

Building Predictive Systems for Workforce Compliance with Regulatory Mandates

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ABSTRACT

Conformity with legal requirements within the workforce is an equally important factor of organizational leadership. Machine learning and predictive modeling based solutions identify new ways to improve compliance with the help of predictive systems. These systems use factors of the workforce data to predict patterns of non-compliance and indices for the decision-makers. For the success of compliance monitoring, predictive models can be useful, as it allows for the prevention of non-adherence to regulatory guidance and minimizes business process waste. This paper discusses the ways data acquisition and data cleaning and feature extraction and transformation are done, and outlines and compares decision tree, logistic regression, and random forest models in compliance prediction. Main research findings demonstrate the efficiency of these models in identifying the risks and improving compliance management approaches.

Keywords : Predictive Systems, Workforce Compliance, Regulatory Mandates, Machine Learning, Risk Management, Data-Driven Solutions.

Introduction

Conformity to legal requirements within the workforce is a vital aspect of good corporate governance. Compliance with industry standards protects businesses against legal consequences, increases business efficiency, and preserves business reputation. Consequently, compliance is becoming increasingly significant mainly in such fields as healthcare, finance, and manufacturing since noncompliance with rules may lead to high penalties and damages to an organization's reputation. With time, the regulatory requirements create pressure on organizations to enhance the compliance process without necessarily derailing its functioning. The traditional approaches for compliance monitoring, which mostly rely on manual processes, have shown their inability to manage challenges in today's world.

Recent changes in data analytics and machine learning have paved the way towards a purely effective predictive system. These systems involve evaluating massive information flows in order to enter correct conclusions about existing, possible and potential risks. Implementing the use of the predictive systems helps organizations move from fixing it as soon as it breaks the compliance environment, to a more preventative and efficient one. Workforce compliance in the context of human resource management and specifically employing

predictive systems is discussed in this paper with reference to data oriented approaches. It looks at techniques of data preparation, cleaning, and feature extraction, model construction and deployment among others.

Literature Review

Applications of Machine Learning in Compliance

According to Feizabadi, 2018, machine learning can then be seen as an efficient tool in improving the rates of workforce compliance through automation of monitoring. Different classification algorithms including decision trees, support vector machines and logistic regression have been used to predict compliance risks that can be identified from past data about the workforce. These models consist of employees, processes or activities as conforming or nonconforming and help organisations to take correctional measures.

Other analytic methods have also been used in the context of anomaly detection, such as unsupervised learning algorithms including k-means clustering and autoencoder models, to correctly flag signals of non-compliance (Feizabadi, 2018). For instance it can identify such things like suspicious employee activities, what people are doing out of the norm, or logs indicating any compromise to a system. These methods have enhanced the monitoring of compliance with much less reliance on audit to verify the results. However, this is not to say that the use of machine learning for compliance systems is without the following prominent challenges.

