PARTY & VENDOR RISK MANAGEMENT BASICS Capco Confidential. © 2019 The Capital Markets Company, N.V. All rights reserved.

# INTRODUCTION TO THIRD-PARTY/VENDOR RISK MANAGEMENT



# **Common Services Outsourced**

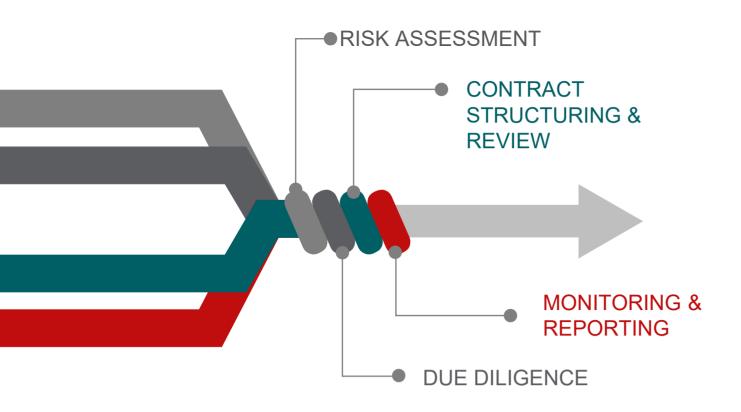
- Auditing
- Accounting
- Information Technology
- Marketing
- Wire transfers
- ATMs
- Servicing



#### **Pros and Cons**

- Institutions save time and resources
- Enables institutions the ability to offer their customers things they would otherwise be unable to offer at an affordable cost
- May carry risks even the vendor is not aware of
- Vendor may have a change in control or morals

# PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF A GOOD VENDOR MANAGEMENT PROCESS



Emphasis and content for each varies depending on:

- Vendor under consideration
- Criticality of the service or product
- Magnitude and frequency of the activity
- •Other risks identified within the relationship

#### "IMMC" risk management model

- Identify
- Measure
- Monitor
- Control

# RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS



#### **Strategy**

Are you outsourcing for a product or a service?
Who is vulnerable in the relationship?



#### **Risks**

What are the risks associated with each relationship?



## **Required Resources**

Consider the resources you will need to properly manage and supervise the relationship.

#### **CONSIDER POSSIBLE UDAAP IMPLICATIONS**

# **RISK ASSESSMENT**

"What Could Possibly Go Wrong?"

#### **Considerations**



## **Multi-Specialist Group**

To generate your list of hazards



# **Compliance Officer**

Involved in the process from the beginning

### RISK ASSESSMENT

**Addressing Risk Issues Related** 



#### **Identify the Hazards**

- Identify all possible worsecase scenarios
- Examples include: settlement failures, loss of customer information, public embarrassment, lawsuits, regulatory write-ups, and natural disasters



#### **Control these Hazards**

- Establish expectations and specifications for the new product
- Establish internal controls, reports, and requirements for the contract with the vendor
- Set your information security expectations
- Review your institution's plan for oversight



# Estimate the Long-Term Financial Effects

- Review all the numbers provided to determine if they stand up
- Are the projections realistic?
- Take into account the cost of managerial resources required to monitor and other costs associated with singing on with vendor



# **Identify Who The Potential Vendor Is**



Request certified copies of articles of incorporation or other formation documents from a secretary of state where the company is set up



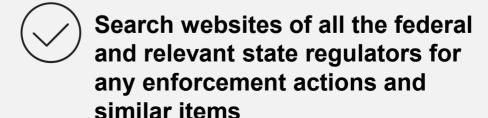
# Obtain financial statements (audited if possible)

Pull reports from the Securities and Exchange Commission website for publicly-held companies

- Form 10-K audited financial statements and reports of material litigation
- Form 8-K unscheduled material events like enforcement actions, major operational problems, new lawsuits, etc.



## **Identify Who The Potential Vendor Is**







Perform web searches on vendor, its divisions and subsidiaries, and variations of their names

Document it all to the file!

**Document Accurately** 

18 USC 1005 It is a crime to make false entries in the books and records of an insured depository institution or its holding company.

