Enterprise Unified Cybersecurity Data & AI Strategy for Post-Merger Integration

From Risk Containment to Business Enablement

Executive Business Context

Large financial institutions undergoing mergers and acquisitions often inherit fragmented operating environments, disparate systems, disconnected data, and unclear ownership across vendors, contracts, and controls. While these issues surface first in cybersecurity and compliance, they represent a broader enterprise risk that impacts cost structure, decision velocity, audit readiness, and long-term scalability.

This case study shows how a unified data and AI governance strategy transformed a post-merger challenge into a repeatable enterprise capability, delivering value beyond cybersecurity.

Business Challenges

Following a multi-entity merger, critical operational data, tools, licenses, vendor contracts, and compliance artifacts were distributed across legacy platforms, siloed teams, and institutional knowledge held by former employees.

This fragmentation resulted in limited enterprise visibility into third-party risk and spend, manual and error-prone audit reconciliation, and delayed executive insight into exposure, overlap, and optimization opportunities.

Regulatory pressure accelerated the need for action, but leadership recognized that simply "fixing compliance" would not address the underlying operating inefficiencies.

Solution Overview

Rather than implementing a point solution, Cogent designed an enterprise-grade data foundation that centralized fragmented information into a governed, automated system of record.

The solution combined:
- Modern data engineering to unify structured and unstructured sources
- Automated pipelines to replace manual discovery and reporting
- Built-in governance and lineage to support audit, risk, and executive oversight

Value-Centered Capabilities

- **Authoritative System of Record:** Centralized repository for tools, licenses, and vendor contracts, establishing a single source of truth across the organization.
- **Automation & Intelligence Layer:** Automated ingestion, classification, and enrichment of data, reducing reliance on tribal knowledge and spreadsheets.
- **Governance by Design:** End-to-end data lineage and traceability embedded into the platform, enabling regulator-ready reporting and internal assurance.
- **Executive Visibility:** Real-time dashboards providing leadership with actionable insight into risk exposure, spend concentration, and operational gaps.
- **Integration-Ready Architecture:** APIs and synchronization mechanisms designed to scale across future acquisitions, audits, and enterprise use cases.

Business Impact

Strengthened regulatory confidence through consistent, traceable data, eliminated manual reconciliation to improve operational leverage, identified redundant tools to optimize cost and vendor management, accelerated executive decision-making with timely insight, and delivered a scalable foundation to support future mergers and regulatory change.