

Compliance Customer Screening

How Financial Institutions Can
Reduce False Positives With
Intelligent Matching



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As AML compliance requirements grow, so do the number of alerts that must be manually researched. This makes weeding out false positives increasingly necessary.

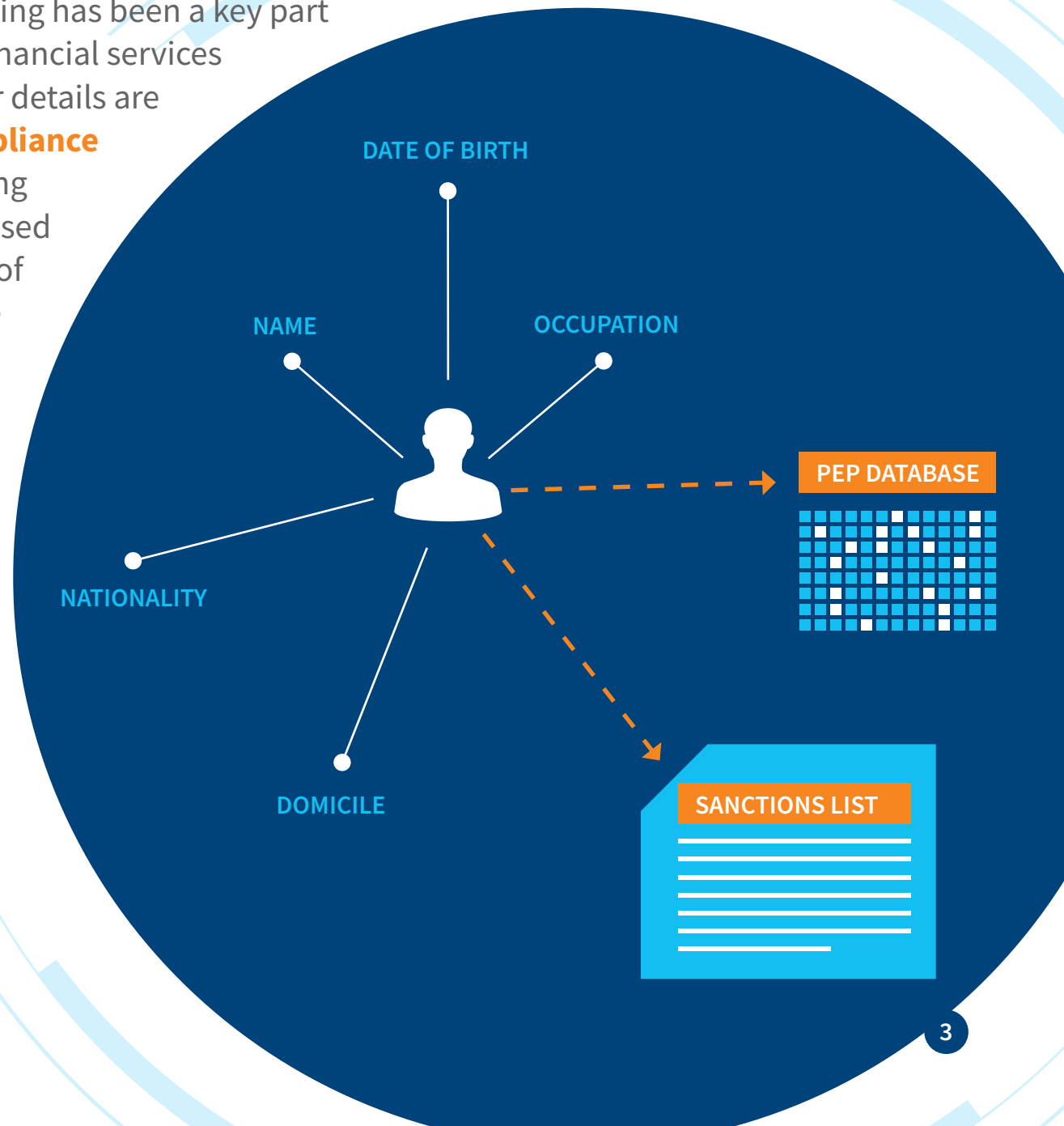
To be in compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) processes, banks and financial institutions must screen customers and transactions against various lists. As those lists and compliance obligations have grown, so too has the number of matches or near-matches that must be manually investigated. The investigations can be complicated and time-consuming, and the vast majority of alerts prove to be false positive. Financial institutions with millions of customers to screen can find the costs of compliance oppressive.