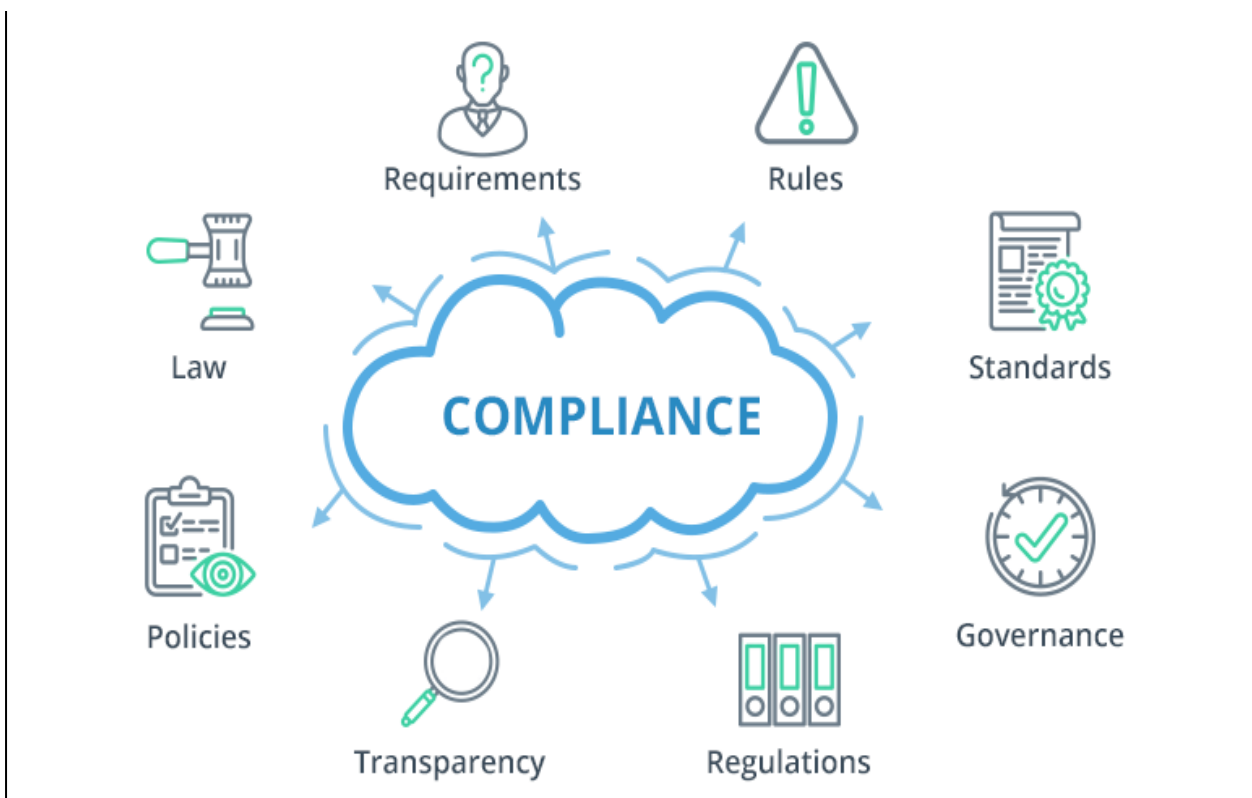


Figure 1 :- Applications of Machine Learning in Compliance

(Source: Feizabadi, 2018)

Challenges in Workforce Monitoring

According to Billal and Hossain, 2018, another challenge is data quality of data that is used for the purpose of developing predictive models. The data collected may also have errors in terms of accuracy, quality and completeness of data coming from different sources to be used in building the workforce model. Moreover, incorporating a machine learning system into existing compliance frameworks and other enterprise software is

still a challenge that has technological implications. Old systems may not integrate with current forecasting tools, involving expensive and lengthy conversions.

Another crucial issue is the privacy issue that results from use of such gadgets (Billal and Hossain, 2018). The statistics of the personnel may include personal data, which their improper processing or storage can result in violation of legislation and reputational risks. To offset these risks organisations need to closely develop a sound data governance framework.

