



---

Services Highlights | Risk Management with Empower | CE3 Solutions, LLC | [2026]

*This document is intended for informational purposes and reflects CE3 Solutions' methodology and perspectives.*

*Practical risk management — integrated into your business, not bolted on.*

## The Challenge: Managing Risk in a Complex Environment

---

Risk management is about two things: identifying threats to the operation of an organization's business and strategic objectives; and reducing and monitoring those threats so that they remain at or below acceptable levels. By understanding and managing risk, organizations achieve greater certainty and confidence for successfully achieving business objectives.

Risk assessments are used to identify, assess and evaluate risks so that business leaders can take action to improve risk mitigation and enhance monitoring of risks. Business leaders may also elect to Avoid (exit the activity) or Share (transfer, insure, or hedge).

Without a structured approach, organizations are left guessing at which risks demand immediate attention and which can be tolerated — a recipe for costly surprises.

### The Real Cost of Unmanaged Risk

Continuous risk management must be integrated with strong governance and monitoring processes, since identified risks are rarely eliminated entirely. Even a world-class risk reporting and measurement system will not reduce risk without a supporting organizational structure and framework. The question is not whether risk exists — it always does — but whether your organization has the visibility and discipline to manage it before it manages you.

Unfortunately, risk management and the assessment of risk are often mired in cumbersome frameworks, ineffective technology, and risk processes that do not contribute to business success.

CE3 Solutions has created an approach that addresses six principles without additional burdensome layers of organization:

- Risk Management should focus on success of business objectives
- Risk Management should be integrated into business operations. Avoid creating risk departments that are detached from the business.
- Organizations should adopt a simple, business-oriented risk taxonomy that is communicated and shared across the entity.
- Common approaches to the process of assessing risk should be established and shared across the organization.
- Risk management culture and governance should integrate in the rhythm of the business and be evident at all leadership levels.
- Risk assessment results should lead to business-driven prioritized plans for addressing opportunities and threats.



## Key Value Propositions of Effective Risk Management

Achieving strong, integrated, and scalable risk management outcomes requires all of the following components to be functioning well and working together.

Value Proposition	What It Delivers
Taxonomy	Everyone in the organization shares common definitions of risk terms — enabling constructive participation in risk conversations at all levels, no specialized degree required.
Assessment	A common process for assessing risk promotes alignment and shared understanding. With just a few basics, participants can be immediately productive without expensive technology or burdensome administration.
Action	A simple action model facilitates leveraging assessment data to identify action steps, establish business priorities, and determine which risks to improve, monitor, or accept.
Integration	Integrating risk management as a business discipline — rather than a standalone department — makes the business more efficient and better positioned to take risks that drive innovation.
Culture	As integration matures, risk management becomes part of the business culture — recognized as a discipline that drives success and earns recognition from customers, suppliers, and employees alike.
Governance	Integrating risk governance into the rhythm of the business answers who is authorized to accept risk and who approves mitigation investments — further strengthening culture and decision-making.

## CE3 Solutions Approach: Empower

### Practical, Integrated Risk Management

Empower is a risk management approach that prepares organizations to proactively identify, evaluate and mitigate the risks that matter. Just as importantly, it guides the identification of risks that may limit the ability to innovate and grow. Focusing on Taxonomy, Assessment, Action, Integration, Culture, and Governance establishes a solid core of principles that align and promote risk management as a business competency throughout the organization.

A risk assessment process is key to delivering effective risk management and serves to answer four fundamental questions: What can happen and why? What are the consequences? What is the future probability of occurrence for the identified risks? And are current controls and processes sufficient to mitigate consequences or reduce the probability of their occurrence?



Most risk management failures are not failures of intent — they are failures of integration. Organizations want to manage risk responsibly. What they lack is a shared vocabulary, a practical assessment process, and the governance discipline to act on findings consistently. CE3 Solutions provides exactly that: experienced, practical risk management partnership built for real operational environments.

## The CE3 Empower Assessment Framework

---

CE3 conducts Empower engagements across a structured workflow with three integrated phases. Each is executed deliberately and then synthesized into a unified picture of organizational risk, opportunity, and readiness.

1. **Assessment Process Pre-Work.** CE3 and the engagement business sponsors establish a firm understanding of the business context and the larger purpose of the assessment. The critical “Risk to What” question is answered here — clarifying which business objective(s) are the primary focus. Subject matter experts are identified, and participants receive foundational training in taxonomy and assessment process basics.
2. **Assessment Process.** For each step or phase of the business objective, the assessment team identifies significant failures and risks that would prevent successful completion. Each risk is scored using guidelines aligned to the business profile. After scoring, the team aggregates risks and assigns a Plan of Action recommendation: Improve (mitigate with investment), Monitor (track on a periodic basis), or Accept (current level tolerated). Business leaders may also elect to Avoid (exit the activity) or Share (transfer, insure, or hedge).
3. **Analysis and Reporting.** CE3 and the Assessment Team closely collaborate to validate and analyze assessment data, produce a preliminary report, conduct management review, and deliver a Final Report with CE3 insights and recommendations for the overall advancement of the risk management program.

