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CMMC Readiness Case Study

US
Engineering Firm

Missouri, United States

This civil engineering firm delivers innovative transportation systems and infrastructure solutions, providing safe, reliable, and efficient options nationwide. They also tackle complex technical, financial, and operational challenges, offering expertise in planning, design, program management, and construction management.

Key figures:

- Manages over $1 billion in infrastructure projects nationwide.
- Over 6,000 employees.
- More than 100 years of service.
- Top 5 ranking for transportation design firms in the United States.

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The Challenge

Achieving Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) compliance is crucial for this engineering firm to demonstrate it meets the requirements for handling Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). The firm specifically needed a readiness assessment to identify gaps in their current security practices and confirm alignment with the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) 800-171 r2 standards. Without a CMMC certification, the firm will miss out on opportunities for growth and collaboration within the defense industry.

Risks of not achieving a CMMC certification

Revenue/Growth Impact

Exclusion from bidding on new future contracts and possible termination of existing contracts.

Cybersecurity Breaches

Loss of sensitive data could lead to project delays and the potential compromise of CUI.

False Claims Act (FCA)

Violations of the FCA may result in substantial financial penalties.

Our Approach

Asureti conducted an in-depth readiness assessment to evaluate the company's current security posture against NIST 800-171 r2 requirements for CMMC compliance. This approach included:

1. **Evaluating the enterprise systems** through interviews with key employees and a thorough analysis of the organization's alignment with the designated requirements.

2. **Developing a comprehensive strategy** to create a processes for efficiently managing and safeguarding CUI.

3. **Identifying security program strengths and providing opportunities for improvement** to enhance the overall maturity of the security program.

Our Analysis

The assessment revealed several gaps in security requirements across domains such as Access Control, Awareness and Training, and Media Protection. The analysis identified areas where:

- Current security measures were insufficient to meet the required CMMC levels.
- Existing controls lacked evidence of effective implementation and compliance.
- Policy and procedural improvements were necessary to establish clear and consistent security practices.

The analysis of CUI processing and storage within the current environment also identified decision points regarding future operational workflows, systems, and refinement of data storage.

Recommended Actions

Immediate:

- Build an enclave to isolate CUI, restricting access to only authorized personnel.
- Fully implement a GRC platform to gain a comprehensive understanding of controls.

Long Term:

- Foster a cultural shift in enterprise-wide security awareness to sustain long-term CMMC compliance.
- Develop a comprehensive security awareness and training program, including role-specific training for key personnel.
- Conduct an annual review to confirm alignment with the NIST 800-171 r2 framework, including reviews of of policies and procedures as well as technical controls.

Project Recap

The goal of this project was to help align the engineering firm's security program with the NIST 800-171 r2 framework and identify any critical gaps.

Asureti conducted a comprehensive review and analysis, providing tailored recommendations to strengthen security controls and improve documentation practices.

This process established the foundation needed to move toward the required CMMC certification. The enhanced security posture reduced potential security risks and project recommendations provided a clear roadmap to maturity actions needed for CMMC compliance.

Similar Challenge?

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