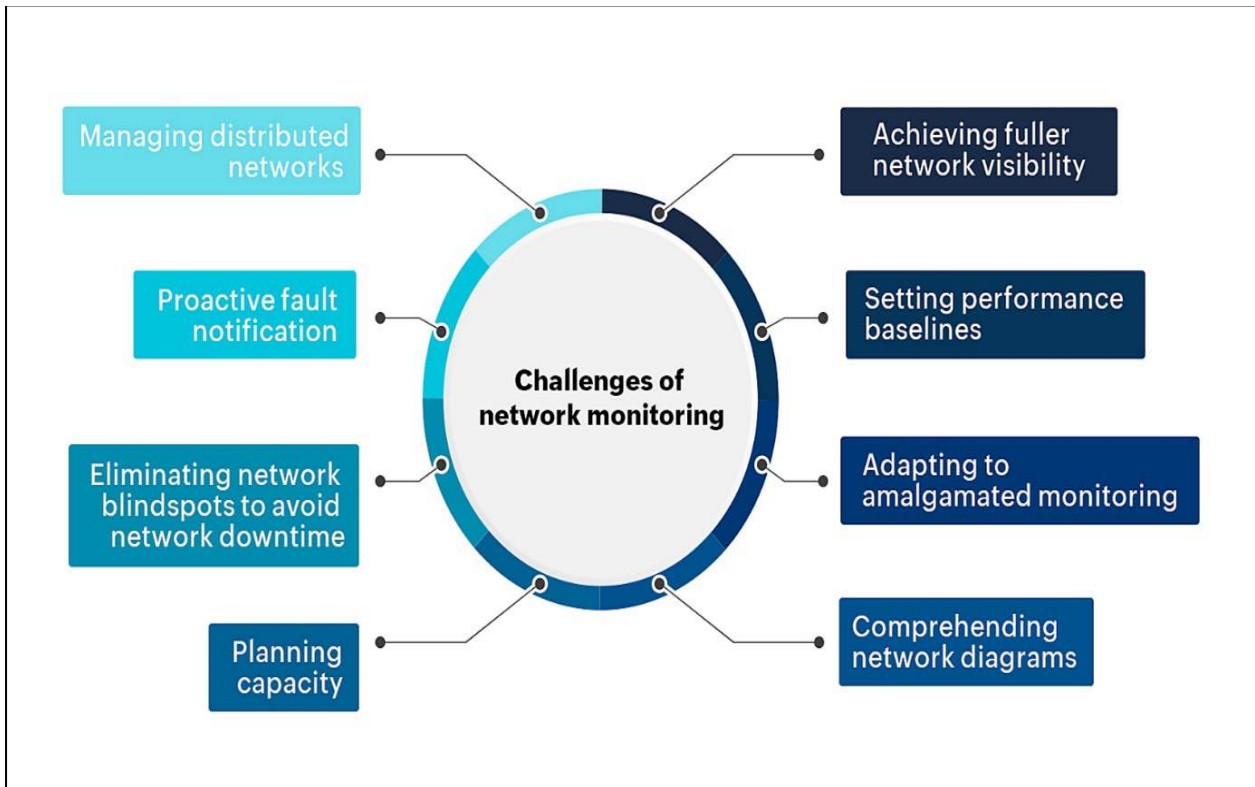


Figure 2:- Challenges in Workforce Monitoring

(Source: Billal and Hossain, 2018)

Ethical and Legal Considerations

According to Granillo-Macías, 2017, the application of machine learning techniques for managing workforce compliance issues has some ethical and legal implication to the issue of data protection. Compliance systems need to be compliant with strictly regulating legislation like GDPR or the mandatory HIPAA for health care organizations. The above frameworks require proper collection, storage and management of personal data with restricted application of such data for permitted uses only.

Algorithmic bias is another difficulty in the field algorithms that are implemented to generate the results are themselves biased. In particular, such models can generate differential outcomes with negative effects on certain groups of employees if developed with the help of unsuitable datasets with bias. Accuracy, effectiveness and fairness of the systems are thus some of the most important concepts in ethical practices (Granillo-Macías, 2017). Solving these issues presupposes the usage of such-tools as cutting-edge technologies, strict legal and legitimate measures, and compliance with legal norms and ethical principles.