Violation carries a fine of up to \$1 million and up to 30 years in federal prison.

#### DO

Paraphrase, as long as you do so accurately

Use estimates, opinions, or guesses as long as they are labeled as such

Be truthful and honest

#### DO NOT

Mischaracterize what you were told when you checked references

Put anything into your due diligence file you know to be inaccurate

**Vendor Staffing** 

Research vendor's personnel who will work on your project

- •Look for experience in the particular field and regulatory knowledge
- •Check out the accessibility and skills of the vendor employees who will deal directly with your customers

Look at the vendor's experience with turnover amongst key people

- •If there is constant turnover, find out why
- •Consider each side of the story:
  - The vendor
  - Regulators
  - Other users
  - Former employees

Have your Compliance Officer meet with the vendor's Compliance Officer

•Ask questions to bring out their knowledge, acceptance, and incorporation of the relevant laws, regulations, and current hot topics that affect the product

**Additional Resources and Personnel Requirements** 

Determine what, if any, additional equipment and personnel will be required to carry out your side of the contract

- Modems
- Additional communication lines
- More computers and software

Be sure to have the details approved and documented by the necessary personnel before signing the contract

- •May need Board approval
- •Hold officers responsible by documenting who tells you what

**Vendor Use of Subcontractors** 



#### **General Use**

Whether the vendor uses, or intends to use, or is contractually allowed to use subcontractors

#### **Consider the following:**



#### **Limitations**

Limitations that may apply when using subcontractors



#### **Locations**

What countries they are located in and what information (both on your institution and its customers) can be sent there.

 Know the laws on privacy, data protection, and related subjects for these locations.

**Vendor Disaster Recovery or Business Resumption Plan** 

#### Does it pass the credibility test?

Is the backup site in a location that will remain unaffected by the same disaster that affected the primary site, but close enough to allow for easy access to resources?

Are the resources there sufficient to handle the volume and deadlines applicable to the work?

Are the systems kept up to date to the same degree and as promptly as those at the primary site?

**Contract Considerations** 

Vendor agreement needs to be a formal, written contract

Consider how big the proposed contract is going to be for the vendor

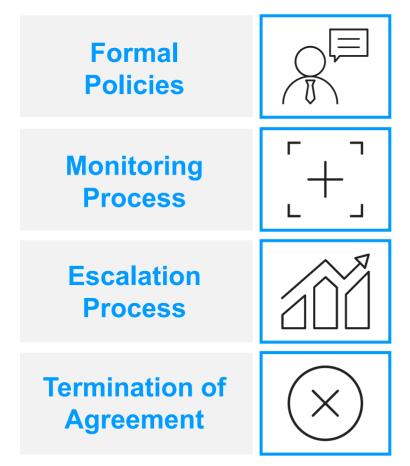
Legal counsel must be involved

Rights and responsibilities must be spelled out in the contract

Agreement needs to specify:

- •Term
- •Details of the product or service to be provided, including quantified service levels and any additional services the vendor is to provide
- •Regulatory compliance duties of the vendor

**Service Level Agreements** 



- That define their service level agreement policy
- Formal and written
- Documented recourse process to activate when a vendor doesn't meet its service level agreement
- For disputes about whether the service level agreement has indeed been breached
- With a resolution process attached
- For failure to meet the requirements
- Is the last resort

**Authorization to Audit Vendor** 

Contract should authorize the following personnel to have access to vendor records and personnel to assess its compliance with contract:

- •Institution's regulators
- Compliance Officer
- Counsel
- Other necessary institution personnel

#### **Contract must state:**

- Who will be responsible for providing consumer-level disclosures?
- What use of the institution's premises, employees, and equipment are allowed to the vendor and its subcontractors?

