NIST SP 800-171 Transition from Revision 2 (r2) to Revision 3 (r3)
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Abstract

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) continually refines its guidelines to enhance the protection of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) in non-federal systems. The transition from NIST SP 800-171 Revision 2 (r2) to Revision 3 (r3) represents a significant step in this ongoing effort. This white paper explores the key changes introduced in r3, their implications, and the resources available for organizations aiming to maintain compliance.

Introduction

NIST SP 800-171 provides a framework for safeguarding CUI in non-federal systems. Revision 3 builds upon the foundation laid by r2, aligning with other NIST publications and introducing critical enhancements.

Key Changes in NIST SP 800-171, Revision 3

1. Security Requirements Alignment

- Revision 3 aligns with updates in NIST SP 800-53, Revision 5, and the NIST SP 80053B moderate control baseline.
- This alignment ensures consistency across security controls and facilitates crossreferencing.

2. Tailoring Criteria Enhancement

- The tailoring criteria have been refined to provide more clarity and specificity.
- Organizations can tailor security requirements to their specific context while maintaining compliance.

3. Organization-Defined Parameters (ODP)

- Selected security requirements now allow for ODP.
- ODP provides flexibility, allowing organizations to adapt controls based on their unique risk landscape.

4. Prototype CUI Overlay

- A prototype overlay specifically addresses the protection of CUI.
- This overlay supplements the core requirements, emphasizing CUI-related controls.

Additional Resources

1. FAQ

- Detailed answers to common questions related to the transition.
- Organizations can find practical guidance on implementing the changes.

2. Changes Analysis

- A thorough comparison between Revision 2 and Revision 3.
- This analysis helps organizations understand the specific modifications and their impact.

3. Webinar

- NIST hosted a webinar on June 6, 2023, providing an overview of the significant changes in SP 800-171, Revision 3.
- Access the recording to gain insights directly from NIST experts.

Conclusion

Staying informed about the transition from NIST SP 800-171 r2 to r3 is crucial for organizations handling CUI. By embracing the changes and leveraging available resources, organizations can enhance their cybersecurity posture and contribute to the protection of sensitive information.

Remember, compliance is not static; it requires continuous vigilance and adaptation. Organizations should monitor updates from NIST and proactively address any emerging challenges to safeguard CUI effectively.