How do you manage the complexity of cybersecurity with a simplified approach?

The EY-Microsoft Alliance simplifies cybersecurity to transform with trust, compliance and resilience.

ey.com/microsoft

The better the question. The better the answer. The better the world works.

EY
Building a better working world

Microsoft

Many enterprises allocate substantial portions of their IT and security budgets to redundant, underperforming, and overly complex security tools. This not only drains budgets but also impedes agility and innovation, and leaves organizations vulnerable to attacks.

Security simplification is a business and risk imperative.

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Among chief information security officers (CISOs) and the C-suite, only one in five consider their cybersecurity effective today and well-positioned for tomorrow.[1]

Today, many enterprises rely on a patchwork collection of cybersecurity tools resulting in excessive costs, complexity and vulnerability to attack.

Companies experience an average of 44 cyber incidents and four breaches annually.[1] Even worse, 76% of organizations take six months or longer to detect and respond to a cybersecurity incident.[1] This slow response time is unacceptable in the face of constant attacks.

Complexity is the enemy of cybersecurity. Simplify to eliminate risks and drive efficiency.

A more effective cybersecurity strategy involves adopting a unified stack of integrated tools. This consolidation strengthens defenses while reducing total cost of ownership.

A unified approach can help an organization's cybersecurity team keep pace with the changing needs of the business, integrating new technologies and capabilities to enable robust security. To reach those objectives, an enterprise must make data-driven decisions, retire old tools and carefully select the right ones to realize these benefits.

Three daunting challenges

1. **Complexity:** The average large company deploys up to 100 security tools.

2. **Cost:** The average cost of a data breach in 2022 was over $3.80 million.[2]

3. **Risk:** Consumers reported losing nearly $8.8b to fraud in 2022, an increase of more than 30% percent over 2021.[3]

1 "2023 EY Global Cybersecurity Leadership Insights," EYGM Limited, October 2023.
2 "Cost of a Data Breach Report 2023," IBM website, https://www.ibm.com/reports/data-breach, 2023.
3 "Cyber Events Database," University of Maryland Center for International & Security Studies at Maryland, https://cissm.umd.edu/cyber-events-database

Security simplification can remove **30%** of the long-term run cost while reducing complexity to improve the agility of the business.

Security simplification:
a C-suite imperative

In today's business landscape, CISOs face the challenge of managing risk with limited resources, especially during economic downturns when cost optimization is a priority. Strengthening cybersecurity is paramount, but it must be done while meeting cost constraints, facing talent shortages and addressing higher regulatory expectations.

The role of the CISO has evolved into a pivotal strategic and advisory position – evolving from being security protectors to business enablers. Beyond their technical expertise, they are empowered by technology to proactively guide organizations' cybersecurity decisions, aligning them with overall business objectives.

CEOs and CFOs are calling on cybersecurity teams to deliver better outcomes and higher returns on their cybersecurity investments. This calls for streamlined and efficient approaches to cybersecurity, that help ensure effectiveness in protecting against threats.

Prioritizing security simplification over tool accumulation not only reduces doubts in the C-suite but also reduces financial impacts while enhancing cybersecurity resilience against evolving threats.

Adapting to digital transformation and emerging technologies. The dynamic nature of the digital landscape, driven by the rapid introduction of generative AI and other emerging technologies, pose challenges to IT and cybersecurity resources. Adapting to these changes calls for a reevaluation of strategies and resources to effectively combat evolving threats while being responsive to business needs.

Regulatory pressure must also be considered. For example, the Securities and Exchange Commission now **requires** public companies to report material cybersecurity breaches within four days and annually disclose information on the company's risk management and executive expertise. Given these regulatory pressures, now is an ideal time to drive efficiency by streamlining the security technology stack.

Security simplification presents organizations with a unique opportunity to address current market challenges and establish a robust security foundation. By embracing this approach, organizations can enhance their resilience, achieve regulatory compliance, drive operational efficiency, optimize costs and support business agility.

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We often hear from boards and management teams that substantial investments are being made in cybersecurity, yet they lack clarity on the ROI.

– Dave Burg, EY Americas Cybersecurity Leader

Through the complexity, we see opportunity.

Charting a course for cybersecurity optimization.

Charting a course for cybersecurity optimization begins with aligning your business strategy and conducting a data-driven risk analysis. Leveraging the global EY organization's business acumen, experience and knowledge of Microsoft cybersolutions and technical capabilities, we can help guide you on a clear, predictable path.