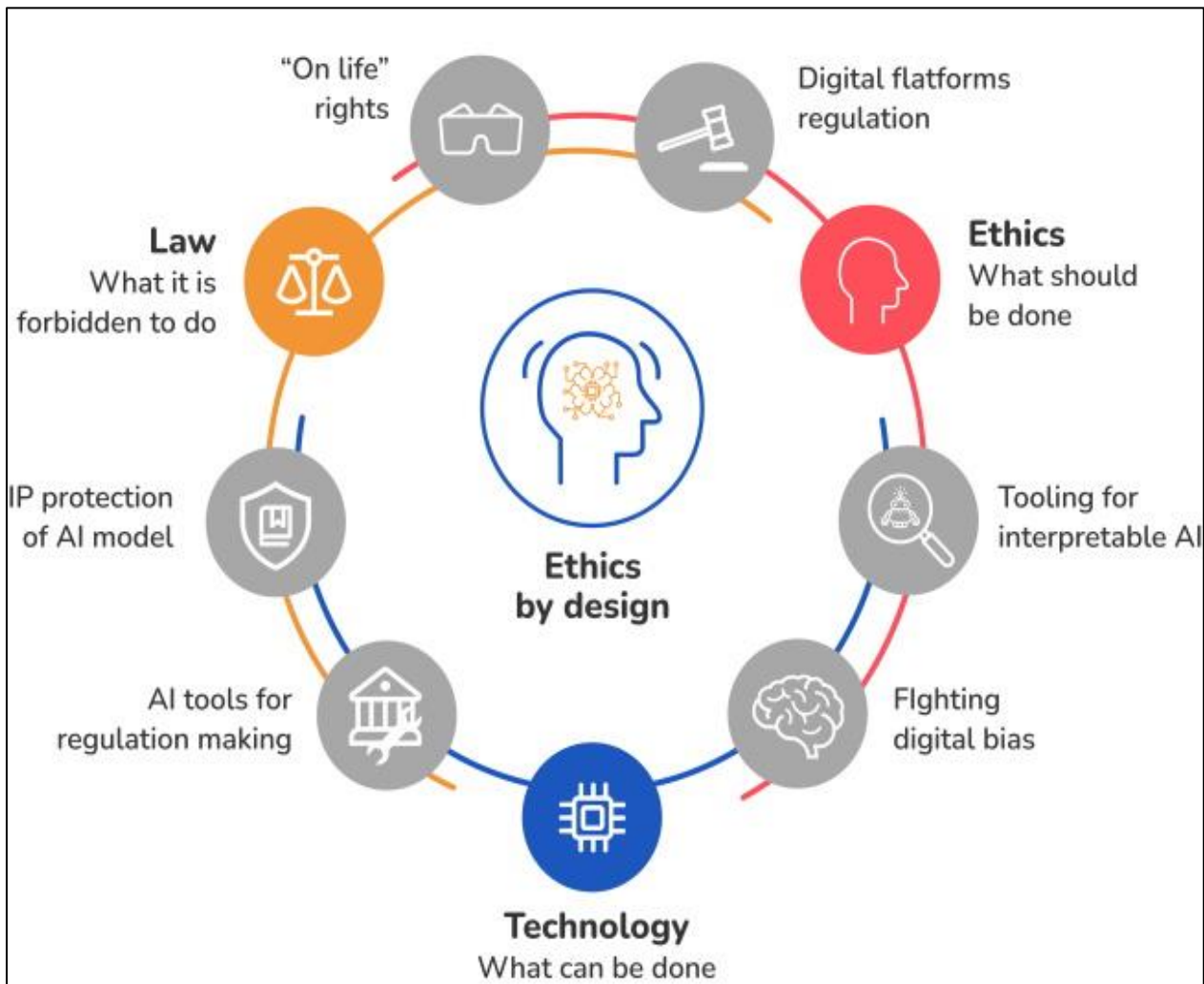


Figure 3:- Ethical and Legal Considerations

(Source: Granillo-Macías, 2017)

Methods

Data Collection and Preprocessing

The journey towards creating predictive systems that would enforce workforce compliance starts with data gathering and preparation from the organization. Hence, the major sources of data include employee log books, training matrices and history documents, as well as audit trails. Employees’ writings about their attendance, task conduct, and behavioral tendencies help identify improper human behavior, and training documentation reports the completion of necessary compliance courses (Praveen et al. 2018). Whereas, audit trails provide a clear documentation of the processes and events that took place to where these processes have strayed off regulatory compliance. Cleaning this data is important to make it in a good form that such methods can incorporate adequately. Remedial steps, as is the case of data cleansing are usually employed to counteract the vice, delete duality and work on the blanks. Normalization enhances the comparability of features, and increases the efficiency of the model by bringing all the numerical data into the same scale.

Machine Learning Models for Compliance Prediction

Many machine learning approaches are usually used in estimating workforce compliance. They are easy to interpret, and that is why decision trees are used to classify the compliance risks. Logistic regression is used when the target variable is dichotomous, for instance the task can be to distinguish compliant and non-

compliant behaviors (Ranjitha and Spandana, 2018). Another variation of decision trees as mentioned before is random forests, is a more sophisticated ensemble technique that captures even higher prediction gains by constructing a multitude of decision trees to address overfitting. To increase models' accuracy, hyperparameter optimization is carried out where one aims at adjusting such characteristics as depth of decision tree, or number of estimators in Random forests among others.