### The CE3 Integration Principle

No risk dimension operates independently. A weak governance posture undermines even the best assessment practices. Poor culture erodes the value of a well-designed taxonomy. CE3’s value is in seeing the whole system — identifying the interactions between dimensions that generic checklists miss — and building solutions that address root causes, not just symptoms.

## CE3 Solutions Recommendations

---

CE3 Solutions’ recommendations are specific, evidence-based, and sequenced for practical implementation within the resource realities of each client organization.

- **Conduct a Risk Management Capability Assessment.** Begin with an honest, fact-based diagnostic of current risk management maturity — assessing governance, taxonomy, process, and culture. Prioritize findings by business impact and implement corrective actions on a structured timeline.



- **Establish a Shared Risk Taxonomy.** Define and communicate a simple, business-oriented vocabulary for risk across the organization. Ensure that all participants — from frontline managers to senior leadership — can engage in risk conversations using common terms.
- **Implement a Structured Risk Assessment Process.** Design and deploy a repeatable assessment workflow — including risk identification, scoring, action planning, and escalation protocols — that can be conducted without expensive technology or burdensome administration.
- **Integrate Risk Management into Business Operations.** Embed risk management as a business discipline rather than a standalone function. Align risk assessment activities with existing planning cycles, operational reviews, and leadership rhythms.
- **Build a Risk Governance Framework.** Establish clear governance structures that define who is authorized to accept risk, who approves mitigation investments, and how risk findings are reported to leadership. Integrate governance into the rhythm of the business.
- **Develop a Risk Management Culture.** Invest deliberately in building risk awareness and accountability at all levels. Recognize risk management as a discipline that drives success in achieving business objectives — not an administrative obligation.
- **Deliver Capability Transfer and Enablement.** Equip internal assessors and stakeholders to sustain and expand the Empower process independently — ensuring lasting organizational benefit beyond the initial engagement.

## CE3 Solutions Uniqueness

---

CE3 Empower advisors bring direct, senior-level operational risk experience — not just consulting credentials. Our team members have led enterprise risk functions, designed governance frameworks, and managed organization-wide transformations across Fortune 500 organizations, regional businesses, and high-growth companies. We have built the systems, led the assessments, designed the taxonomies, and navigated the governance challenges that our clients are facing now. That operational credibility is not replicable from a textbook or a framework.

CE3's philosophy is that risk management advisory should be a true partnership, not a project. We invest in understanding each client's business, culture, and objectives before making a single recommendation. We do not apply generic solutions to specific situations. And we remain engaged through implementation — because recommendations that are never executed deliver no value.

### What CE3 Brings That Others Do Not

CE3 provides enterprise-level risk management expertise at a price point accessible to organizations of all sizes. Our advisors have managed risk for organizations ten, fifty, and a hundred times the size of a typical mid-market client. That scale of experience means we see risks early, solve problems efficiently, and build systems that will not need to be rebuilt as the client grows.

Empower emphasizes four imperatives: Focus on business strategy — not just a compliance checklist. Integrate with existing processes — not an add-on department. Adopt a shared risk vocabulary — not a language limited to experts. Recognize risk management as part of the culture — not another function.



## Conclusion

---

Risk does not diminish on its own. Without a structured, continuous management process, identified risks persist, hidden risks accumulate, and unanticipated events erode organizational value. CE3 Solutions does not optimize a single risk lever while leaving others unaddressed. Partial risk solutions produce partial protection and partial results. Our commitment is to the whole system — taxonomy, assessment, action, integration, culture, and governance — integrated into a coherent risk strategy that serves the business now and as it grows.

When risk management is working well, organizations operate with confidence — confident that their practices are disciplined, their exposures are visible, and their governance is sound. Risk management stops being a source of anxiety and becomes a genuine competitive advantage in delivering on business objectives.

CE3 Solutions gives organizations that confidence. Rather than reacting to risk events as they arise, our clients gain a trusted partner who helps them anticipate challenges, build systems that prevent them, and align their risk strategy with their business goals. That is what enterprise-level risk management looks like at an accessible price point — and it is what CE3 delivers.

**Contact CE3 Solutions to discuss your risk management priorities. The right starting point is a conversation.**

---

CE3 Solutions, LLC | 2026 | [www.ce3solutions.net](http://www.ce3solutions.net)

*This document is intended for informational purposes. CE3 Solutions' perspectives reflect decades of direct operational experience across Fortune 500 organizations and businesses of all sizes.*

### About CE3 Solutions

CE3 Solutions, LLC is a boutique management consulting firm whose partners have collectively over 100 years of experience directly managing operational risk, customer experience, employee engagement, and operational excellence across numerous Fortune 500 organizations and institutions of all sizes. Learn more at [www.ce3solutions.net](http://www.ce3solutions.net).