

NIST SP 800-171 Gap Analysis



TalaTek's NIST SP 800-171 gap analysis is an in-depth review of your organization's capabilities and practices, designed to provide you with assurance that you are meeting those requirements. It can also help you determine if your organization is ready for Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) 2.0.



The CMMC 2.0 Program Is Imminent

CMMC 2.0 is a Department of Defense-mandated security framework for organizations seeking to do business with the agency. The CMMC release will be a phased rollout, with all new DoD contracts containing a CMMC 2.0 requirement within the next few years. Although this date is a few years off, organizations should start preparing right now.

TalaTek has been recently cleared as a candidate C3PAO and will be approved to provide CMMC certification services once we undergo the proper training and certification ourselves. We are hoping to achieve these steps by 2022. In the meantime, there is something you can do.

How CMMC 2.0 aligns with NIST SP 800-171

NIST SP 800-171 aligns with the 110 requirements of CMMC 2.0 Level 2. NIST SP 800-171 already exists, so a gap analysis is a great starting point to determine if your organization is meeting the required security practices.

How TalaTek's NIST 800-171 Gap Analysis Can Prepare You for CMMC 2.0

TalaTek's NIST SP 800-171 gap analysis will help you:

- Get used to the process of undergoing an independent assessment, or performing an internal assessment, organizing artifacts, and understanding requirements. This can help you plan for future CMMC assessments.
- Obtain an objective assessment and determine if your organization has addressed the necessary requirements and understand if there are gaps in your implementations.
- Gain assurance at both a system and enterprise level that you are exercising the necessary due diligence to protect sensitive data.
- Implement a road map to follow to ensure you are properly documenting and implementing all requirements, policies, and procedures and make your organization both more compliant and secure.

TalaTek has been recently cleared as a candidate C3PAO and has been providing CMMC advisory services to clients as a Registered Provider Organization from the CMMC-AB. These services include strategic and operational consulting to ensure CMMC 2.0 alignment around governance, gap assessment, and risk management and remediation activities.

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Here's how TalaTek performs the gap analysis:

- **Collect, review, and analyze all existing documentation.** We will ensure that your documents are thorough, accurate, and properly disseminated to meet 800-171 and CMMC 2.0 requirements.
- **Follow NIST SP 800-171A.** We will use the Examine, Interview, and Test assessment procedures documented in NIST SP 800-171A: Assessing Security Requirements for Controlled Unclassified Information. We will gather information and evidence regarding how your organization has implemented various requirements.
- **Provide a gap analysis report.** The report will describe:
 - How TalaTek evaluated each requirement, practice, and process.
 - Our determination of the implementation status.
 - All deficiencies discovered during our analysis.
 - Our recommended remediation for each deficiency.

Gap Analysis Project Timelines

TalaTek's estimated timeline is between **4 to 6 weeks** and includes:

- Gathering and reviewing existing documentation.
- Examining evidence, interviewing SMEs, and testing requirement implementations.
- Compiling the gap analysis report.

Post Gap Analysis Wrap-Up

TalaTek will present our findings and ensure your organization understands them and agrees on our recommended remediations. We'll help your team include these recommendations in your Plan of Actions and Milestones (POA&M) as well as establish achievable goals and milestones toward achieving 800-171 compliance and preparing for CMMC 2.0 certification.



Hands-On Remediation and Execution of POA&M

If your organization lacks the resources to address the found deficiencies (e.g., implementing complex requirements, documenting necessary plans, policies, and procedures), our advisory services can help.

Once your organization has remediated these deficiencies, we can review your implementations and update the gap analysis report. The gap analysis becomes an iterative process, where your organization systematically addresses deficiencies until you have achieved full NIST 800-171 compliance and are fully prepared for an eventual CMMC 2.0 certification.

