



HITRUST CSF Assessors: Become a resource to aid organizations in their compliance efforts

HITRUST CSF Assurance Program

The HITRUST CSF Assurance Program delivers simplified compliance assessment and reporting for HIPAA, HITECH, state, and business associate requirements. Healthcare organizations and their business associates are able to streamline compliance processes and reduce costs by leveraging the HITRUST Common Security Framework 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 the healthcare industry. CSF Assessors serve as a key component of the program to provide the assessment and remediation services. To learn more, visit www.HITRUSTalliance.net/assurance.

As the healthcare industry increases its adoption of technology and enhances its strategy for health information protection, organizations 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 Common Security Framework (CSF).

HITRUST CSF Assessors are uniquely qualified to respond to this need. CSF Assessors are those organizations that have been approved by HITRUST for performing assessment services associated with the CSF, the defacto 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). CSF Assessors are critical to HITRUST's efforts to provide trained resources to healthcare organizations of varying size and complexity to assess compliance with security control requirements and document corrective action plans that align with the CSF.

Advancing information security through assurance

With greater emphasis on the adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) and health information exchanges (HIEs), HITRUST is seeing an even greater need for healthcare organizations to understand the security controls they have implemented and their compliance status with multiple requirements. HITRUST developed the CSF Assurance Program to meet this need using the common requirements of the CSF enhanced with a streamlined process and standard tools for assessing security and reporting compliance. The CSF Assurance Program is fundamentally geared towards moving the healthcare industry forward with respect to security controls in aiding organizations HIEs to understand and implement information protection safeguards and meet legal and compliance requirements. This approach, aided by the efforts of a CSF Assessor, promotes the manageable implementation of the CSF while progressively increasing the ability for the healthcare industry to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of protected health and other sensitive information.

"We are pleased to have been engaged to perform the first HITRUST CSF assessment for Certification and have seen a steady increase in the amount of CSF-related opportunities. We are hearing a different message from the industry now: what used to be 'Why would we adopt the HITRUST CSF' is now 'Why wouldn't we adopt the CSF?'"

Chris Hall, Senior Executive
Accenture

Becoming a CSF Assessor

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

Requirements for an organization to become a CSF Assessor include:

- Completing the CSF Assessor Application and executing the HITRUST CSF 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 Practitioners.
- Maintaining expertise through participation in HITRUST and other healthcare or security committees.

A complete list of requirements and supporting documents can be found at www.HITRUSTalliance.net.

Learn more

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

To learn more about becoming a CSF Assessor, please call **972.330.4910** or email certification@HITRUSTalliance.net.

HITRUST Training for Practitioners

The HITRUST Training for Practitioners Course educates healthcare security professionals about information protection in the healthcare industry and utilizing the CSF to manage risks.

Course details include:

- Comprehensive 5-day class
- Participants eligible for up to 32 hours of CISSP CPE credit
- Instructor-led, classroom style course comprised of 3 modules
- Scheduled monthly, with on-site training available to organizations needing to train 10 or more

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

To learn more about the course, visit www.HITRUSTalliance.net/programs/certification.

About HITRUST:

The Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST), in collaboration with healthcare, business, technology and information security leaders, has established the Common Security Framework (CSF), a certifiable framework that can be used by any and all organizations that create, access, store or exchange personal health and financial information. Beyond the establishment of the CSF, HITRUST is also driving the adoption of and widespread confidence in the framework and sound risk management practices through awareness, education, advocacy and other outreach activities.