# AGENCIES RECOMMENDATION



# Long-Term Performance

Contract be structured to reward long-term performance in a safe, sound, compliant way



# **Short-Term Incentives**

Short-term incentives should be "strictly controlled"



# **Compensation Arrangement**

Discourage the use of arrangements that might inappropriately steer borrowers into higher cost products

# Contract Structuring & Review

**Financial Information** 

#### **Contract Requirements:**

- How much will be paid, by what method, and upon what events or schedule
- Clear standards the vendor must meet to earn the compensation
- Management must periodically review the performance standards

**Other Contractual Obligations** 

Required management information reports need to be specifically detailed in contract by:





#### Information security:

- •Institution's information should be prohibited for ANY purpose other than that which is necessary for vendor to perform its duties under the contract
- •Compliance Officer should ensure vendors adhere to the institution's privacy policy
- There should be a requirement that any known or suspected breach of information security be reported to the institution IMMEDIATELY



**Customer Complaints** 



#### **Complaints Come In**

Have procedure in place for handing over complaints to vendor.

#### **Handling of Complaints**

Copies of written complaints and written reports of oral complaints (and responses to them) must be provided to financial institution promptly.

#### **Quality Assurance**

Financial institution should review those complaints for quality assurance.

**Operational Failures** 



#### Clearly identify in the contract:

- •Who is responsible for fixing operational issues and getting the system back up and running again?
- •Maximum timeframes for doing so
- •Other vendor responsibilities:
- Back-up responsibilities
- Contingency plans
- Back-up site locations
- Other related vendor details

**Monitoring and Insurance** 

#### Monitoring

#### Change management

 Have procedures in place on how to handle change management and any interruptions this change may cause

#### Access management

 System access reports should be reviewed periodically to ensure everyone who has access to the contracted service is authorized

#### Transaction monitoring

 Exactly what, when, and by whom will depend on the product itself

#### File backup

- What gets backed up?
- For how long?
- With what accessibility?
- By whom?

#### Insurance

# Determine what kinds of insurance will be required of the vendor

- Look back to your hazards that you identified initially to help determine magnitude and likelihood of each instance
- Senior management should then decide whether a policy is required to cover some or all of that risk
- Deductibles and policy limited need to be considered

**Contract Redux** 

#### **Contract Default**

#### Things to consider:

- What constitutes a default?
- Are there any "cure" periods before a default matures?
- Remedies for defaults
- Monetary payments and timeliness of those payments
- Procedures for termination of contract (if an option)
- Notice requirements for default
- Return of any institution property

#### Indemnification and Hold Harmless Provisions

Contractual structure needs to be followed and enforced

#### Provisions may not protect you:

- If the vendor does not have the financial means to repay
- The vendor's insurance policy has lapsed
- From any violation of consumer protection laws and regulations which will go on your record and may require you to pay hefty fines to consumers or agencies for civil money penalties

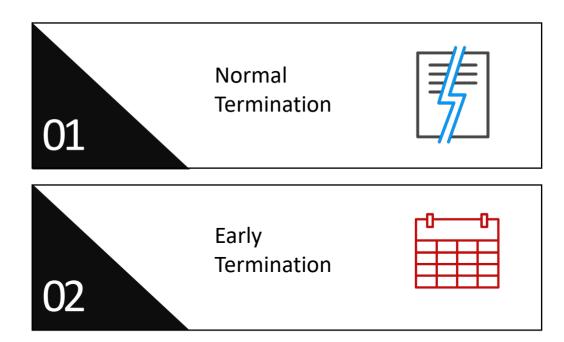
Not always required or possible from some vendors, but be prepared to justify reasonableness if one does not appear in contract

**Exit Strategies** 

#### Work with counsel to ensure contract:

- •Is realistic
- Practical to implement
- •As protective of your institution and customers as possible

Be sure the contract specifies your rights in both cases





# **Monitoring & Reporting**

## Who is Responsible for Oversight

- Compliance Officer should include consumer compliance issues in your oversight programs
- Board of Directors is required to be involved

#### **Oversight includes:**

- Service Quality
- Risk
- Financial Condition
- Controls and Reports

#### MONITORING & REPORTING

**Oversight** 

#### **Service Quality**

- What is the customer's experience when dealing with this vendor?
- Is that experience representative of your financial institution's standards?

#### Risk

· How good are the vendor's risk management practices?

