

CLOUDSEC2019

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**FedRAMP and its
impact on cloud
security**

Federal Director CSA

FedRAMP Background



Need

- Federal agencies reluctant to use cloud technology: security, cost
- No consistent application of security controls

Goals

- Ensure the use of cloud services **protects** US Federal Government information
- Enable **reuse** of security certifications across the Federal government wherever possible to save money and time

FedRAMP Background



Solution

- Do once, use many times – Establish a process, Do it right, Reuse results across US Federal government
- Transparency – Share information, encourage and address input, builds trust among CSPs and US Federal government
- Validate Security Certification - FedRAMP authorization process promotes uniformity and trust in the results
- Centralized, secure repository – where agencies can access security packages for expedient authorizations

FedRAMP by the Numbers

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We cover **more than**

5 MILLION
assets

available for
Federal use



1/3
of the world's
internet traffic
through our program



4 security baselines to
match government
use to risk



HIGH
(421 controls)



LOW
(125 controls)



MODERATE
(325 controls)



LI SAAS
(36 controls*)

143



Authorized Cloud
Services

1000+

Agency Reuses of
Authorized Services



156

Participating
Agencies



220+

Participating
Industry Partners

POINTS OF CONNECTION

750+

Annual meetings
with agencies
and vendors

4,100+

Followers
on Twitter

11,000+

stakeholders
on listserv

20,000+

Questions answered
through
info@fedramp.gov

#cloudsec

Success Factors



- **Identify program authority – FISMA**
- **Get high level sponsor- Federal CIO**
- **Begin with Technical – address what (controls) and how (processes, procedures) not who**
- **Provide means for feedback from government and industry**
- **Roll out processes/procedures for comment often – while there is time to incorporate comments**
- **Publish as much information as possible – guides, FAQs, templates, tips&tricks**
- **Remain flexible – allow changes to the program**

Lessons Learned



Begin with moderate security level – 70% of systems at moderate level

Don't leave CSP to navigate the process unaided - Work with CSP to determine readiness:

- Tailor the authorization to type of product: IaaS, PaaS, SaaS
- Start with basic penetration test - key indicator of security maturity
- Review key documentation after test results
- Look at vulnerabilities and risks identified in test results and documentation

Lessons Learned

Authorization Process

- Tailor test cases for unique architectural design
- Information security is a business issue
- Technology is easy
 - Business processes and procedures understood by staff make security work
- Risks are not all externally generated – internal risks must be addressed

Continuous Monitoring

- Same tools used for testing and on-going continuous monitoring
- Locking down the system critical to successful testing
- Planning significant change in advance
- Alignment of scanning, patching and testing schedules

FedRAMP Now



- **More Clouds to Choose From**
 - Increase Authorized Cloud Services
 - Increase Re-used Authorizations
 - Move FedRAMP-Ready CSPs to In-Process or Authorized CSPs
- **Transform Security Authorizations**
 - Automate the Authorization Process
 - Continue to push FedRAMP Tailored Authorizations
- **Strengthen FedRAMP Community**
 - Connect the Community Through Industry and Agency Days
 - Enhance 3PAO Resources with Updated 3PAO Requirements
 - Promote Better Understanding of FedRAMP and the Authorization Process

FedSTAR– Case for Change



- Secure environment - vital to any deployment of cloud technology
- Security concerns – always a major challenge to any cloud implementation
- 30+ certification systems world wide
- CSPs forced to spend resources to implement and to monitor compliance with multiple certification systems
- Multiple security systems - Barrier to market entry
- Need for commonly accepted certification system used across customer bases

Proliferation of Security Certifications

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Fig1. Compliance Templates Provided By Microsoft

Goals

- **Build a foundation for mutual recognition between national, international and sector specific security certification, attestations and accreditations**
- **Grant a trusted certification**
- **Reduce the compliance cost for CSPs that want to meet requirements of both industry and government**
- **Use a common framework for deployment**
- **Support requirements for continuous monitoring**

Solution

- **DO NOT develop a new certification system**
- **Address need for secure environment with common security assessment system(s)**
- **Start with security assessment systems that have common authority/approach/level of review – Don't boil the ocean**
- **Establish areas of mutual recognition among systems**
- **Build frameworks that can be used across systems**
- **Where to start:**
 - **FedRAMP and STAR are among the most used cloud certifications worldwide**
 - **Not compatible as deployed, but have basic elements in common:**
 - **Rely on established standards**
 - **Used control-based reviews**
 - **Require independent 3rd party assessments**

Why STAR & FedRAMP?



- **FedRAMP and STAR are among the most used cloud certifications worldwide**
- **Not compatible as deployed, but have basic elements in common:**
 - Rely on established standards
 - Used control-based reviews
 - Require independent 3rd party assessments
- **Allow CSPs to leverage the areas of overlap between the FedRAMP Moderate and CSA CCM**
- **Reduce level of effort required to get FedRAMP-STAR or STAR-FedRAMP certifications**
 - Establish a framework to facilitate security accreditation from FedRAMP to STAR – first step
 - Establish a framework to facilitate security accreditation from STAR to FedRAMP
- **Develop processes that facilitate CSPs with a FedRAMP moderate accreditation to obtain STAR certification through audit of the compensating controls**

Measures - examples

- Readiness/Preparation Time - effort required to prepare for a STAR Certification audit starting from a position of FedRAMP Moderate compliance
- Audit Time – after documentation is submitted for STAR Certification, how much time does it take to get the STAR certification
- Skills Base - required to complete a FedRAMP audit.
- Accuracy of Mapping and Gap Analysis - qualitative measures the level of accuracy in the “CCM-FedRAMP Mapping and Gap Analysis”.

Next Steps

- **Ongoing meetings with pilot CSPs and 3PAOs**
- **First pilot scheduled for late summer 2019**
- **Provide “CCM-FedRAMP Mapping and Gap Analysis” document including FedRAMP – CCM gap analysis**
- **Begin to collect data from pilots**
- **Establish a Focus Group**
 - **Recruit members from across cloud security community:**
 - **STAR Certification auditors**
 - **Independent 3rd party assessors for FedRAMP**
 - **CSA DC Chapter Advisory Group**
 - **CSA Members**

Legislation



- GSA announced the FedRAMP Ideation Challenge requesting all stakeholders submit ideas on how to improve FedRAMP.
- Bill to codify FedRAMP introduced in this Congress –FedRAMP Authorization Act
 - Codifies compliance with FedRAMP processes
 - Establishes a presumption of adequacy security assessments conducted under FedRAMP
 - Requires reporting of metrics on the length and quality of assessments
 - Requires FedRAMP PMO to find ways to automate their process



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THANK YOU

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