



# CMMC

## Contractor Assumptions Versus Actuality

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# ABOUT SOUNDWAY

## ✓ Cyber AB Authorized C3PAO



- One of only 42 C3PAOs Nationwide

## ✓ Expert Cybersecurity Professionals

- CMMC Certified Assessor (CCA)
- CMMC Certified Professional (CCP)
- Industry Certifications:  
CISSP | Security+ | PMP

## ✓ TOP SECRET Facility Clearance

## ✓ HUBZone, SDVOSB, WOSB



## ✓ FAR & DFARS Compliant or over 12 years

### **SOUNDWAY CONSULTING INCORPORATED** **("SOUNDWAY")**

was founded by Diane Bellegarde, a U.S. Army Service-Disabled Veteran, in 2011.

SoundWay provides information technology, mission support & cybersecurity professional services to the U.S. Department of Defense (**DoD**), Intelligence Community (**IC**), federal government civil agencies, and commercial businesses.

SoundWay's commercial business is focused on providing cybersecurity compliance, CMMC certification readiness, & as a C3PAO we are authorized to conduct CMMC certification Assessments.

Since 2018, SoundWay has worked tirelessly to become a leader in cybersecurity; dedicated to demystifying & simplifying Government compliance mandates & making compliance affordable for its fellow contractor community.



# BY THE NUMBERS

The Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) initiated in 2019 as a means to ensure Government Contractors are “actually implementing” adequate cybersecurity measures to prevent adversaries of the United States from gaining sensitive information.

Regulatory requirement for Government Contractors (GovCon) that support the Defense Department to undergo third party assessments to independently validate the GovCon’s cyber hygiene.

L1 = 59 objectives that must be attested to (wet ink) by business owner annually

L2 = 320 objectives that must be independently assessed by an approved party

L3 = L2 + additional controls (Must be L2 certified and then assessed by Government)

| CMMC Model 2.0                 | Model   | Assessment   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>LEVEL 3</b><br>Expert       | <b>110 Controls</b><br>from SP-800-171<br><b>+ All Controls</b><br>from NIST SP-800-172 | Contracts that are generally specific to Space and Military applications (Supporting Space Force, SDCOM, PAVCOM, etc.)<br><b>- Estimated 400-500 companies</b> |
| <b>LEVEL 2</b><br>Advanced     | <b>All 110 Controls</b><br>from SP-800-171  | Contracts with DFARS Clause 252.254-7012 and/or Requirements for NIST SP-800-171<br><b>- Estimated 80,000 companies</b>  |
| <b>LEVEL 1</b><br>Foundational | <b>17 Controls</b><br>from NIST SP-800-171<br>(most current version)                    | General contracts that do NOT have any CIJ<br><b>- Estimated 120,000 companies</b>   |



The Cybersecurity Maturity in 2019 as a means to ensure “actually implementing” and prevent adversaries of the information.

Regulatory requirement for that support the Defense Information assessments to independent hygiene.

L1 = 59 objectives that must be owner annually

L2 = 320 objectives that must be approved party

L3 = L2 + additional controls (assessed by Government)

NIST Special Publication  
NIST SP 800-171r3 ipd

## Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Systems and Organizations

Initial Public Draft

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Victoria Pillitteri  
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This publication is available free of charge from:  
<https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.800-171r3.ipd>

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
*Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary*

National Institute of Standards and Technology  
*Laurie E. Locascio, NIST Director and Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology*

# THE NUMBERS

| 2.0 | Model   | Assessment   |
|-----|---|--|
|     | <b>110 Controls</b><br>from SP-800-171<br><b>+ All Controls</b><br>from NIST SP-800-172 | Contracts that are generally specific to Space and Military applications (Supporting Space Force, SDCOM, PAVCOM, etc.)<br><b>- Estimated 400-500 companies</b> |
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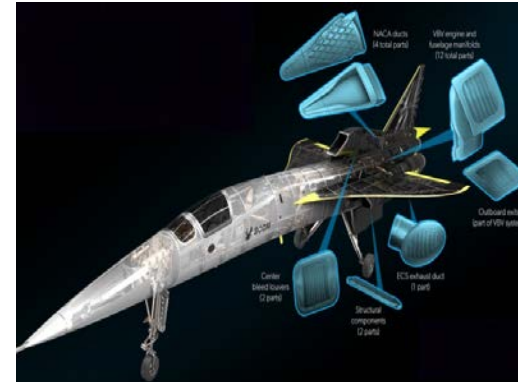
# BY THE NUMBERS ~ CONTINUED