By simplifying security operations and addressing the "seams" inherent in complex security landscapes, organizations can enhance their security posture, streamline workflows, and effectively respond to threats.

EY teams help identify areas of overspending or overlapping capabilities that should be rationalized, driving business growth, and unlocking security innovations while helping ensure regulatory compliance.

We help provide a clear measurement of organizational risk and demonstrate the path to effective cyber risk management through:

► **Current risk assessment:** presenting a clear picture of current cyber risk posture and capabilities, to help guide investments in managing cyber risks

► **Cyber program execution:** helping organizations implement and execute a robust strategy and overarching cyber program for structured decision-making and financial analysis of cyber risks

► **Regulatory compliance support:** assisting clients achieve and maintain regulatory compliance requirements through a well-designed and executed cyber function

► **Building a risk-aware culture:** helping establish a risk-aware culture through education and awareness programs to reduce the impact of human behavior on cybersecurity posture

► **Maintaining resilient programs:** helping establish and maintaining resilient programs to navigate evolving cyber threats and emerging digital business strategies

EY teams drive large energy company's security product consolidation, boosting threat detection efficiency

EY teams worked with a large energy company that had an inventory of well over 100 security products and helped reduce that number to fewer than 10. That massive reduction in complexity enabled the SecOps team to run many fundamental functions far faster. As a result, the rest of the business benefited from greater efficiency in detecting and remediating threats before they caused any service disruptions.

Value delivered: Over 90% reduction in security products amplified efficiency, enhanced threat detection and response capabilities for uninterrupted business operations.

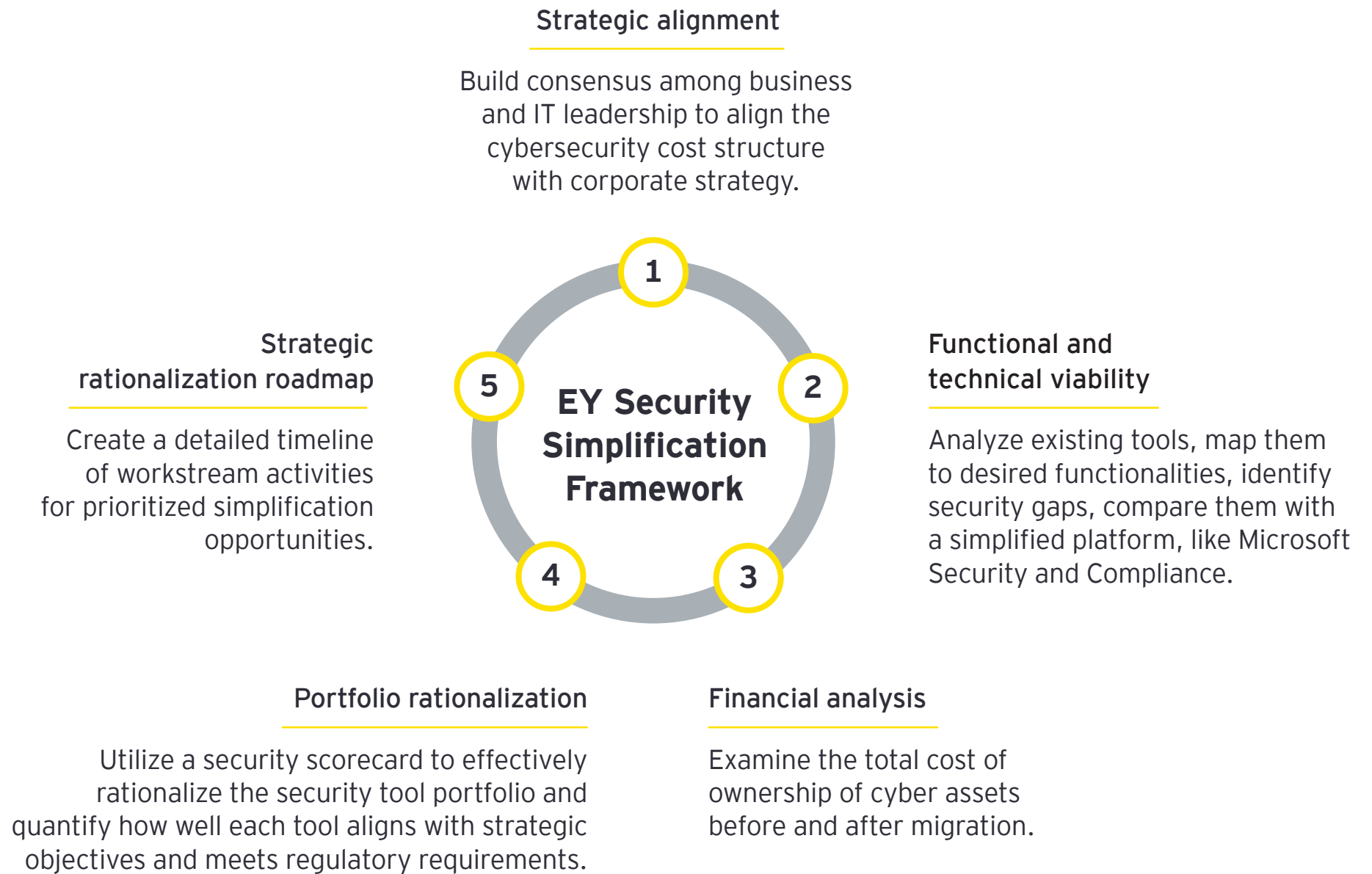# Security simplified for resilience, compliance and efficiency

