



How to Improve Third-Party Risk Management for Your Organization and the Supply Chain Ecosystem

Provider Council Members



BA/Vendor Council Members



In early 2018, a prominent group of CISOs representing hospitals and health systems agreed to establish a working group to share approaches and lessons learned in managing their third-party risk. Their goal, by collaborating, was to create a complete set of best practices that organizations could adopt internally to effectively manage third-party risk in an approach that was efficient for both their organizations and the entire third-party ecosystem. It was universally apparent for the participants that the challenges of proficiently managing information risk in their third-party ecosystem were very similar and that significant inefficiencies could be mitigated by leveraging a common set of requirements, policies and processes.

Effectively assessing the security posture up and down the supply chain is prohibitively expensive given the complexity of the risks posed by information privacy and system security concerns as well as an ever-changing regulatory landscape both domestically and internationally. The challenges they face go well beyond their resources and capabilities, posing a huge challenge for organizations and third parties to create, administer, respond to and manage assessments. In addition, ineffective security, compliance and assurance methods drive cost and confusion within organizations and across third parties.

The founding members enlisted support from HITRUST® to leverage the HITRUST CSF Assurance Program® and the Third-Party Assurance Program. Available deliverables will support the adoption of a uniform, generally agreed upon third-party assurance method to reduce costs, remove complexity, eliminate confusion and share best practices across the industry.

The goal is to create a common approach and tools to aid organizations in effectively adopting a program and communicating their adoption to improve third-party risk management (for the organization and vendor community). The outcome of these efforts will benefit all in the healthcare provider space and in the healthcare ecosystem.

Commitments for Success

Members

- ✓ Establish effective, consistent, repeatable, and widely accepted expectations and programs for managing third parties who have or require access to Protected Health Information (PHI) and wish to engage our businesses
- ✓ Accept HITRUST Certifications from third parties in lieu of a separate assessment, questionnaire, audit or certification report
- ✓ Consolidate the knowledge, resources, and investments of each other and share to improve collaborative initiatives, programs and outcomes
- ✓ Supporting HITRUST in definition, and execution of its third-party risk and assurance programs
- ✓ Hold third parties and each other accountable to these commitments so that shared objectives are met

HITRUST

- ✓ Implement feedback and requirements to enable healthcare providers to adopt this program
- ✓ Broadly establish and execute ongoing education and awareness campaigns to the industry
- ✓ Maintain the program in ways and means that do not create undue financial and operational burdens on all stakeholders
- ✓ Continuously improve the HITRUST CSF and its assurance programs to meet the needs of the industry
- ✓ Maintain the quality and integrity of these programs by ensuring all parties (third parties, Members, Assessors, HITRUST) are appropriately vetted and monitored for conformance to their commitments

BENEFITS	PROVIDER	THIRD-PARTY	HITRUST
Reduce time and complexity in governing third parties	✓		
Improve ongoing oversight of third-party risk	✓		
Improve transparency of third-party strengths in cybersecurity		✓	
Effectively communicate expectations to third parties	✓		
Onboard important services faster	✓		
Broaden community and input into the HITRUST CSF			✓