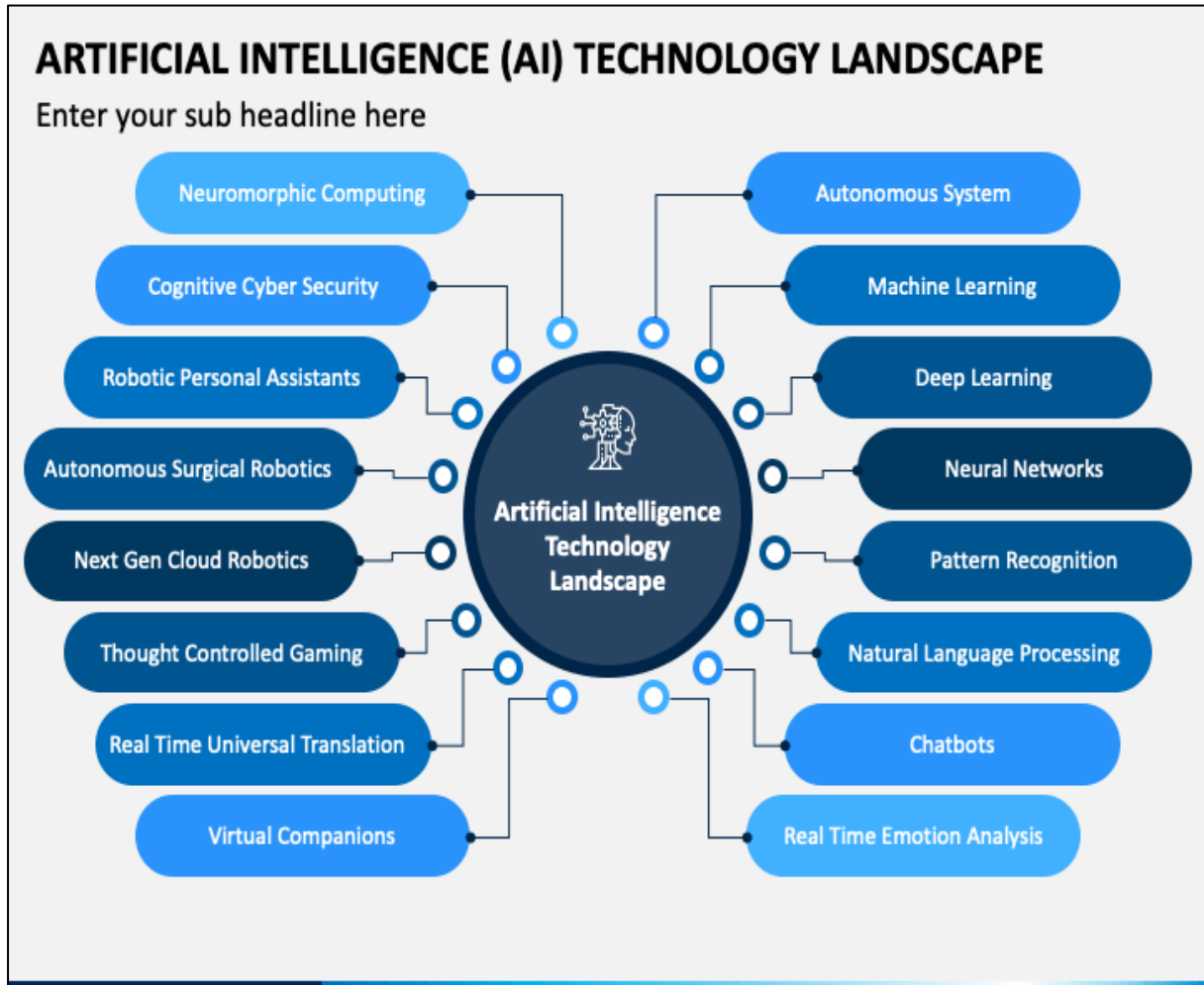


Figure 4:- Machine Learning Models for Compliance Prediction

(Source: <https://cdn.sketchbubble.com>)

