

Archer[®] Assessment & Authorization

Use Case for Public Sector Solutions

The Challenge

Government agencies have struggled for years to meet basic requirements for Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) reporting and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) compliance. Budget constraints have created reactive, just-in-time responses to these resource-intensive activities. Attention is focused only on the next-to-expire Authorization to Operate (ATO) and Plan of Action & Milestones (POA&M) and migration to new control catalogs is often postponed as long as possible.

Agencies have basic defect identification and remediation capabilities but assess controls infrequently since they have no in-house assessment resources. Organizations hire costly outside vendors and fund just one or two assessments in advance. Compliance and expiration dates drive decisions more than real risk metrics, while organizations do not contemplate how to comply with the latest continuous monitoring (CM) requirements. As a result, security artifacts and metrics are often out of date or incomplete. Inefficient and duplicate efforts cause unneeded stress on staff and further strain budgets and limit visibility and accountability in addressing known risks. Issues fall through the cracks, deadlines are missed, and security vulnerabilities remain open.

Overview

Archer[®] Assessment & Authorization (A&A) enables organizations to assess and authorize all new information systems before they are put into production to ensure operations are at an acceptable risk level. It gives the authorization team the tools and capabilities to define authorization boundaries, allocate, inherit and assess controls, assemble authorization packages, make informed authorization decisions, and determine whether each information system stays within acceptable risk parameters. Archer A&A allows organizations to comply with FISMA, OMB and other regulatory requirements while improving security. This use case also integrates with Archer Continuous Monitoring and Archer Plan of Action & Milestones (POA&M) Management use cases to provide true Ongoing Authorization (OA) capability.

With Archer Assessment & Authorization, organizations can more effectively identify, manage and mitigate issues, including common (inherited) control management, and eliminate bottlenecks and inefficient manual processes. Reporting and authorization artifacts can be automatically updated, providing key stakeholders with accurate, real-time data to enable better-informed strategic decisions and ensure organizational compliance is maintained and effective security measures are proactively enacted.

Key Features

- Authorization boundary definition.
- Electronic signatures and PIN authorization enable digital signatures and signature tracking.
- Clear and justified security categorization.
- Customized control allocation and assessment.
- Authorization package creation and approval workflow.
- Informed authorization decision-making and issue remediation (POA&M).
- Monitoring strategy and Ongoing Authorization (OA).

Key Benefits

With Archer Assessment & Authorization, organizations can:

- Save labor hours.
- Ensure more informed decision-making.
- Expedite approval of records and signature tracking throughout the record lifecycle.
- Improve controls tracking across the organization.
- Reduce of overall IT and security risk.

AUTHORIZATION DASHBOARD

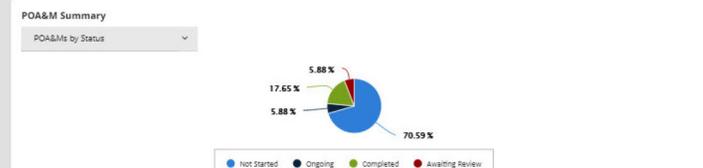
Authorization Summary

Office	Authorization Package Name	Package Type	Authorization Decision	ATO/ATO Date	ATO/ATO Expiration Date
Office: Contracting Office					
Contracting Office	XYZ NIST Information System - Overlay/Related	Information System	Awaiting Decision		
Contracting Office	XYZ NIST Information System - Ready for Submission	Information System	Awaiting Decision		
Office: IT Governance Office					
IT Governance Office	NDC Network DOD RMF	Information System	ATO	9/29/2014	9/29/2016
IT Governance Office	ABC Program Site	Program / Site	Awaiting Decision		
IT Governance Office	NIST Info System with Subsystem	Information System	ATO	10/10/2017	10/11/2019
IT Governance Office	ARC Package - POA&M/RRR	Information System	Expiration Package		



Annual Review

Authorization Package Name	ID/UID	Package Type	Security Category	Operational Status	Annual Review Due
NDC Network DOD RMF	RS42993	Information System	Moderate/Low/Low	Reauthorize	9/29/2016
FedRAMP User Interface Test System	RS4344	Information System	Low	Reauthorize	9/29/2017
XYZ NIST Information System - Corporate Example	XY2001	Information System	Low	Reauthorize	10/1/2016
QRS Program/Site - ICS	ICS001	Information System	Low	Reauthorize	10/10/2018
NIST Info System with	NIST0008	Information System	Low	Reauthorize	10/11/2018



Discover More

Archer, an RSA company, is a leader in providing integrated risk management solutions that enable customers to improve strategic decision making and operational resiliency. As true pioneers in GRC software, Archer remains solely dedicated to helping customers understand risk holistically by engaging stakeholders, leveraging a modern platform that spans key domains of risk and supports analysis driven by both business and IT impacts. The Archer customer base represents one of the largest pure risk management communities globally, with over 1,500 deployments including more than 90 of the Fortune 100.