

10 Hidden Costs of Manual Administration

Manual administration rarely shows up in budgets. But you'll find it causing slower releases, delayed onboarding, audit risk, and rising operational costs. If admin work is starting to slow your platform down, you're not alone.

See how many of these feel familiar. 

Estimate your Admin Friction Score — count each section where any signs apply.



1 Simple admin changes are stuck in IT tickets.

Common signs:

- Workflow changes sit in a backlog.
- Small config edits take weeks.
- Admin requests compete with product work.

The cost: Slow changes delay product improvements, extend time-to-market, and increase backlog costs across IT and business teams.

2 New users wait too long for system access.

Common signs:

- New hires wait days for system access.
- Permissions are assigned manually.
- Teams share logins to move faster.

The cost: New hires lose productive hours in their first days, while workarounds introduce security risk and audit exposure.

3 Audit prep turns into a compliance scramble.

Common signs:

- Evidence must be pulled manually.
- Permission history is hard to trace.
- Teams scramble to prepare reports.

The cost: Hundreds of hours are redirected from revenue-generating work, increasing audit costs and raising the risk of failed or delayed compliance.

4 Critical admin tracking lives in spreadsheets.

Common signs:

- Evidence must be pulled manually.
- Permission history is hard to trace.
- Teams scramble to prepare reports.

The cost: Decisions are made on outdated data, increasing operational risk and creating compliance gaps that can lead to penalties.

5 Data onboarding requires too much manual work.

Common signs:

- Imports require manual formatting.
- Data validation happens after loading.
- New programs take months to stand up.

The cost: Slower onboarding delays insights, pushes out ROI on new programs, and limits how quickly the business can respond to change.

6 Configurations drift across environments.

Common signs:

- Test and production aren't aligned.
- Changes are copied manually.
- Version tracking is inconsistent.

The cost: Errors reach production environments more often, increasing downtime risk and eroding user trust while slowing release cycles.

7 Connecting new systems or partners takes too long.

Common signs:

- Integrations require custom admin setup.
- Partner onboarding takes months.
- Admin layers slow ecosystem growth.

The cost: Slower onboarding delays insights, pushes out ROI on new programs, and limits how quickly the business can respond to change.

8 Engineers spend time on routine admin work.

Common signs:

- Engineers handle provisioning.
- Senior staff manage configuration.
- Strategic work gets pushed aside.

The cost: High-cost engineering time is diverted from innovation, increasing development costs and slowing delivery of strategic initiatives.

9 It's difficult to see who has access to what.

Common signs:

- Permissions accumulate over time.
- Offboarding requires manual cleanup.
- Access reviews uncover surprises.

The cost: Unclear access control increases breach risk and can result in failed audits, fines, or reputational damage.

10 Platform administration gets harder every year.

Common signs:

- Admin work grows faster than adoption.
- Teams spend more time managing tools.
- Platform changes require multiple approvals.

The cost: Rising admin overhead reduces platform ROI, slows adoption across teams, and increases turnover risk among key staff.

Your Admin Friction Score

9–10 sections

Manual administration is quietly draining ROI.

6–8 sections

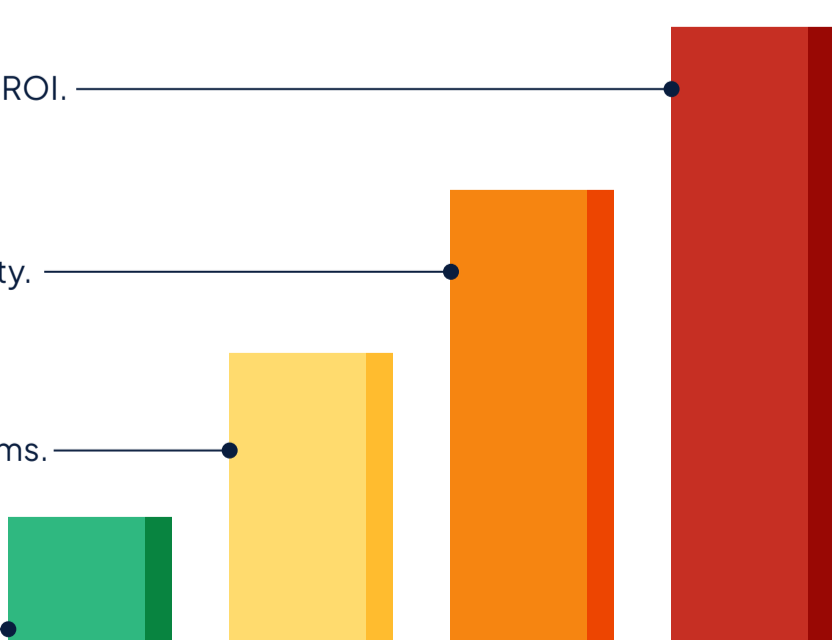
Admin overhead is impacting productivity.

3–5 sections

Manual admin is slowing down some teams.

0–2 sections

Admin friction is low. Good job!



Manual system administration shouldn't be the bottleneck.

See how unified administration eliminates these hidden admin taxes. 

About Origami Risk

Origami Risk empowers leaders in insurance, risk, and safety with a purpose-built, cloud-native platform that optimizes workflows for better data, better insights, and better collaboration. Through highly configurable solutions integrated on a single platform, Origami Risk supports the management of the full lifecycle of risk, from prevention to recovery — helping the experts reduce harm and loss, and respond more rapidly and effectively when it happens. Grounded in continuous innovation and a foundational focus on client success, Origami Risk is trusted by leading organizations to enable greater resilience as they build for the future.

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