Certified for HIPAA

HITRUST LOCKS DOWN HIPAA COMPLIANCE SERVICE IN THE CLOUD

HITRUST | **ARMOR™**

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Founded:	2007
Headquarters:	Frisco, TX
Industry:	Healthcare IT
Website:	hitrustalliance.net

The Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST) was born out of the belief that information security should be a core pillar of, rather than an obstacle to, the broad adoption of health information systems and exchanges.

The organization created a Common Security Framework (CSF), which gives businesses the structure, detail and clarity they need to more efficiently and effectively meet healthcare regulatory compliance standards, including HIPAA.

In order to streamline the CSF certification process, HITRUST created the MyCSF online tool, but required a secure — and CSF-certified — infrastructure provider to host the application.

Ability to assess, speed to execute

Achieving HITRUST certification requires businesses to perform assessments, manage remediation activities, and report and track on their healthcare compliance. The process often takes between three and six weeks once a company feels it's ready to pursue the certification.

Previously, tracking progress toward achieving HITRUST certification required a litany of complex spreadsheets that were often emailed back and forth between companies and HITRUST.

"The process was not manageable," said Michael Frederick, vice president, assurance services and product development at HITRUST. "We were dealing with large amounts of data that was being updated regularly, and manual spreadsheets were not an effective way to manage the process."

More importantly were the security implications that came with sharing spreadsheets in this way. Email accounts continue to be successfully breached by hackers and other malicious criminal groups.

"Much of the information being shared is confidential and could give too much away about a client's security posture," said Frederick. "If that information was breached or stolen, it would have caused monumental brand damage for HITRUST's business."

Frederick understood that a more secure, manageable process was required, leading HITRUST to create the MyCSF application, a Web-based portal through which HITRUST CSF applicants could communicate their compliance activities.

What is MyCSF?

MyCSF is a full-featured, user-friendly tool that streamlines the entire information compliance and risk management process, from policy creation, approval and publication to risk assessment and remediation as well as incident and exception management.

The optimized and powerful tool marries the content and methodologies of the CSF and CSF Assurance Program with the technology and capabilities of a governance, risk and compliance (GRC) tool.

Learn more at hitrustalliance.net.

Searching for the secure cloud

With the portal's development well under way, HITRUST began the search for a secure cloud solution for the MyCSF application. The primary requirement? Any partner chosen would have to successfully achieve HITRUST certification itself.

HITRUST was first introduced to Armor in 2012 when the cybersecurity company proactively pursued and became one of the first infrastructure providers to achieve HITRUST and CSF certification. Armor Complete for Healthcare — a service specially designed to protect healthcare data in the cloud while reducing the scope of compliance for healthcare IT organizations — was especially well suited to secure HITRUST's MyCSF application.

"We looked at a number of secure cloud providers, but Armor was a natural choice for several reasons," said Frederick. "The company has built its infrastructure specifically for security. It's extremely well suited for our client data. It's HIPAA-compliant and has helped us streamline the scope of our own internal audits. And, of course, Armor already had the HITRUST certification. Credibility comes with that certification."

Speed to market also came into play.

"With Armor, we could start moving right away," he said. "Taking another service provider through the process would have taken two to three extra months."

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Michael Frederick | Vice President Assurance Services
& Product Development, HITRUST

Stronger security: check

Having worked with Armor since January 2013, HITRUST achieves their goals. And then some.

"The MyCSF application is running smoothly and our data has remained secure since we started working with Armor, which is a relief."

Frederick says HITRUST has been so pleased with Armor that he's often recommending Armor based on the company's commitment to service.

"Armor has always been extremely responsive to our needs, whether that's resource planning or security tuning. Armor has the skillset to help us and have always done so very quickly."

Security, CSF certification and outstanding service are what Frederick chalks up to the success of HITRUST's relationship with Armor.

"Armor's commitment to security has helped strengthen our brand reputation."

Managing Security, Protecting Brands

- HITRUST's brand reputation has been strengthened by improved security of the sensitive and regulated healthcare data that resides in the MyCSF application

- HITRUST achieves faster, more efficient healthcare compliance audits since adopting Armor secure cloud infrastructure

- HITRUST enjoys and relies on Armor's exceptional managed services, which are available at all times

"Armor's commitment to security has helped strengthen our brand reputation."

Michael Frederick | Vice President Assurance Services & Product Development, HITRUST

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