

The AI-Augmented SOX Framework

Replicate GRC platform capability with your team, AI, and targeted consulting.

Most companies facing SOX 404 pick between a six-figure GRC platform and unmanaged spreadsheets. This framework maps a third path: a governed data layer, AI working every step of the lifecycle, and a consultant who builds the machine, calibrates trust in it, and hands it over. Fifty steps across nine phases, benchmarked feature for feature against a leading GRC platform, with the economics modeled end to end.

3,552

team hours returned per year*

9.8x

hours back per consultant hour

50 / 9

steps mapped / lifecycle phases

17 of 24

GRC capabilities at full parity

HOW THE WORK SPLITS

THE AI DOES THE VOLUME

- Drafts RCs, narratives, and memos
- Runs first-pass testing on every sample item
- Validates populations, selects samples, chases evidence
- Keeps dashboards, logs, and sign-off registers current

THE CONSULTANT BUILDS, THEN EXITS

- Designs the data layer and methodology standards
- Builds the AI skills with your team watching
- Reperforms samples to prove quality, then steps back
- Runs the external auditor conversation

YOUR TEAM OWNS EVERY JUDGMENT

- Signs every workpaper and classification
- Adjudicates every flagged exception
- Makes the severity and scoping calls
- Runs the whole machine after handoff

THE LIFECYCLE

P0 Program Governance

P1 Risk Assessment

P2 Documentation

P3 Walkthroughs

P4 Operating Effectiveness Testing

P5 Third-Party / SOC Reliance

P6 Deficiency Management

P7 Reporting

P8 Cross-Cutting Platform Operations

P5 (green) has already been built and field tested as a packaged AI skill: the proof the pattern works.

THE ECONOMICS, MODELED END TO END*

About 361 one-time consultant hours (roughly \$90,250) build a machine that returns about 3,552 team hours every year, worth roughly \$301,920 at a loaded cost of \$85/hr. That is separate from, and additive to, the \$135,000 first-year GRC license and implementation spend the approach avoids. The companion workbook recalculates all of this from your own rates, volumes, and hours.

WHAT IS IN THE FRAMEWORK

An Excel operating blueprint (50-step process map with explicit AI and consultant roles per step, a 24-point GRC feature parity matrix, RACI, a 16-week roadmap, KPIs including AI-trust metrics, a risk register for the approach itself, the data model, and a live economics tab) plus an interactive web version with notes, statuses, and calibration built in.

* Illustrative planning figures for a representative mid-size program (about 200 key controls). Calibrate before relying on them. Not audit, legal, or accounting advice.

Want it built in your program?

Framework, workbook, and engagement details at devoncoombs.com

devoncoombs.com