LexisNexis® Intelligent Match Decision Solution is built to solve this false positive problem—[click here](#) to learn more about how it enhances LexisNexis® Bridger Insight® XG.



Automated matches generate alerts

Know-Your-Customer (KYC) screening has been a key part of AML and CTF processes in the financial services industry for many years. Customer details are screened against a variety of **compliance intelligence information**, including sanctions lists and Politically Exposed Person (PEP) databases. A variety of characteristics such as name, date of birth, nationality, domicile, occupation, etc. make up an institution's **data profiles** of customers and other banking counterparties, and of the individuals and organizations recorded in compliance intelligence databases.





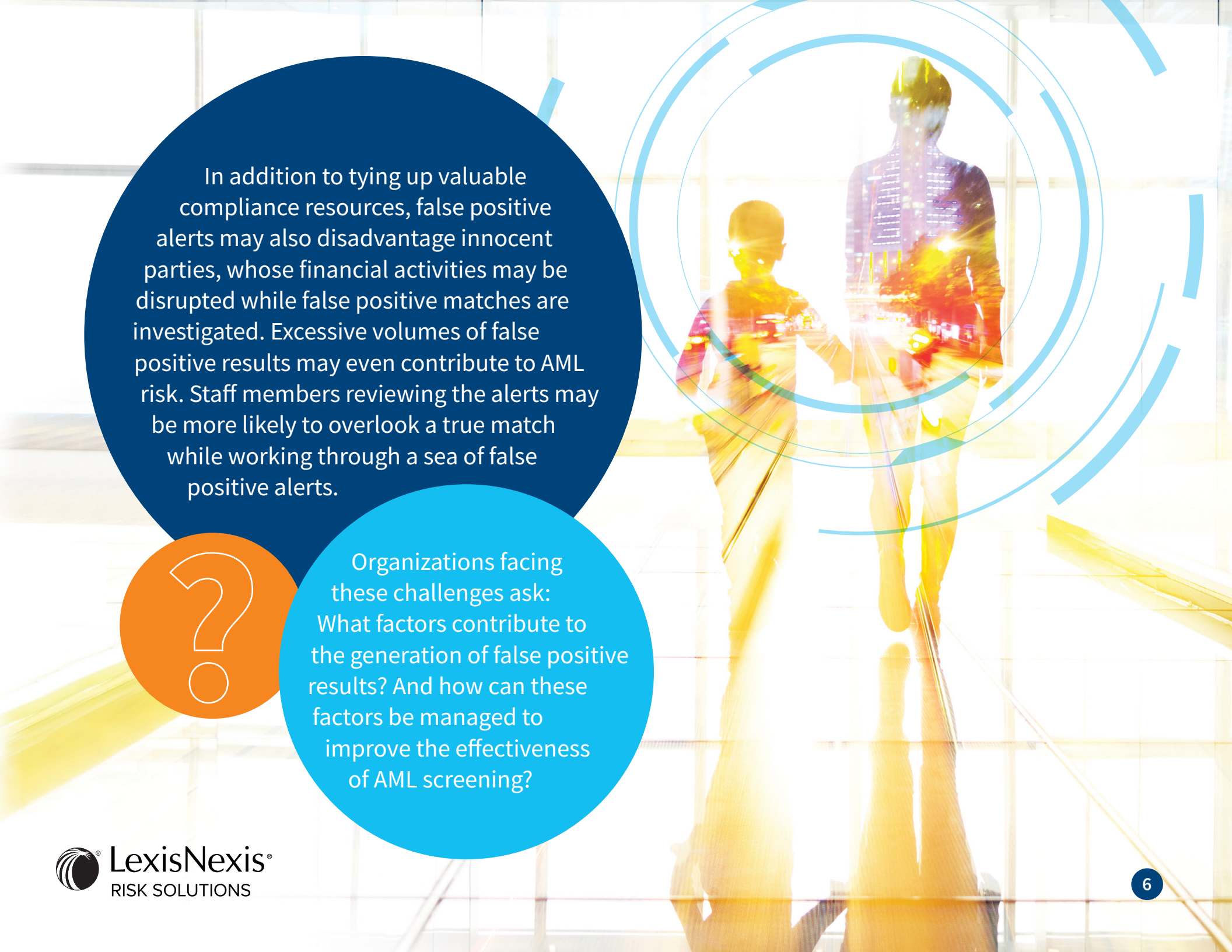
An automated match between a customer profile and a compliance intelligence profile **generates an alert to be manually reviewed**. KYC screening is carried out initially as part of the onboarding process and is repeated throughout the customer's relationship with the institution. Rescreening might be triggered by changes to the customer data or intelligence information. It may also be performed periodically in accordance with AML risk management policies.

