

## The Path to Audit Digitalization



#### Stage #1: Paper Pro

#### Ask to Advance:

- · How do I get consistency across audits and auditors?
- How will I need to think about structure in order to move to a digital format?

#### Organizational Impact:

• Limited; checklist completion one audit at a time

#### Stage #2: Excited Excel-er

#### Ask to Advance:

- How can I organize my data so that it creates more value?
- How am I tracking results from year to year?
- How can I tie audit findings together to form a clearer picture?

#### Organizational Impact:

· Low; able to more easily share results of multiple audits

#### Stage #3: Cautious Adopter

#### Ask to Advance:

- What reports do I need, what reports do I want?
- · How can I better collaborate with internal and external stakeholders?
- · How do I tie my audit data to organizational KPIs?

#### Organizational Impact:

• Medium; better identification and sharing of trends and analytics

#### Stage #4: Electronic Guru

#### Ask to Advance:

- What processes are in place now, and what processes do I need to create to make my data work better for me?
- How am I measuring and tracking the performance of external stakeholders?

#### Organizational Impact:

 High; cross-functional collaboration leads to greater operational awareness and process improvements

#### Stage #5: Digital Protagonist

#### You've arrived

• Full integration • Strong Collaboration • Sophisticated analytics

#### Organizational Impact:

Exemplary; full collaboration with internal and external stakeholders bolsters operational effectiveness through fast compliance issue resolution and continuous improvement



# **Beyond the Checklist:**Driving Quality through the Digital Audit

Audits are hard, and often far less effective than we care to admit. Why is this true, especially today, when we have so many digital and technological advantages at our disposal?

Thanks to advances in data science, we are now able to identify patterns, trends, issues, and opportunities in our audits. When done well, today's audits have the potential to make organizations exceptional, helping them to move from a defensive and reactionary stance to a proactive position of strength in the marketplace. And the timing couldn't be better, as customer expectations are much higher today than ever before.

Many of us—Paper Pros and Excited Excel-ers—still use binary checklists, which forces us to reduce our complex compliance findings to the boundaries of a tiny box or cell in a spreadsheet. We might have room to attach a small note or even a photo for context, but the checklist model limits our ability to drill down further in order to truly understand the why behind each nonconformance.

As we progress along the path to digitalization, moving from Cautious Adopters to Electronic Gurus and finally becoming Digital Protagonists (although not always in that order), we open up ways to feed dynamic audit findings into a system that can help us get to the root of our quality and compliance issues and launch remediation processes to address them. Tabular calculations, standards references, iterative discussions, detailed issues and risks, and contextual data; these elements that are present in sophisticated audit platforms allow us to drive continuous improvement and impact organizational effectiveness. Beyond the checklist is where the real opportunities reside.

### **About ARMATURE**

Digital Transformation. Driven by You. Since 2000, ARMATURE has been building intuitive software for many of the world's leading conformity assessment bodies, standards developing organizations, and accreditation and certification agencies. Our next-generation audit and workflow management platform supports organizations along the full spectrum of standards: those that develop them, those that enforce them, and those that apply them to create exceptional products and services. Whether you're stuck in paper and spreadsheets or using software that misses the mark, ARMATURE meets you where you are—and then takes you to new heights.