

Highlighting HITRUST

When it was founded in 2007, the Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST) focused on advocating for the safeguarding of information privacy in the healthcare industry. While that's still at the foundation of the industry body's work, its applicability has since extended to the finance, government, and technology sectors, making it industry agnostic.

The reason for this is largely due to the HITRUST CSF (Common Security Framework) - a comprehensive framework that combines multiple regulations on data security to be used across different industries for greater data protection and risk management. It's not the only standard or certification HITRUST offers, but it is their most prominent.

HIPAA vs. HITRUST

HIPAA is a set of US-based laws on **protecting health information**. Whereas, HITRUST is a **global organization** that encompasses **multiple regulations** that go beyond just the health industry. The HITRUST CSF certification incorporates and expands on many HIPAA requirements, alongside others, but doesn't replace HIPAA compliance.

Who Needs HITRUST?

There are no federal or governmental mandates for HITRUST CSF certification, however, compliance controls required by HIPAA and HITECH are covered by its prescriptive framework and it is regarded as the most widely adopted security framework in the healthcare industry. Other organizations that can benefit from HITRUST include those in the **finance, health, and technology** industries.

6 Key Principles of HITRUST?

1. Transparency: Cybersecurity controls should have clear explanations behind them and be able to withstand proper evaluation.

2. Consistency: No matter the evaluator, the assessment process should yield standardized results.

3. Integrity: Data security processes need to provide accurate, consistent, and verifiable results.

4. Accuracy: Strong mechanisms need to be in place that can accurately assess security controls and their effectiveness.

5. Scalability: The HITRUST approach embraces a level of flexibility when it comes to implementation that allows for it to be adaptable to different industries, organization sizes, and needs.

6. Efficiency: The results provided by HITRUST CFA and the accompanying frameworks are not for vanity or solely for the use of data specialists. They're intended to be usable by all relevant stakeholders.

The Benefits and Competitive Advantage of HITRUST CSF Certification:

HITRUST CSF Certification has much to recommend it. Here's why that is:



Unified, Efficient Compliance: HITRUST draws from multiple security standards, including SOC 2, ISO 27001, GDPR, and PCI DSS, for more robust and efficient compliance. The certification standard satisfies a multitude of compliance frameworks, which simplifies things for organizations facing multiple regulatory requirements.



A Risk-Based Approach: At the core of the HITRUST CSF certification is a focus on identifying and protecting against cybersecurity and data use violations. They consider the risks first, which helps organizations build far more effective data security measures.



Enhances Trust: HITRUST itself is an organization that has earned extensive trust and respect for its information security work. Aligning with the organization and opening up to third-party auditing is a way for businesses to assure customers and regulators alike that they can be trusted to perform proper data protection.



A Key Differentiator in Crowded Fields: Healthcare and finance are two industries where data privacy is becoming an increasingly important factor for clients, investors, and stakeholders. HITRUST CFA helps businesses in these industries stand out as being ahead of the curve for embracing such extensive compliance.



Boosts Data Security: Because of how many frameworks it brings together in one place, this rigorous certification has the benefit of making organizations address all sides of data security for a far stronger strategy overall.

Prescient Security and HITRUST

Prescient Security, a global leader in cybersecurity, empowers over 5,000 customers worldwide through acute expertise in cloud-native technologies and available to help organizations achieve their HITRUST CSF Certification goals. Our team at Prescient Security is ready to assist with all your HITRUST needs and answer any questions you may have.

A Global Top 20 Independent Audit and Penetration Testing Company, Prescient Security delivers unparalleled quality in audits, attestations, and certifications to ensure excellence and client success. Using a Risk-Based Audit Approach versus a Requirement-Based Audit Approach, paired with the ability to customize audit deliverables based on specific client needs, Prescient Security operates from a cybersecurity standpoint first, is comprehensive yet granular, and in a fraction of the time.