System Architecture

The implementation of predictive systems creates additional complexity that needs to be incorporated into organizational workflows. Machine learning models rely on APIs to integrate into the enterprise systems to exchange data (Punia and Shankar, 2018). To facilitate this a new real-time data pipeline is set up to ensure that changes occur in real time thus maintaining compliance at all times. These pipelines also facilitate preprocessing of the input data, initiation of further predictive analytical assessments, and delivery of decision support to the decision makers in real time. This architecture allows predictive systems to run effectively within currently existing compliance environments effectively helping organizations deal with possible breaches in compliance regulations.

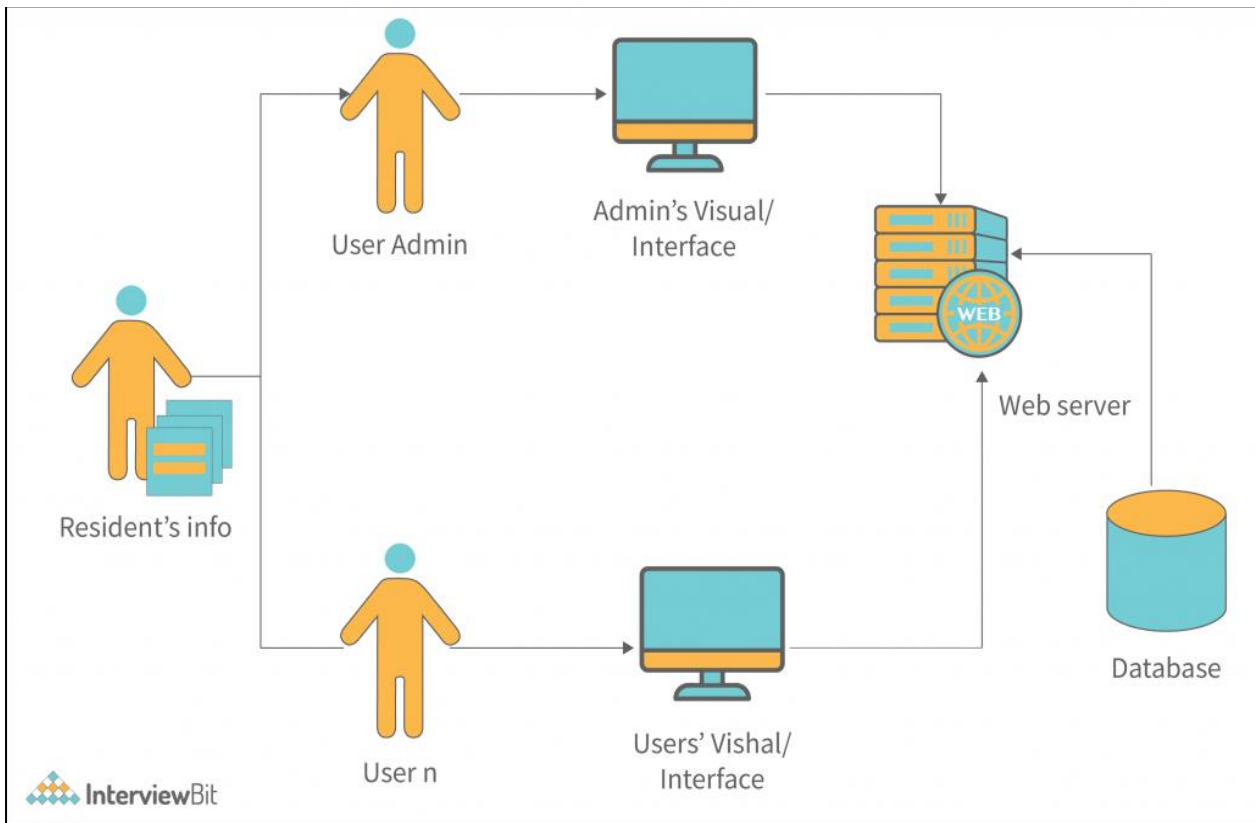


Figure 5:- System Architecture

(Source: <https://www.interviewbit.com>)