Period of Performance: Jan 2021 – Present (2.5 Years)

Number of Evaluations: 15

Client Profile (Number of employees): 10-500

Locations: Virginia, Maryland, California, Colorado, Florida, Texas





# WHAT WE LEARNED

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| What percentage completed a SPRS score without an SSP?       | 87%                         |
| What was the lowest score a company issued themselves?       | 85 out of 110               |
| What was the “actual” average score once we reviewed?        | 29 out of 110 (Highest: 34) |
| What percentage had an incident response capability?         | 6%                          |
| What percentage originally thought they were in great shape? | 93%                         |



# WHAT WE LEARNED ~ RATIONALE

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Huge disconnect between what DoD and Cyber-AB want versus real life

CMMC is perceived as an “IT” compliance initiative

Believe CMMC will never make into FAR/DFARs

Lack of experienced practitioners supporting SMB markets

Wasted monies on LPTA approach that equates to snake oil





# TIME IS AN ISSUE



2024?



# REALISTIC TIMELINES

1 C3PAO for every 1000 GovCons

Now

RFIs

RFPs



6/2023

2/2024

10/2024

1 C3PAO for every 1000 GovCons





# MSSP CONSIDERATIONS

If an Organization Seeking CMMC Level 2 Certification utilizes an MSSP, those related activities are in scope of the actual assessment.

- Log Analysis
- Incident Reporting
- Access Control
- Privileged Access
- Data Protection at Rest

**Why? Security Protection Asset Considerations**





# Security Protection Asset(s)

**Assets that provide security functions or capabilities to contractor's CMMC Assessment Scope, irrespective of whether or not these assets process, store, or transmit CUI.**

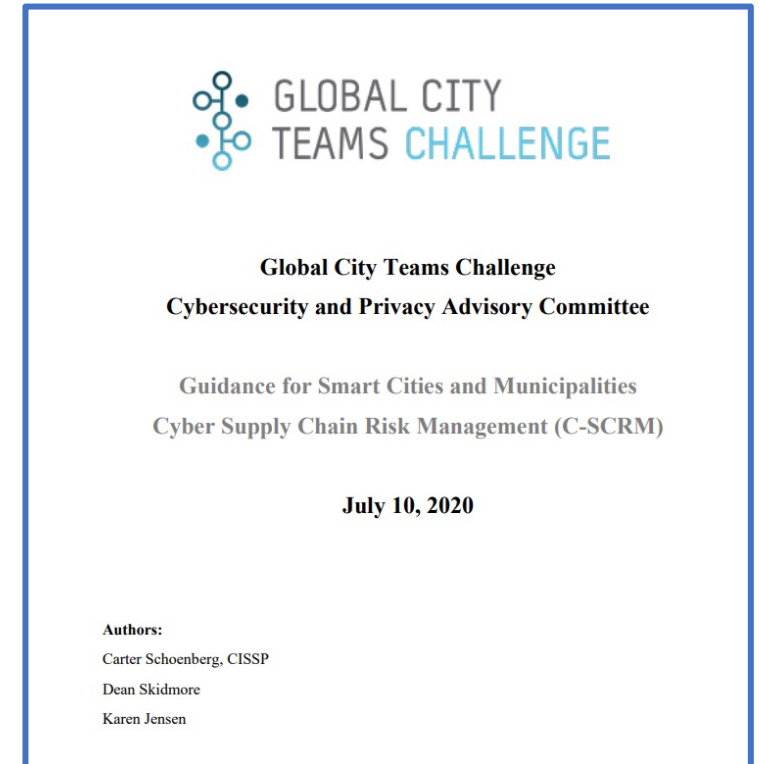
- *Document in the asset inventory*
- *Document in the SSP*
- *Document in the network diagram of the CMMC Assessment Scope*
- *Prepare to be assessed against CMMC practices*



The Certification issued by an C3PAO applies to “Their System” not “*What they Do for You*”.

## Considerations:

- U.S. Citizens Only?
- Backgrounds?
- SSP Supplementals?
- Accessibility to personnel during your own L2 assessment (if so, at what \$\$)
- Data at Rest Safeguards?
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Cyber Liability Insurance?





# QUESTIONS



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