CMMC Checklist

6 ways to prepare your organization for Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC)

1 Determine the correct level of CMMC maturity for your organization
To determine the maturity level needed for each of the 17 CMMC domains, do a thorough inventory of your systems and networks to identify how you touch federal contract information (FCI) and controlled unclassified information (CUI).

2 Identify the scope of your CMMC compliance initiative
Ensure you're able to meet the requirements for Level 1 maturity since we know this will be a minimum requirement for all organizations who do business with DoD, whereas those who make or handle CUI, Level 3 will be that baseline.

3 Do the NIST self-assessment to identify gaps
NIST 800-171 is the predecessor to CMMC, and although it doesn't look at maturity (that's demonstrated by having a security program, implementing it, using/following it, and that it's working), it is a good starting point to help identity gaps.

4 Build your system security plan (SSP)
An SSP is essentially a map of your security landscape and control capabilities as they exist today. It helps identify:
• The distinct system environments and the boundaries of those environments
• How systems and networks connect or otherwise interact
• How relevant security requirements are executed across these environments

5 Make necessary investments to execute your plan
It's likely your plan will need to go beyond merely revising processes. Be prepared to invest in additional solutions in order to build a future-ready security environment. Your ROI may include:
• Winning future DoD and government contracts
• Mitigating the internal costs and damage of future cyberattacks
• Securing more streamlined and efficient ways of working for the business

6 Engage a third-party auditor to verify CMMC compliance
Once a CMMC compliance program has been fully implemented, you'll need to bring in a Registered Practitioner (RP), Registered Provider Organization (RPO), or a Certified Third-Party Assessor Organization (C3PAO) to assess and validate your CMMC compliance and maturity.

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