



Indiana
Department
of
Health

MINIMUM VIABLE GOVERNANCE

BALANCING CONTROL AND AGILITY

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OUR MISSION:

To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

OUR VISION:

Every Hoosier reaches optimal health regardless of where they live, learn, work, or play.



Learning Objectives



- Understand the concept of Minimum Viable Governance (MVG)



- Learn core principles and framework for MVG



- Explore practical examples and benefits



- Review areas we have implemented MVG at IDOH

What is Minimum Viable Governance?



Governance = rules and processes that enable work (policies, procedures).

MVG is the **smallest set of governance practices needed** to manage risk and ensure compliance without slowing innovation.

Focus: Simplicity, scalability, adaptability.

Example: Reduce 10 approvals to 1 risk-based review for faster project delivery.

Why It Matters

1

Too much governance slows projects; too little creates risk.

2

MVG provides just enough structure for safety and compliance while enabling speed.

3

Example: Dashboard launched without governance exposed sensitive data. One MVG policy requiring data classification fixed it.

MVG Framework

POLICIES

What must be done



STANDARDS

Measure compliance



SOPs

Step-by-step execution



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Core Principles

MVG Core Principles



Risk-based approach



Iterative improvement



Collaboration across teams



Automation where possible



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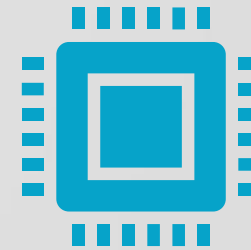
Practical Examples



Data Governance: Basic data inventory, define critical data elements



Cloud Governance: Require tagging for cost tracking and security baselines



Example: Tagging saved \$50,000 by identifying orphaned servers (AWS case study)*.

