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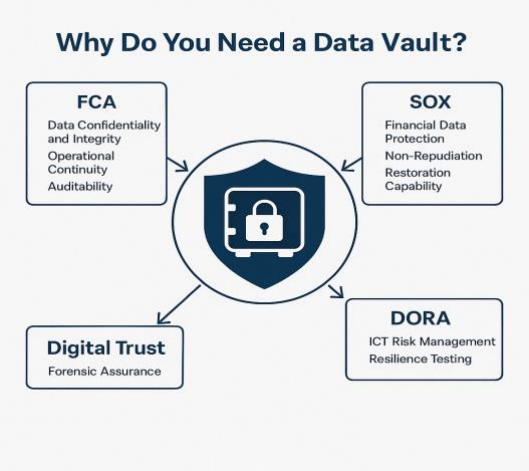
In the current climate, your ability to maintain compliance isn't based on the presence of controls, it is based on your ability to prove that those controls function under pressure. It is not enough to say data is protected. Regulators and auditors increasingly expect you to evidence integrity, demonstrate resilience, and preserve digital trust during and after a major incident.

You operate within a web of overlapping obligations: the FCA's stringent demands around operational resilience; SOX's insistence on unalterable records and verifiable internal controls; DORA's broad-sweeping ICT risk requirements; GDPR's emphasis on data protection by design and by default; ISO 27001's risk-driven ISMS mandates; and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework's recovery domain that highlights the need for isolated backups and tested recovery procedures.

Together, these frameworks require that data be trustworthy, auditable, and legally defensible, even in a crisis. When you look at your current backup and recovery posture through this lens, a stark reality often comes into view. While you may have backups, those systems typically reside within the same logical framework as your production estate.

Administrative accounts with broad access, overlapping network paths, shared storage tiers, these architectural overlaps create a risk surface that is both visible and exploitable. In a breach, attackers aim to exfiltrate data, they now go after the backups first, erasing or encrypting your last line of defense. The loss is operational, and it is regulatory. Without clean data, you cannot comply.



A data vault addresses this with clarity and finality. It introduces a separate trust domain, an environment designed from the ground up to protect the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of data that may otherwise be destroyed or manipulated during a cyber incident. With immutable storage and logical air-gap, a vault ensures that once data enters, it cannot be altered or deleted. It enforces non-repudiation and establishes a chain of custody that survives even if the rest of your environment does not.

From a risk and compliance standpoint, this is transformative!

Under the FCA's Operational Resilience Policy Statement (PS21/3), you are expected to demonstrate how your firm will remain within its impact tolerances during severe but plausible disruption. The data vault directly supports this by enabling timely recovery of critical business services from an isolated, uncompromised source.

In SOX-regulated environments, a vault provides verifiable protection for financial data, ensuring that controls over reporting systems are both technically and procedurally segregated. This supports the internal control certification process and reduces audit risk.

DORA requires the development and regular testing of ICT continuity strategies and emphasizes the importance of data preservation for both recovery and supervisory cooperation. The data vault enables clean recovery, facilitates scenario-based testing, and supports incident classification and reporting obligations to regulators and competent authorities.

Under GDPR, your ability to restore the availability and access to personal data in a timely manner following a physical or technical incident is a legal requirement under Article 32. A vault not only satisfies this but does so in a way that ensures the integrity and security of personal data, protecting you from additional claims of negligence in the wake of a breach.

ISO27001 Annex A control-set also highlights the need for secure backup (A.12.3), logging and monitoring (A.12.4), and the separation of development, test, and operational environments (A.12.1.4), principles all inherently supported by a properly implemented data vault architecture.

NIST CSF aligns even further, particularly in the Recover function, where vault architecture ensures capabilities to restore systems and assets in accordance with organisational resilience requirements. The vault becomes the definitive anchor point in your recovery planning

Yet, beyond regulation, the vault plays a more profound role: it protects digital trust. Customers, shareholders, and regulators increasingly expect that you do not just have continuity plans, but that you are capable of preserving truth under pressure. That in the event of a breach, you can isolate the incident, restore data that hasn't been touched or tampered with, and support forensic investigation without contaminating the evidence.

The data vault becomes the source of forensic assurance. When faced with regulators or legal discovery, you can demonstrate through timestamped, immutable logs that the data used for recovery was captured before the breach and never modified. You can validate event timelines, show breach containment boundaries, and reinforce the trustworthiness of your own recovery process. And when the dust settles, your credibility remains intact.

This isn't a technology investment, it is a control transformation. It elevates your ability to comply. It reduces your exposure to legal liability. It underpins your recovery capabilities with defensible, auditable and regulator-ready evidence. And, ultimately, it protects the most fragile but vital asset of all in the digital era: