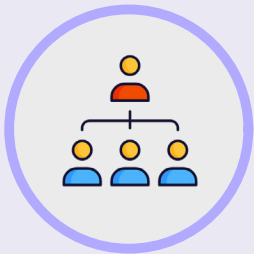


# Identifying Ultimate Beneficial Owners: **Why is it so challenging?**

The key obstacles in identifying and verifying Ultimate Beneficial Owners (UBOs).



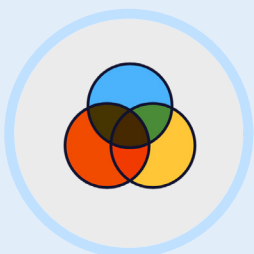
## Complex corporate structures

Shell companies, trusts, and layered entities are often set up to **obscure who truly owns a business**, making it difficult to trace the real owners.



## Cross-jurisdictional issues

Different countries have different rules for revealing who owns a company, and some jurisdictions make it **easier to hide beneficial ownership**.



## Limited access to reliable data

Public records about company ownership may be **incomplete, outdated, or even inaccurate**. Some jurisdictions don't require regular updates, making the data unreliable.



## Use of nominees

Nominee directors and shareholders are often used to **disguise the true ownership**. While legal, it can make it harder to track down the actual beneficial owner.



## Lack of standardisation

There's no universal definition of what defines a UBO, or how ownership should be disclosed. **Ownership disclosure requirements can vary widely** across jurisdictions.

**Request a demo** of our AML software at [northrow.com](https://northrow.com) and see how you can successfully verify UBOs in complex corporate structures.