



Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
401 Hungerford Dr. #1, Rockville, MD 20850
Project Duration: May 2012-Present

For the past five (5) years we have been performing annual independent IT Security Control Test and Evaluations in compliance with OMB A-123 Appendix A (internal controls over financial reporting) using the NIST 800-53, Rev.4 Control Set, while considering control applicability based on FIP 199 System Security Categorization of General Support Systems/applications. We perform control assessments on both virtual/physical assets and provide supporting test plans, test sheets, assessment work papers, and recommendations to HHS Assistant Secretary of Financial Resources and HHS Program Support Center.

The scope of the Assessments includes two (2) GSSs and eight (8) financial application systems. We collect and review HHS System security documentation in accordance with NIST SP 800-53A, Rev.4 and OMB A-123 mandates.

SP 800-53A IT control families assessed consist of: Security Planning, Access Control, Configuration Management, Separation of Duties, Audit Logs (AU), Contingency Planning and Certification & Accreditation.

Areas addressed by the independent test and evaluation include, but are not limited to, the Test of Design and effectiveness of:

- Business Impact Assessment
- Information System Contingency Plans
- Security Assessment Plans
- Hardware and Software Inventory Accuracy
- Security Assessment Reports
- Privacy Impact Assessments
- Configuration Management Plans
- Plan of Actions & Milestones
- Vulnerability Scan Results

The project was successful and met all performance expectations met. Key achievements and deliverables included but are not limited to the following:

- Successfully bridged understanding and communication GAPS between OMB A-123 requirements, NIST SP 800-53A, Rev.4 and FISCAM by developing a custom assessment approach and test sheets.
- Established and implemented a repeatable and measurable audit (control assessment) program for annual IT security controls assessments in alignment with the above standards.
- Validated the remediation of all assessment deficiencies resulting in a high maturity level for internal IT security controls and IT policies and procedures at HHS.
- Adjusted our security assessment plan to reflect the impacts of recent system/application re-structuring.
- Satisfied the HHS FMFIA requirements for annual security control assessments related to OMB A-123 Appendix A.

CUSTOMER POINT OF CONTACT

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[Note: Apex has been providing the above services as a subcontractor to GMG Management Consulting, Inc.]