In recent engagements we have helped clients reduce the number of tools by an average of **24%** while maintaining the same degree of security.

The EY Security Simplification Framework

EY teams guide clients in rationalizing and migrating their cyber platforms, with a business lens and the goal of incremental business value. Working alongside IT and business leaders, we assist in optimizing cybersecurity products, integrations, and operational investments while reducing disruptions and helping ensure compliance with sector, country, and regional cyber and data regulations.

Five key steps, based in data analysis, for efficiently identifying optimization opportunities across all critical business areas:

Strategic alignment

Build consensus among business and IT leadership to align the cybersecurity cost structure with corporate strategy.

Strategic rationalization roadmap

Create a detailed timeline of workstream activities for prioritized simplification opportunities.

EY Security Simplification Framework

1
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Functional and technical viability

Analyze existing tools, map them to desired functionalities, identify security gaps, compare them with a simplified platform, like Microsoft Security and Compliance.

Portfolio rationalization

Utilize a security scorecard to effectively rationalize the security tool portfolio and quantify how well each tool aligns with strategic objectives and meets regulatory requirements.

Financial analysis

Examine the total cost of ownership of cyber assets before and after migration.

EY-Microsoft Alliance for cybersecurity

Security simplified for trust, compliance and resilience

The EY-Microsoft Alliance helps organizations follow a clear, predictable path to a compliant and resilient cybersecurity platform, empowering businesses to rapidly adapt to uncertainty, effectively manage risks and deliver tangible business value in an increasingly challenging threat landscape. We help guide organizations worldwide in risk mitigation, data security and streamlined operations across diverse environments.

Leveraging Microsoft's security solutions, EY teams provide a comprehensive portfolio for trust, identity and endpoint protection while maintaining regulatory compliance and mitigating risks. Together, we simplify complexity, helping to enable a trusted, compliant and resilient cybersecurity posture.

Simplify and strengthen security:

Streamline and rationalize your cybersecurity approach with the EY-Microsoft team. Our guidance can help you harness the power of Microsoft 365 E5 to efficiently identify threats, prioritize risks and strengthen your security posture. Rationalize your security portfolio and optimize spending and security measures, while streamlining defenses.

Secure identities and access:

Protect your organization with EY Digital Identity solutions, combined with robust Microsoft security offerings. Control access, prevent unauthorized activities and safeguard sensitive information.

Building a secure future with a zero-trust approach:

Embrace a more secure future and elevate your security with the EY-Microsoft Alliance zero-trust approach. Secure your work environment, drive innovation and achieve more with identity- and data-centric principles for rapid threat detection and mitigation.

Mitigate compliance and privacy risk:

Leverage the deep understanding of global privacy and regulatory frameworks provided by the EY organization, combined with Microsoft's robust security offerings. Proactively identify, assess and address privacy risks to ensure compliance with data protection laws and industry regulations.

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Microsoft relies on partners like EY to bring strategic advisors with practical operational experience, strong business acumen and deep technical expertise leveraging Microsoft world class security technologies to help clients no matter where they are in their cyber risk management journey.

