



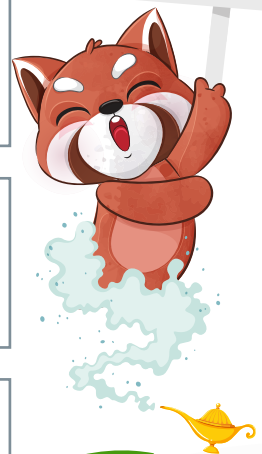
5 STEPS TO GET STARTED WITH NIST 800-171 COMPLIANCE

If your organization does business with the government as a contractor or subcontractor, you are required to meet the guidelines outlined in NIST 800-171.

Here are 5 things you can do to get started on the path to NIST compliance.

Establish A Security Culture	What is an information security culture? It is a commitment by everyone in an organization to keep sensitive information safe. Without this foundation, attempts at compliance may succeed in the short term, but they will not last. Every member of your team needs to understand that security is a top priority and that each one of them plays a key role in keeping sensitive information safe.
Perform A NIST Compliance Assessment	Assess how you stack up to the NIST requirements of your contracts. If you have the internal resources, get started following the framework for compliance. If you do not, you'll likely need help from an outside provider. Either way, you need an assessment to determine next steps. Once the assessment is complete, you'll be able to identify where you have gaps and develop a plan towards compliance.
Plan For Compliance Improvements	After you identify where your organization has compliance gaps and where you fall short of the requirements outlined in your contracts, document your findings. Prioritize which gaps you will tackle first. Develop a plan for implementing the changes you need to become NIST compliant. Involve key stakeholders in the process, so that your changes will be sustainable.
Implement Compliance Improvements	Begin to make the changes that will position your organization for success. Start with the highest priority items that you need to resolve. Document the changes as you go, so that people know what to expect.
Continuously Monitor Security	Compliance is not a "set it and forget it" exercise. Without monitoring and continuous improvement, your compliance initiatives will become stagnant and eventually fade to the back of everyone's mind. The most important thing you can do to ensure NIST compliance is to read your existing and new contracts and understand what is required of your organization.

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