

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 to obtain Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC).



The CMMC Program Is Imminent

CMMC 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 requirement by FY2026. Although this date is a few years off, organizations should start preparing right now.

There's currently no way for any organization to obtain a CMMC certification, nor are there any accredited CMMC Third-Party Assessment Organizations (C3PAOs).

But there is something you can do.

How CMMC Reconciles to NIST SP 800-171

NIST SP 800-171 makes up 110 of CMMC Level 3's 130 requirements. NIST SP 800-171 already exists, so a gap analysis is a great starting point to determine if your organization is meeting 110 out of the 130 required practices.

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

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

- Get used to the process of undergoing an independent 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 roadmap 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 is a certified assessor through the FedRAMP Third-Party Assessment Organization (3PAO) program. You can rest assured that we have the systems and skill sets necessary to perform high-quality gap analyses.

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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 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.
- **Review the CMMC practices processes that are not part of 800-171.** CMMC Level 3 includes 20 practices and 3 processes borrowed from other security frameworks. Though no baseline exists for assessing these processes and practices, we will review them based on our experience with the other frameworks (Cybersecurity Framework, NIST, etc.) and include any deficiencies in how your organization implements these processes in our final report.
- **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 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 certification.