

The HITRUST CSF[®] Provides Additional Value for Organizations

As organizations increase adoption of technology and enhance strategy for information protection, they are looking to HITRUST[®] for assistance in identifying resources to aid them in complying with HIPAA, HITECH, and the other security regulations encompassed in the HITRUST CSF.

HITRUST Authorized External Assessors are uniquely qualified to respond to this need. External Assessors are those organizations that have been approved by HITRUST for performing assessment services associated with the HITRUST CSF, the de-facto framework for security and compliance that harmonizes the requirements of existing standards and regulations, including federal (HIPAA, HITECH), third party (PCI, COBIT), and government (NIST, FTC). External Assessors are critical to HITRUST's efforts to provide trained resources to organizations of varying size and complexity to assess compliance with security control requirements and document corrective action plans that align with the HITRUST CSF.

Advancing Information Security Through Assurance

HITRUST is seeing an even greater need for organizations to understand the security controls they have implemented and their compliance status with multiple requirements. HITRUST developed the HITRUST CSF[®] Assurance Program to meet this need using the common requirements of the HITRUST CSF enhanced with a streamlined process and standard tools for assessing security and reporting compliance. The HITRUST CSF Assurance Program is fundamentally geared towards moving industries forward with respect to security controls in aiding organizations to understand and implement information protection safeguards and meet legal and compliance requirements. This approach, aided by the efforts of an External Assessor, promotes the manageable implementation of the CSF while progressively increasing the ability to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of sensitive information.

HITRUST CSF Assurance Program

The HITRUST CSF Assurance Program delivers simplified compliance assessment and reporting for HIPAA, HITECH, state, and business associate requirements. Organizations and their business associates are able to streamline compliance processes and reduce costs by leveraging the HITRUST CSF and a standardized approach to assessments and reporting. The program includes the risk management oversight and assessment methodology governed by HITRUST and designed for the unique regulatory and business needs of all industries. External Assessors serve as a key component of the program to provide the assessment and remediation services.

To learn more, visit www.HITRUSTalliance.net/csf-assurance.

Becoming an External Assessor

HITRUST requires an organization to meet certain criteria in order to become accredited as an External Assessor. Defining these requirements helps to ensure the competency of those involved in the certification process and consistency in the certification of assessment results across all organizations.

Requirements for an organization to become an External Assessor include:

- Completing the External Assessor Application and executing the HITRUST External Assessor Agreement.
- Having policies defined and procedures implemented to ensure the integrity and ethics of an organization's employees.
- Committing individuals to support HITRUST services and become trained as HITRUST Certified CSF Practitioners.
- Maintaining expertise through participation in HITRUST and other security committees.

A complete list of requirements and supporting documents can be found at www.HITRUSTalliance.net/external-assessor-downloads/.

HITRUST Certified CSF Practitioner Course

The HITRUST Certified CSF Practitioner Course educates security professionals about information protection and utilizing the HITRUST CSF to manage risks.

Course details include:

- Comprehensive 2.5-day class
- Participants eligible for up to 24 hours of CISSP CPE credit
- Instructor-led, classroom style course comprised of 4 modules
- Scheduled frequently, with on-site training available to organizations needing to train 15 or more

Attendees must pass the Practitioner Exam delivered on the final day of the course in order to become a Certified CSF Practitioner (CCSFP) and to perform HITRUST CSF-related assessment, implementation, remediation and certification activities.

To learn more about the course, visit www.HITRUSTalliance.net/hitrust-academy.

Learn More

By providing a best practice-based, prescriptive information security framework that normalizes existing security requirements with a common approach for assessing and reporting, HITRUST and External Assessors are able to aid organizations in reducing the inefficiencies and complexities associated with managing security independently.

*To learn more about becoming an External Assessor, please call **855.HITRUST** or email info@HITRUSTalliance.net.*

About HITRUST

Since it was founded in 2007, HITRUST has championed programs that safeguard sensitive information and manage information risk for organizations across all industries and throughout the third-party supply chain.

For more information, visit www.HITRUSTalliance.net.