



Guide to Approaching a CSF Assessment

Determining Your Level of Engagement with the HITRUST CSF[®] and the CSF Assessment Types

Determining Your Level of Engagement with the HITRUST CSF and the CSF Assessment Types

Many organizations seek guidance on how they should approach a HITRUST CSF Assessment. We hope the following information will help you understand the various options and considerations in determining the approach that's right for your organization.

The first step is to determine your level of engagement with the HITRUST CSF and the type of CSF Assessment you intend to obtain. Once you have determined your short- and long-term objectives, you can better understand the options and considerations.

Self-Assessment

Perform a HITRUST CSF Rapid or Readiness Assessment only, with no intention of performing a CSF Validated Assessment or seeking CSF Certification

Independent Assessment

Perform a HITRUST CSF Rapid or Readiness Assessment (if needed) with the intent to perform a CSF Validated Assessment (with or without seeking HITRUST CSF Certification)

Adopter

Adopt the HITRUST CSF as your privacy and security controls framework

Uncertain

If you need help selecting the approach that best meets your needs, HITRUST is always ready to help. Contact us at sales@hitrustalliance.net, or call 469-269-1110.

The HITRUST CSF and HITRUST CSF Assurance Program—Designed with HIPAA Compliance in Mind

The assessment process has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as an acceptable risk management framework for HIPAA. That being said, assessing against the controls required for certification will give an organization a reasonable level of assurance around HIPAA compliance while assessing against the full set of controls in a comprehensive assessment will give an organization the most robust level of assurance. It should be noted that regulators do not endorse nor issue any type of certification of HIPAA compliance. For more detailed information and additional references on the topic of HIPAA compliance and how the HITRUST CSF and HITRUST CSF Assurance Program can assist your organization, see the [CSF Assurance FAQ](#).

CSF Assessment Types

HITRUST offers valuable programs and services to help achieve your goals. Consider the following information when determining your level of engagement with the HITRUST CSF and the CSF Assessment Types:

Self Assessment	Independent Assessment	Adopter	Assessment Types	Description
✓		✓	HITRUST CSF Rapid Assessment	Rapid Assessments are designed to support a quick self-evaluation of an organization's security posture by selecting specific 'good security hygiene' practices from the HITRUST CSF suitable for any organization regardless of size or industry. They can also be used to support HITRUST CSF Readiness or Validated Assessments as well as formal verification of the security programs of low risk businesses (as defined by HITRUST) that meet U.S. Small Business Administration size criteria (available after the HITRUST CSF v10, release expected in Q4 2020).
✓		✓	HITRUST CSF Readiness Assessment	Like the Rapid Assessment, Readiness Assessments are self-attested but conducted by utilizing the tools and methodologies of the CSF Assurance Program. The Readiness Assessment removes any potential barriers for organizations that lack the resources for an onsite assessment, but nonetheless must still implement data protection controls, maintain regulatory compliance (e.g., with HIPAA/HITECH), and provide satisfactory assurances to external parties. The assessment does not include a HITRUST CSF Validated Report from HITRUST.
	✓	✓	HITRUST CSF Validated Assessment	Validated Assessments are conducted by External Assessors and allow both healthcare organizations and their business associates and partners to realize the benefits of more assurance with fewer resources, which is achieved by aligning with the CSF and leveraging of common reporting processes and tools. These assessments involve onsite interviews, documentation reviews, and system testing as well as provide a greater level of assurance, meant for those organizations with higher impact and higher risk relationships.

Programs and Services

Self Assessment	Independent Assessment	Adopter	Programs and Services	Description
✓	✓	✓	MyCSF®*	<p>A tool that helps an organization scope, assess, and manage HITRUST CSF compliance efforts by performing assessments, documenting and tracking remediation activity, and providing ongoing compliance reporting.</p> <p><i>*Access to MyCSF obtained by purchasing an assessment (Assess Only) or a subscription. Assess Only access is limited to 90 days and all data is deleted after delivery of your report. If there is a chance that your organization may pursue additional assessments, pursue certification, or adopt the HITRUST CSF as your framework, you may want to consider a subscription to MyCSF in order to retain your information throughout the process.</i></p>
✓	✓	✓	CSF Practitioner Training	Obtain knowledge in the structure of the HITRUST CSF as well as the complete assessment methodology to include scoping and creating an assessment and the scoring procedures.
	✓	✓	Remediation Tracking	The ability to track and report progress of corrective actions designed to address HITRUST CSF compliance deficiencies.
	✓	✓	HITRUST Third-Party Assurance Program	Leverage a program designed to make third-party assurance more efficient for covered entities and their business partners through an assess once, report many structure to manage your vendors and business partner risk management activities.
	✓	✓	HITRUST External Assessor Firm	Engage an authorized HITRUST External Assessor firm early in the process to assist with assessment and remediation activities.

Helpful Resources

Self Assessment	Independent Assessment	Adopter	Helpful Resources
✓	✓	✓	MyCSF Information: https://hitrustalliance.net/mycsf/
✓	✓	✓	HITRUST CSF Assessment Methodology: https://hitrustalliance.net/documents/assurance/csf/CSFAssessmentMethodology.pdf
✓	✓	✓	HITRUST CSF Practitioner Training: https://hitrustalliance.net/hitrust-academy/
✓	✓		HITRUST CSF Readiness Assessment Report (sample available upon request): sales@hitrustalliance.net
	✓		HITRUST CSF Validated Report (sample available upon request): sales@hitrustalliance.net
	✓	✓	HITRUST CSF Assurance Program Requirements: https://hitrustalliance.net/documents/assurance/csf/CSFAssuranceProgramRequirements.pdf
	✓	✓	HITRUST Third-Party Assurance Program: https://hitrustalliance.net/thirdparty/
	✓	✓	HITRUST External Assessor Information: https://hitrustalliance.net/External-assessors/
		✓	HITRUST RMF Whitepaper: https://hitrustalliance.net/content/uploads/2014/05/HITRUST-RMF-Whitepaper2.pdf

HITRUST[®]

855.HITRUST
(855.448.7878)

www.HITRUSTalliance.net

© 2019 HITRUST All rights reserved. Any commercial uses or creations of derivative works are prohibited. No part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized other than being shared as is in full, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without HITRUST's prior written permission.