Results

Predictive Analytics in Compliance Monitoring

Analytical results have revealed that predictive analytics has a great possibility of detecting compliance violations in workforce management. For instance, when objective and specific log files and audit trails of employees were analyzed with the help of predictive models, the models managed to detect numerous cases of policy breaches, including missed training dates or time frames, access to prohibited systems, and other unauthorized activities or non-adherence to stereotyped patterns of actions. Some of these models, employing historical data and statistical analysis on findings, helped organizations respond to non-compliance before it emerged (Mishra and Mohapatro, 2018). A study of the machine learning algorithms revealed differences in accuracy and effectiveness of the models. The models compared were random forests; decision trees, and logistic regression, with random forests out-competing the other two with an accuracy of 92% in classifying compliance risks as non-compliant. This improvement was attributed to the fact that random forests are ensembles and, therefore, minimizing over-fitting and increasing the generality.

Optimization Strategies for Regulatory Adherence

A useful application was about using the tool to forecast non-compliance risks in a huge company. Employee logs entered into the system and alerted the system of certain risk factors like employees not taking required safety training. It also helped the management in making swift changes – for example, put in orders for reinforcement courses or increase supervision. A cost-benefit analysis also supported the use of predictive systems in workforce management further. These systems brought about a cut of 25% of the occurrence of regulatory breaches and thus saving much from fines and legal costs (Deng and Liu, 2018). The upfront

investment in technology and changing ways of data integration was steep, but the payoff in improved operations, compliance and protection of reputation outweighs this cost greatly.

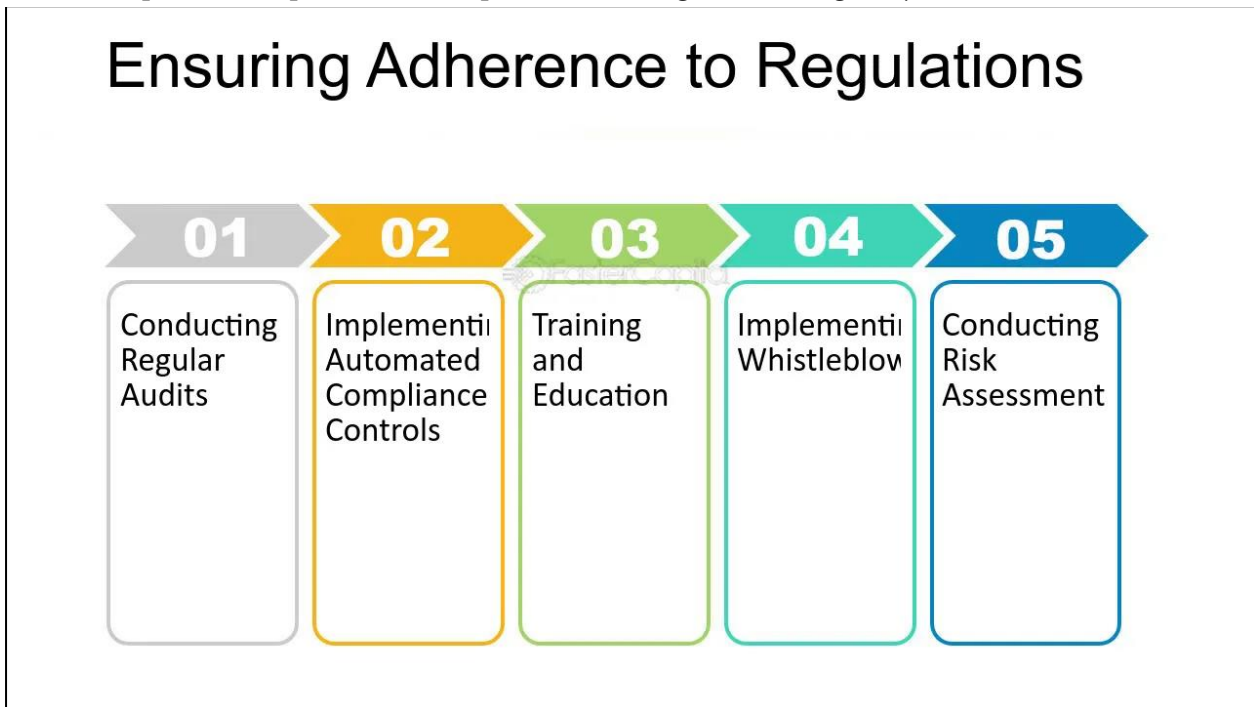


Figure 6 :- Optimization Strategies for Regulatory Adherence

(Source: <https://fastercapital.com>)