– Alym Rayani, Vice President, Security Marketing

Advantages of working with the EY-Microsoft Alliance

The EY-Microsoft Alliance simplifies complexity, providing a predictable path to a trusted, compliant and resilient cybersecurity posture — helping organizations adapt to change and create value that lasts.

Advantages of working with EY teams

- **Broad experience** and trusted know-how in helping optimize cybersecurity investments on Microsoft platform-based solutions

- **Dedicated Microsoft Services Group** of 25,000+ professionals worldwide

- **Regulatory compliance excellence** and guidance for navigating global regulations and compliance frameworks, maintaining compliance and proactively adapting

- **Recognized leader** in cybersecurity by Forrester, Gartner and IDC

Advantages of working with the EY-Microsoft Alliance

- **Broad expertise:** We blend the EY organization's cybersecurity, strategy, risk, compliance, and resilience teams' knowledge with Microsoft advanced technology for complete security solutions

- **Simplified security:** Our platform-based approach streamlines your security infrastructure, reducing complexity and boosting efficiency

- **Business alignment:** We move beyond traditional security measures by aligning cybersecurity with your business growth and operational strategies

- **Trusted advisor:** Count on us as your trusted advisor, offering tailored support to build a resilient security program that adapts to your evolving business environment

- **Innovative frameworks** to maximize your ROI

Advantages of working with Microsoft

- **Global reputation** as a technological innovator built over decades

- **Comprehensive** platform-based cybersecurity capabilities

- **Recognized worldwide** by analysts as leaders in market share in both information security consulting and managed services

Empowering large financial organization with enhanced cybersecurity, data protection and efficiency

A large financial holding company needed to augment cybersecurity talent and bolster cybersecurity protection to execute its strategy. EY teams helped strengthen its cybersecurity posture with managed security operations support that elevated capabilities in threat intelligence, threat detection and incident response. We also provided critical support for a seamless, no-surprises Microsoft 365 E5 migration.

Value delivered: a more secure, simplified Azure Cloud cybersecurity architecture, heightened data protection, more rapid threat mitigation and a more efficient cyber team.

The EY-Microsoft Alliance.
Our people, experience, and solutions.

Our people	Our experience	Our solutions and offerings
▶ More than 3,500 Microsoft certifications achieved…and counting ▶ 7,000 dedicated Microsoft practitioners across the globe along with more than 20,000 Microsoft-skilled resources embedded in sectors and across service lines ▶ More than 23,000 global risk consultants ▶ More than 13,700 global cybersecurity practitioners	▶ First and only dedicated Microsoft practice among the Big 4 ▶ More than 20 years of developing industry leaders in cybersecurity ▶ Recognized worldwide by analysts as leaders in market share in both information security consulting and managed services ▶ More than 3,000 projects executed across the globe to support organizations' digital transformation ▶ Dedicated Microsoft Cyber Lab ▶ 2022 Microsoft Security and Advisory Services Partner of the Year ▶ 2023 Microsoft Security Excellence Identity Trailblazer Award ▶ 2023 Microsoft US Security, Compliance Partner of the Year	**Solutions** ▶ Cloud and Modern Workplace Security ▶ Managed Security Services ▶ Identity and Access Management ▶ Information Protection and Governance ▶ Threat Protection ▶ Generative AI with cybersecurity strategy with Microsoft Security Copilot **Offerings** ▶ Security Simplification ▶ Zero Trust ▶ Cross Border Access with AI ▶ SOC Modernization ▶ Verified ID IAM ▶ Incident Response

Simplifying cybersecurity isn't just strategic; it's a financial imperative.

Key contacts

Nick Galletto

Cybersecurity Leader
EY Canada
nick.galletto@ca.ey.com

Melissa Tamblyn

Microsoft Practice Leader
EY Canada
melissa.tamblyn@ca.ey.com

Transform your cybersecurity through a simplified approach.

Reach out to schedule a discovery session and see how the EY-Microsoft Alliance simplifies cybersecurity to help your organization transform with trust, compliance and resilience.

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping to create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY and Microsoft

The EY and Microsoft alliance combines deep EY insights and experience in disruptive industry trends, new business models and evolving processes with scalable, enterprise cloud platform and digital technologies from Microsoft. EY and Microsoft can help accelerate digital transformation with advanced solutions that support enterprise strategy, transform customer and workforce experiences, create new, data-driven business models, build intelligent, automated operations and bring confidence that these innovative solutions are secure, compliant and trusted. For more information, click here