#### **Financial Condition**

- Run vendor's financial statements through the usual analysis that we do on borrowers
- Issues should be documented and action taken to remedy the problem

#### **Controls and Reports**

- Do they have them, and are they satisfactory? Be persistent with vendor until you have what you need to be satisfied and comfortable with what they provide you.
- Ensure their "controls" are sufficient as they "control" the process, results of the process, and the potential liabilities arising out of that process
- Be sure to review their Service Organization Control (SOC) Reports and their SSAE 16 Reports (where available),
   and DOCUMENT YOUR REVIEW!

### MONITORING & REPORTING

**Your Risk Assessment** 

Risk assessment should be a "living document" that continually adapts to changes in the environment, and modified to keep your institution on top of the issues.

Vendor's general control environment:

Include provisions in contract that allow you to review their external and internal audit reports

Check the level of training and experience of their auditors

Document everything you find

# MONITORING & REPORTING

**Bank Service Company Act** 

#### Bank Service Company Act - 12 USC 1867

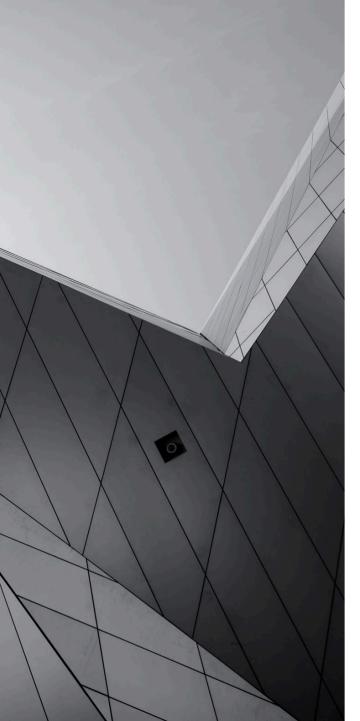
#### **Obligations Under the Act:**

- When an insured depository institution has certain services performed by a third-party, the institution must notify its principal federal regulatory agency
- Within 30 days after making of the contract or the performance of the service (whichever comes first)

#### What's Covered:

- Check and deposit sorting and posting
- Computation and posting of interest and other credits and charges
- Preparation and mailing of checks, statements, notices, and similar items
- Any other clerical, bookkeeping, accounting, statistical, or similar functions

# **Agency Vendor Guidance**



## **CFPB Guidance**

## **Bulletin 2012-03 (as amended by 2016-02)**

- Conduct thorough due diligence to verify the service provider understands and is capable of complying with Federal consumer financial law
- Request and review the service provider's policies, procedures, internal controls, and training materials to ensure the provider conducts appropriate training and oversight
- Include in the service provider contract clear compliance expectations and consequences for violating those responsibilities
- Establish internal controls and on-going monitoring to determine compliance with Federal consumer financial law
- Take prompt action to address fully any problems identified through the monitoring process, including terminating the relationship where appropriate

The Bureau wanted to clarify that the depth and formality of the risk management program for service providers may vary depending upon the service performed – its size, scope, complexity, importance and potential for consumer harm – and the performance of the service provider in carrying out its activities in compliance with Federal consumer financial laws and regulations."

Compliance Bulletin and Policy Guidance 2016-02, October 31, 2016

## AGENCY VENDOR GUIDANCE

**CFPB Guidance** 

Under Title X, the CFPB has supervisory and enforcement authority over supervised service providers, which includes the authority to examine the operations of service providers on site.

CFPB has given fair warning that they may soon exercise this right and examine third party service provider operations as part of your examination.



# **OCC** Guidance

#### OCC Bulletin 2017-7

- Tailored examinations commensurate with the level of risk and complexity of the bank's third-party relationships
- Assess the quantity of the bank's risk associated with its third-party relationships
- Assess the quality of the bank's risk management of third-party relationships involving critical activities
- Determine whether there is an effective risk management process throughout the life of the cycle of the third-party relationship

# **Enforcement Actions**

# **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

**CFPB** 

- The CFPB found that a financial institution's telemarketing vendor deceptively marketed the overdraft services and signed certain of the bank's customers up for overdraft services without their consent.
- CFPB ordered the financial institution to pay a \$10 million fine for illegal overdraft service practices.
- Additionally, the financial institution was ordered to cease using telemarketers to:
  - contact consumers about overdraft services;
  - improve its oversight of telemarketing vendors;
  - o and contact all consumers who the financial institution's telemarketer enrolled to ask if consumers want overdraft services.