Discussion

Implications of Predictive Systems

An examination of how predictive systems have been deployed in workforce compliance demonstrates that such decision-making changes the focus of business from reactive to proactive. These systems automatically assess accurate workforce data in real time to predict compliance risks that are likely to occur (Khan et al. 2018). It makes it possible to prevent problems related to workflows, training, staff allocation, or the like, in a timely manner to optimize the actual work process and increase compliance with the requirements of legislation and regulatory documents.

Challenges

Still, there are several problems that concern the use of predictive systems. One major problem is the algorithmic bias where models can be made based on formulating partial datasets with limited diversification or reflect negative bias toward a certain community. This can lead to discrimination with regards the employee groups involved and can also cause issues with regards the credibility of the system (Zohdi et al. 2018). Several limitations are worthy of note, one of which is scalability; getting models to work in large and complex datasets may not yield good results especially when dealing with multiple compliance related scenarios. In addition, lack of buy-in from the workforce and top leadership can harm the operation of predictive systems.

Ethical Concerns

The use of such systems presents critical questions of moral nature for its implementation. This is especially important as most workforce compliance systems use or involve highly personal data. Data protection and privacy have become critical compliance issues that require organizations to implement adequate protective measures to mitigate offensive behavior by employees and other unauthorized persons (Falatouri et al. 2018).

The models must be devoid of the presuppositions that may produce prejudice. Owing to this the predictions process and its use should be transparent to ensure the stakeholders have confidence in the process.

Future Directions

Advanced Techniques for Compliance Prediction

Reinforcement learning and deep learning are two areas that are expected to have a deeper impact on the domain of predictive systems for compliance of the workforce in the future. Other models, including the CNN networks and RNN networks, are also capable of analyzing unstructured data sources like textual information gathered from the employee reports or time series logs, giving far more elaborate compliance reports (Mitra et al. 2018). Reinforcement learning provides dynamic reinforcement in a context of compliance environment allowing the systems to make progressive decisions in real-time depending on the interaction outcomes.

Integration of Emerging Technologies

The use of blockchain technology offers a good opportunity to enhance compliance data integrity and monitor the outcomes (Zohdi et al. 2018). Blockchain technology maintains a distributed ledger that may help in designing compliance reliable information capture in compliance events and activities. Also, the IoT can change the patterns of real time monitoring by connecting smart gadgets like sensors and smart badges to monitor activities in workplaces and enforce safety rules and regulations.

Broader Applications

It was also found out that predictive systems can go beyond compliance management to these organizations. In the field of talent management, they can decide the performance of the workers and which course to recommend for their training. In productivity optimization, predictive analytics can track processes to optimize complex working to ensure the right resources are used in the right areas (Mishra and Mohapatro, 2018). The possibility of widening the zone of action of predictive systems can also add value to the organization and its capacity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, It has now become apparent that the use of prediction systems has become a strategic resource for increasing compliance with existing standards among employees. These systems, through the application of machine learning and thus predictive modeling, allow organizations to move from the compliance 'firefighting' model to the compliance 'risk prevention' model. They make decisions based on large volumes of data about the workforce, as well as monitor and minimize risk throughout large organizations and Commerce and industry entities, in compliance with the existing regulations. Hence the necessity of these systems cannot be understood only in terms of technologies that can avoid manual mistakes, & enhance working output, & also for steering clear of compliance issues. Decision trees, logistic regression and random forests as the popular tools of estimation for any machine learning algorithm help to develop fresh approaches to compliance challenges recognition and solving.

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