



HITRUST December 2023 quarterly newsletter

Crowe recently attended and presented at the HITRUST Collaborate annual conference in Dallas and gained detailed insights into assurance program updates, including a new StateRAMP authorization option and the ability to include artificial intelligence (AI) in assurance efforts. Additionally, Crowe facilitated two panel discussions with Crowe specialists and clients. Both offered insightful guidance into overcoming challenges in certification and leveraging inheritance from one assessment to another.

Assurance program updates

During the HITRUST Collaborate conference, the following two major program updates were announced:

StateRAMP via HITRUST fast track:

StateRAMP authorization has always had reciprocity with FedRAMP, meaning if you are FedRAMP authorized you can fast-track into StateRAMP authorization with little effort. Now, if you have a HITRUST r2 Certification you are eligible to fast-track into StateRAMP authorization as well.

This new reciprocity between HITRUST and StateRAMP is available starting with v11.2 of MyCSF and includes the StateRAMP regulatory factor. As a bonus, you can gain TX-RAMP authorization via reciprocity with StateRAMP as well. A pilot program offering discounts is now available. If interested, reach out to your Crowe contact for more information.

Artificial intelligence:

HITRUST has introduced a comprehensive AI assurance program, a significant update incorporated into the HITRUST CSF® version 11.2. This strategic move is designed to address the growing importance and challenges of securely implementing AI, especially in the wake of the transformative potential of generative AI technologies. While these technologies promise to revolutionize various sectors, they also present new data privacy and security challenges.

The core of the HITRUST AI Assurance Program, as emphasized by HITRUST's chief strategy officer, Robert Booker, is to provide organizations with a scalable and reliable framework for AI systems so that AI deployments inherit the right controls, irrespective of their deployment methods. It's worth noting that major cloud service providers are actively supporting this initiative.

For Crowe clients, this development signifies a proactive approach to AI-related risk management. The HITRUST AI Assurance Program aims to equip organizations with the tools and guidelines needed for efficient, secure, and trustworthy AI deployments. As your external assessor, Crowe is here to guide you through these new advancements so that your AI initiatives are both cutting edge and compliant.

Be sure to check out HITRUST's [press release](#) for more information.

Crowe insights

Here are key takeaways derived from Crowe panel discussions at the conference:

Leveraging inheritance for maximum benefits:

- The two types of inheritance are internal (from another assessment that your organization has achieved certification on) and external (from your cloud service provider).
- Inheritance facilitates reduction of controls being tested = less effort for the organization AND the assessor = less cost.
- It is important to have open conversations with your vendors about the ability to inherit from their assessment if you know they have a HITRUST certification.
- Inheritance doesn't always mean that the organization doesn't have to provide evidence; for partially inherited controls, your assessor must still test the portion of the control that is managed by the organization.

Overcoming challenges to gain and maintain certification:

- HITRUST is an ongoing process – during the validation, you are required to show evidence to support the controls.
- Many factors must be assessed and decided on when selecting assessment type and scope; now that there are three options – e1, i1, and r2 – the barrier to entry on HITRUST is much lower.
- Having executive buy-in is critical to the success of achieving certification.
- Various reasons exist for obtaining HITRUST certification; it might not be due to customer request.

Questions?

As an Authorized External Assessor firm with experience as a HITRUST Assessor Council member, the Crowe team is here to keep you apprised of the most current changes as well as our insights as HITRUST continues to grow and evolve. Crowe has relationships with firms that can help with remediation and implementation of gaps identified during the readiness assessment and before you're ready for the validated assessment. We are happy to make any introductions if you're finding remediation time-consuming.

We appreciate any questions and comments, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Visit our [HITRUST](#) page at crowe.com to learn more.

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