

# Policy assessments

By creating and comparing policy assessments, you can integrate your IDERA SQL Secure policies into your existing audit process. The recommended assessment workflow is:

1. [Save as draft](#).
2. [Publish assessment](#).
3. [Approve assessment](#).

## Use saved assessments in an existing audit process

Your Audit Process Step	Corresponding Assessment Step
Prepare for upcoming audit.	<a href="#">Create a draft assessment</a> from an existing policy or previously approved assessment.
Set up the security requirements requested by the auditors.	Update the draft assessments to address the audit requirements. You can <a href="#">change the security check settings</a> , <a href="#">choose different audit data</a> , and <a href="#">add or remove SQL Server Instances</a> .
Get your security status and findings.	<a href="#">Run the draft assessment</a> using audit data from a specific point in time.
Identify differences from last time this audit was performed.	<a href="#">Compare</a> the draft assessment to a previously approved assessment.
Distribute the assessment findings to an internal team to investigate any new violations or discrepancies.	<a href="#">Publish</a> the assessment and distribute to the team. To distribute the assessment, <a href="#">run the Risk Assessment report</a> , and then print or save the results.
Confirm that violations were fixed.	<a href="#">Take a new snapshot</a> and then <a href="#">run the published assessment</a> using your new audit data.
Document any discrepancies as known issues.	<a href="#">Add an explanation note</a> for each security check finding that is a known issue.
Give assessment to auditors.	<a href="#">Run the Risk Assessment report</a> , and then print or save the results.
Apply feedback from auditors.	Update the published assessment to address the auditors' feedback. You can <a href="#">change the security check settings</a> , <a href="#">add or remove explanation notes</a> , and <a href="#">change which instances are being audited</a> .
Obtain "sign-off".	<a href="#">Approve</a> the assessment.

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