Benefits



Faster project delivery

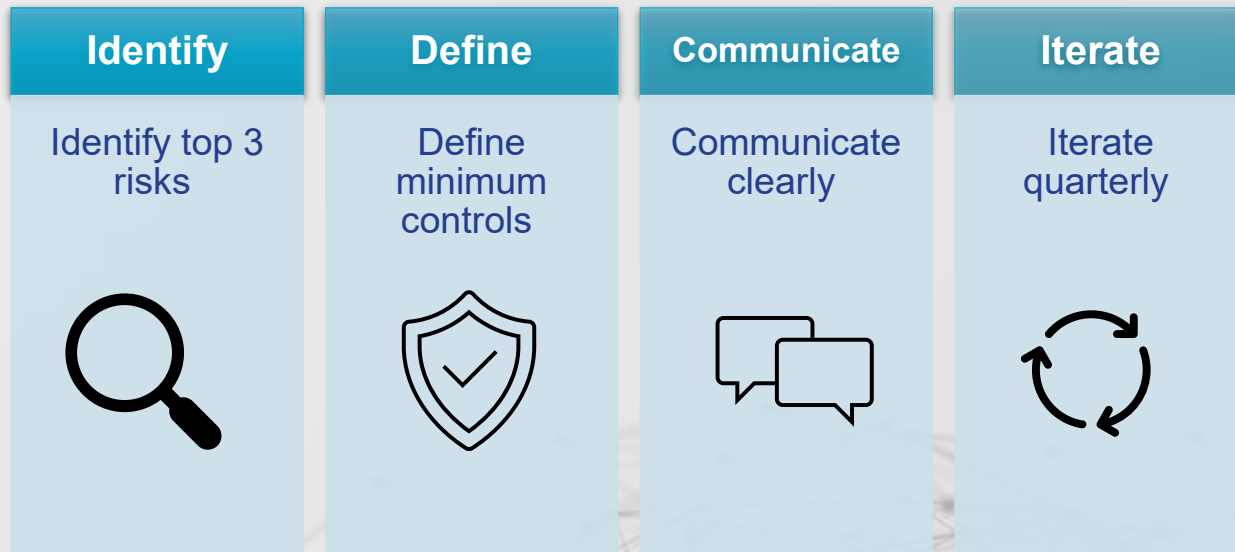


Reduced compliance
risk



Easier stakeholder buy-
in

How to Start



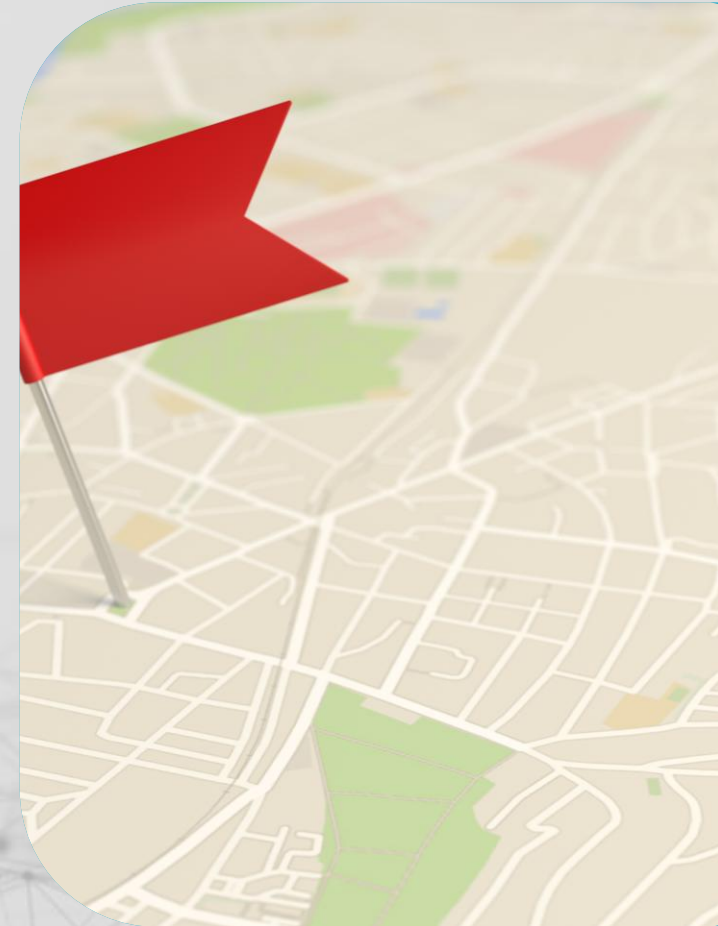
Where Should Standards Live?

Early stage: Embed standards in policies or SOPs

Pros: Fewer documents, faster adoption

Cons: Harder to update later

Example: Encryption standard embedded in policy worked early but later needed separation for flexibility.



IDOH and MVG



Data Sharing Policy

- Reduced from 30+ pages to 2-page policy + 4-page SOP



Copilot Policy

- Reduced from 16 pages to 2-page policy + 7-page SOP focused on risk and mitigation

From 16 pages to 2: What MVG Actually Changed

Original Draft (Before):

- Lengthy and detailed (16+ pages).
- Strict prohibitions with no exceptions for PHI/PII.
- Included extensive risk lists, examples, explanations.
- Combined policy, standards, SOP-level detail.

MVG v1.1 Policy (After):

- Reduced to 2-page policy + 7-page SOP.
- Policies focus on must / must not only.
- SOP holds operational detail.
- Introduces risk-based exception process.

How MVG Improves Governance at IDOH

Why the MVG Approach Works Better

Reduces friction and increases adoption by giving staff a policy they can read, use, and follow.

Makes responsibilities clearer by separating policy (musts) from procedures (hows), so people know exactly where to look.

Speeds up updates: You can revise SOPs quickly without reopening or re-approving the entire policy.

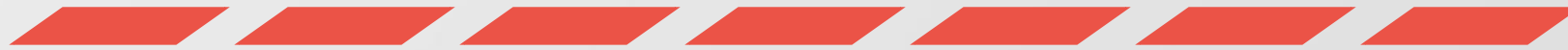
Supports innovation: teams can move faster with defined minimum controls instead of navigating dense documentation.

Improves consistency across programs by applying the same lightweight, risk-based structure used in other IDOH MVG efforts.

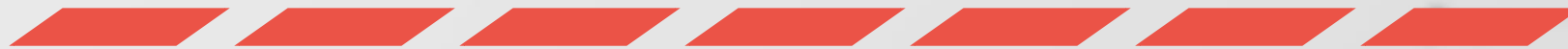
Strengthens compliance: focused controls are easier to train, audit, and enforce than sprawling documents.

Key Takeaways

MVG enables, not restricts



Start small, scale smart



Keep it simple



Questions?

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