This initial and ongoing screening is a constant, resource-intensive process, requiring sophisticated systems to carry out automated matching as well as significant human resources to review the system-generated alerts. In an era in which the scope of AML control activities is constantly expanding, process efficiency has become a key objective for most compliance departments.

Many organizations find their current manual review of alerts to be disproportionately costly as compared to the perceived risk-management benefits of the overall screening process. As a result, there is **increasing pressure on AML system managers to reduce false positive results**—those alerts generated by the system that are ultimately discarded during the manual review process because of the absence of a true financial crime risk.

Learn how LexisNexis Intelligent Match Decision Solution can help you meet increasing compliance demands and protect your organization from regulatory exposure without draining resources from your core business activities.





In addition to tying up valuable compliance resources, false positive alerts may also disadvantage innocent parties, whose financial activities may be disrupted while false positive matches are investigated. Excessive volumes of false positive results may even contribute to AML risk. Staff members reviewing the alerts may be more likely to overlook a true match while working through a sea of false positive alerts.



Organizations facing these challenges ask: What factors contribute to the generation of false positive results? And how can these factors be managed to improve the effectiveness of AML screening?

Approach to false positive reduction

The following considerations should be kept in mind when attempting to reduce false positive results.



Invalid vs. Valid False Positive Results

The distinction between invalid and valid false positive results can't be overlooked when attempting to reduce overall false positive results. Such exercises frequently focus on invalid false positive results, but efficiency gains can be greatest if both categories are considered.



Invalid false positive results are those in which the customer records and compliance

intelligence details, as presented to the matching engine, do not suggest that the two profiles matched in an alert relate to the same party. They represent a failure of the matching logic.

The failure may be due to “fuzzy” matching algorithms that matched two names that are not in fact similar, or because other characteristics indicate that the profiles belong to two distinct parties, such as one in which the dates of birth vary significantly, or in which, for example, one party is a teenage customer in one country and the other is a senior politician in another.

Addressing rates of invalid false positives requires a careful assessment of the matching technology used and its configuration to ensure any changes made do not have unintended negative consequences.



Valid false positive results are those in which the details, as presented to the matching engine, indicate that they may relate to the same party, but upon investigation are found to be unrelated. This situation typically occurs because key characteristics such as name and approximate ages of two distinct parties are similar. While the number of common names in use around the world certainly presents a challenge, some gains may be made by ensuring that the populations being screened against each other do not contain redundant or obsolete profiles.

Other matches that are later found to be unrelated may be the result of sub-optimal data quality or structure that prevents the matching engine from identifying characteristics that distinguish the two parties. The latter can be addressed by examining the underlying flaws in the data being screened (either on the customer side or on the compliance intelligence side).

Find out how LexisNexis Intelligent Match Decision Solution can help identify and clear false positives.



Risk Appetite

Throughout any efficiency drive, a reduction in hit rates should not be the only objective. All organizations should have a clearly defined **screening tolerance standard**, approved by senior management, from which those responsible for configurative changes can work.

This standard should dictate the types of profile match that management expects to generate—a screening alert. It should also outline the kind of matches management does not want forwarded to the manual review process. Systems managers are then free to adjust the precision of matching algorithms within the limits set by the screening tolerance standard.





Documentation

Throughout any exercise to improve the efficiency of screening programs, **risk-based justification** should be clearly documented for all configurative changes. Projects to reduce false positive alerts



are usually initiated as a result of operational, budgetary or regulatory concerns so conclusions tend to be driven and documented from the point of view of resource implications.

However, the risk of increasing **false negative results** (dropping true alerts) should also be considered part of the exercise. At best, it may result in negative reviews from regulators or auditors, and at worst, it may lead to relevant matches being dropped from the screening process.



LexisNexis Intelligent Match Decision Solution is built to help solve this false positive problem—[click here](#) to learn more.

Intelligent Match Decision Solution is a fully integrated tool within LexisNexis® Bridger Insight® XG that enables better, more sophisticated decisions defined at the attribute level, yielding a higher percentage of automatically remediated matches.

For more information, visit risk.lexisnexis.com/global/en/products/intelligent-match-decision-solution



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