How Third-Party Risk Software Reaches a Community Bank

A map of the distribution routes by which third-party risk software reaches US community banks and credit unions.

Rows assembled from vendor press archives, association announcements, partner program pages, and other cited sources.

INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED

ROUTE	WHO RUNS IT	WHO CONTROLS THE GATE	PLATFORM FLOWING THROUGH IT	LAST PUBLIC ACTIVITY Dates show the most recent public evidence that a route is running, not the date it was announced.	EVIDENCE
Accounting and advisory firms					
Accounting firm delivers outsourced assessments on a licensed platform	Crowe LLP	**Crowe's third-party risk services practice.** The gate is the practice, not the individuals named in source material.	ProcessUnity	**June 2026**	January 2021 'Assessments as a Service' announcement; Crowe listed as UNITE 2026 associate sponsor. Primary source 2026 activity
Accounting firm delivers managed TPRM on a licensed platform	Crowe LLP	**Crowe's third-party risk services practice.** Same gate as the previous route; one practice, two platforms.	Coverbase	**February 2026**	Coverbase strategic collaboration announcement, February 2026. Partnership announcement
Advisory firms staff to the platforms they deliver on	Crowe LLP	**The practice's platform standard, expressed through hiring.** A function, not a person or formal program.	Multiple	**Approximately May to June 2026**	Crowe Third Party Risk Manager posting requires experience with Archer, ProcessUnity, ServiceNow, OneTrust, or comparable GRC/VRM platforms. Primary source
Trade and industry associations					
State bankers associations endorse software through wholly-owned service subsidiaries	State bankers associations	**The association's separate service corporation and its board.** Texas: TBASCO, organized 1987. Virginia: VBA Management Services Inc. Georgia: the GBA service corporation board. Florida: BancServ.	Ncontracts	**January 2024**	Dated endorsement announcements below. The Ncontracts partner page remains live but is undated. Florida Georgia Virginia Texas Wisconsin / Ncontracts partner page
National trade association partner networks	American Bankers Association	**ABA Partner Network.**	Ncontracts	**June 2024**	Ncontracts became an ABA Premier Partner, June 2024. Association source
Trade associations as vendor news distribution	American Bankers Association	**Not established.** ABA distributes vendor announcements to its membership; the editorial selection process is not established.	Multiple	**September 2024**	ABA news article on the Ncontracts-Venminder acquisition. Association source

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Trade association as investor in a fintech venture platform	American Bankers Association	**Canapi Ventures' investment process.** Alliance membership is not published; the documented route into the member network runs through the fund.	Portfolio access	**Undated, pages live**	ABA is an investor in Canapi funds and a Canapi Alliance member. ABA Canapi
Trade association as general partner in a bank-owned venture fund	Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA)	**BankTech Ventures' investment process.** ICBA is one of several general partners alongside The Venture Center, Hovde Group, and community banks including Coastal and Sunwest Bank. Limited partner membership is not published, so the route into the bank network runs through the fund.	Portfolio access	**June 2026**	BankTech Ventures reports an ecosystem of more than 125 community and regional banks and, as of December 2023, more than 100 vendor contracts signed between limited partners and portfolio companies. Founding structure 2026 activity
Vendor-run practitioner certification	Ncontracts	**The vendor itself.** No third party controls this route.	Ncontracts	**January 2024**	Nstitute certification included in Virginia Bankers Association endorsement. Association source
Core processors and banking platforms					
The core processor sells vendor management itself	Jack Henry & Associates	**Closed. Jack Henry itself.** Jack Henry is the provider on this route rather than a channel for another TPRM provider.	Jack Henry GRC Suite	**May 2022**	Vendor Management Program announced inside GRC Suite, May 2022. Primary source
Core processor integration programs, which are not endorsements	Jack Henry & Associates	**VendorQA.** VendorQA manages the onboarding sequence; Jack Henry explicitly states it does not endorse VIP Member products.	Any	**March 2026**	Program documentation 2026 activity
Core processor application marketplaces	Fiserv	**Communicator Open certification.** Certification requirements not published in full.	Any	**August 2025**	Linker Finance listed on Fiserv AppMarket via Communicator Open, August 1, 2025. No TPRM platform was found listed. Communicator Open certification AppMarket listing
Corporate credit unions and CUSOs					
Corporate credit unions resell to member credit unions as a consulting service	Corporate Central	**Corporate Central's consulting services function.** The advisor is both gate and delivery mechanism.	Ncontracts	**Undated, page live**	Primary source
Managed service providers and systems integrators					
Specialist firms deliver managed TPRM on a licensed platform	HCL Technologies, CastleHill Managed Risk Solutions, DVV Solutions, Sila, Elements Alternative	**Each firm's alliance or partnership function plus the platform vendor's partner program.**	ProcessUnity	**June 2026**	HCL CastleHill DVV Sila Elements Alternative 2026 activity
Formal vendor partner programs	ProcessUnity, Ncontracts, Coverbase	**Each vendor operates its own program and publishes an application route.**	Respective platforms	**2026, pages live**	ProcessUnity Ncontracts Coverbase

Market Structure

Ownership of the platforms traveling these routes sits with two private equity firms.

Ncontracts acquired Venminder on September 4, 2024. Hg simultaneously bought out prior Ncontracts shareholder Gryphon Investors and prior Venminder shareholders while backing founder and CEO Michael Berman.

Venminder had more than 1,200 customers. The combined company was reported at more than 5,000.

Sources: Acquisition announcement, Transaction source

ProcessUnity received a significant growth investment from Marlin Equity Partners on September 28, 2021. Investment announcement

ProcessUnity acquired CyberGRX on July 12, 2023 while backed by Marlin Equity. Acquisition source

Separate research covering fourteen US financial institutions found ten where the incumbent TPRM platform could be established. All ten were running software owned by either Hg or Marlin Equity.

What this covers and what it does not

SEGMENT

US community banks and credit unions

CHANNEL TYPES SEARCHED

Accounting and advisory firms, trade and industry associations, core processors and banking platforms, corporate credit unions and CUSOs, managed service providers and systems integrators.

NOT RESEARCHED

State credit union league endorsement programs, CUSO programs beyond the one documented, FIS and Fiserv partner rosters in full, partner rosters of TPRM vendors other than Ncontracts and ProcessUnity, and other association-plus-fund structures beyond the two documented.

METHOD

Rows were assembled from vendor press archives, association announcements, and partner program pages. Routes that are not publicly announced do not appear.

SEGMENTS NOT COVERED

Everything outside US community banking.

Independent market-structure research. Compiled from public sources and independently verified.