

FedRAMP Important References

2012.06.01

FedRAMP Timeline

- The initial launch of FedRAMP was June 2012.
- FedRAMP is applicable for all government agencies implementing cloud computing technology. FedRAMP is also applicable to all industry cloud service providers that will be hosting government data.
- In fiscal year 2013, FedRAMP will have a more open and diverse set of offerings as the government continues to learn best practices for cloud implementation.
- In fiscal year 2014, FedRAMP will reach a more sustainable operating level with the program operating in tandem with previously published security controls.

Assessment and Authorization (A&A)

FedRAMP requires for all federal agencies and their respective Cloud Providers to submit documentation outlining their cloud computing capability and associated security measures that are implemented. This Assessment and Authorization (A&A) process will include a Security Plan which will provide a description of the system including but not limited to, its purpose, location, and technical capabilities. Additionally, the Security Plan will also contain implementation statements addressing how the system is compliant with the controls listed within the 800-53. Alongside the Security Plan, the A&A package will also include but not limited to an organizational Contingency Plan/Disaster Recovery Plan, Configuration Management Plan, Risk Assessment, and Security Assessment Report.

FedRAMP also requires that all cloud computing systems within the federal space conduct security testing on the system to ensure that its security features are functioning as documented within the Security Plan. These systems will be accountable for conducting the necessary technical scans and analysis as well as conducting the manual assessments of the 800-53 security controls and the additional FedRAMP Security Controls. The manual testing of these controls will consist of the examination, interview, and testing of key personnel and components to validate the implementation statements addressed within the Security Plan are accurate and operating as intended. All results of these tests will be documented within the Security Assessment Report, and Risk Assessment. All vulnerabilities found during the testing will be tracked as an item within the Plan of Action and Milestone.

Cloud Security Advisory Gap Analysis and CONOPS link

In order to delve into the vast multitude of compliance requirements, organizations must scrutinize their operations in detail and develop a standard Gap Analysis to determine where their procedures compare to requirements of the published 800-53 controls and the FedRAMP controls. It is required that various artifacts be in place in order for the organization to validate compliance with these published NIST standards.

Standard Operating Procedures are simplified by identifying the NIST SP 800-53A validation points as well as the GSA reporting frequencies

FedRamp has issued a CONOPS document that spells out all of the details of each regulation that must be adhered to. See reference section below for link.

FedPlatform pledges to continuously monitor all the repeatable processes and reporting per the FedRAMP CONOPS requirements.

Reference Sites

GSA Primary FedRamp Site

<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/102371>

Initial Listing of Accredited 3PAO's

<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/131991>

Direct link to the entire CONOPS document

http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/staffoffices/FedRAMP_CONOPS.pdf

FedRAMP ---Opinions and articles

7 ways government is working to improve FedRAMP

GSA's McClure tackles myths about program, lists areas tiger teams are working on

<http://gcn.com/articles/2011/03/23/fedramp-myths-gsa-mcclure.aspx>

GSA boosts FedRAMP accreditation as small-business advantage

<http://fcw.com/articles/2012/06/27/deltek-fedramp-cloud-services-providers-gsa.aspx>

FedRAMP comes fraught with challenges

<http://fcw.com/articles/2012/04/13/gsa-david-mcclure-fedramp-challenges.aspx>

FedRAMP 3PAO Program – Have we Heard of this Idea Before?

http://blog.isc2.org/isc2_blog/2012/04/fedramp-3pao-program-have-we-heard-of-this-idea-before.html

FedRAMP program expected to boost cloud contracts

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20120622/IT03/306220002/FedRAMP-program-expected-boost-cloud-contracts>

Few cloud vendors expected to receive initial FedRAMP assessments

<http://www.simplysecurity.com/2012/03/28/few-cloud-vendors-expected-to-receive-initial-fedramp-assessments/>

FedRamp – Revolution or Evolution?

<http://envisongovit.com/2012/01/fedramp-revolution-evolution/>