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

**CFPB** 

- CFPB's examiners discovered a financial institution's call-center vendors engaged in deceptive tactics to sell the company's credit card add-on products.
- Consumers with low credit scores or low credit limits were offered these products by the financial institution's call-center vendors when they called to have their new credit cards activated. As part of the high-pressure tactics the financial institution's representatives used to sell these add-on products, consumers were:
  - Misled about the benefits of the products: Consumers were sometimes led to believe that the product would improve their credit scores and help them increase the credit limit on their financial institution's credit card;
  - Deceived about the nature of the products: Consumers were not always told that buying the products was optional. In other cases, consumers were wrongly told they were required to purchase the product in order to receive full information about it, but that they could cancel the product if they were not satisfied. Many of these consumers later had difficulty canceling when they called to do so.
  - O Misled about eligibility: Although most of the payment protection benefits kicked in when consumers became disabled or lost a job, some call center representatives marketed and sold the product to ineligible unemployed and disabled consumers. Despite paying the full fees, they could not get all the benefits of payment protection; some later filed claims that were denied because their "loss" (e.g. loss of job or onset of disability) occurred prior to enrollment.
  - Misinformed about cost of the products: Consumers were sometimes led to believe that they would be enrolling in a free product rather than making a purchase.
  - Enrolled without their consent: Some call center vendors processed the add-on product purchases without the consumer's consent.
     Consumers were then automatically billed for the product and often had trouble cancelling the product when they called to do so.
- The financial institution had to pay approximately \$140 million to all of the estimated two million affected consumers.

# **RESOURCES**

1.	FDIC – Exam Procedures – <a href="https://www.fdic.gov/regulations/compliance/manual/complianceexaminationmanual.pdf">https://www.fdic.gov/regulations/compliance/manual/complianceexaminationmanual.pdf</a>	
2.	FRB – Guide on Managing Outsourcing Risk <a href="https://www.federalreserve.gov/supervisionreg/srletters/sr1319a1.pdf">https://www.federalreserve.gov/supervisionreg/srletters/sr1319a1.pdf</a>	
3.	FFIEC – Appendix J to the IT Examination Handbook – <a href="https://ithandbook.ffiec.gov/it-booklets/business-continuity-planning/appendix-j-strengthening-the-resilience-of-outsourced-technology-services.aspx">https://ithandbook.ffiec.gov/it-booklets/business-continuity-planning/appendix-j-strengthening-the-resilience-of-outsourced-technology-services.aspx</a>	
4.	NCUA - https://www.ncua.gov/Resources/Documents/LCU2007-13ENC.pdf	
5.	CFPB – Bulletin 2012-03 – <a href="http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201204_cfpb_bulletin_service-providers.pdf">http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201204_cfpb_bulletin_service-providers.pdf</a>	
6.	CFPB – Compliance Bulletin and Policy Guidance 2016-02, Service Providers – <a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/102016_cfpb_OfficialGuidanceServiceProviderBulletin.pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/102016_cfpb_OfficialGuidanceServiceProviderBulletin.pdf</a>	
7.	CFPB – Supervisory Highlights, Issue 15 – Spring 2017 - <a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/201704_cfpb_Supervisory-Highlights_Issue-15.pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/201704_cfpb_Supervisory-Highlights_Issue-15.pdf</a>	
8.	OCC – Bulletin 2017-7: Third Party Relationships – <a href="https://www.occ.gov/news-issuances/bulletins/2017/bulletin-2017-7.html">https://www.occ.gov/news-issuances/bulletins/2017/bulletin-2017-7.html</a>	



#### **ABOUT CAPCO**

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Through our collaborative and efficient approach, we help our clients successfully innovate, increase revenue, manage risk and regulatory change, reduce costs, and enhance controls. We specialize primarily in banking, capital markets, wealth and investment management, finance, risk & compliance and insurance. We also have an energy consulting practice in the US. We serve our clients from offices in leading financial centers across the Americas, Europe, and Asia Pacific.

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