Streamlining RMF Processes: Using Neural Networks & Artificial Intelligence to Generate Compliant Documented Systems

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The Problem

DoD systems must be compliant with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards for risk management in order to receive Authorization to Operate (ATO). The Risk Management Framework (RMF), designed to help organizations manage security and protect privacy, is necessarily complex. The RMF references 58 other documents, defines at least 20 roles and responsibilities for key participants, includes 22 pages of common terms and conditions and requires performance of 6 tasks and 29 subtasks. Navigating the ATO process requires agility. Developing and implementing the Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) and System Security Plan (SSP) are labor intensive tasks that defy the need for agility.

The Team

Solving complex cybersecurity problems is what our team does. We combined the resources of two non-traditional Defense/Federal contractors with experience in the commercial sector to offer a capability that streamlines each step of the RMF process using a proprietary product backed by a team of professionals with deep experience in cybersecurity and Information Assurance (IA).
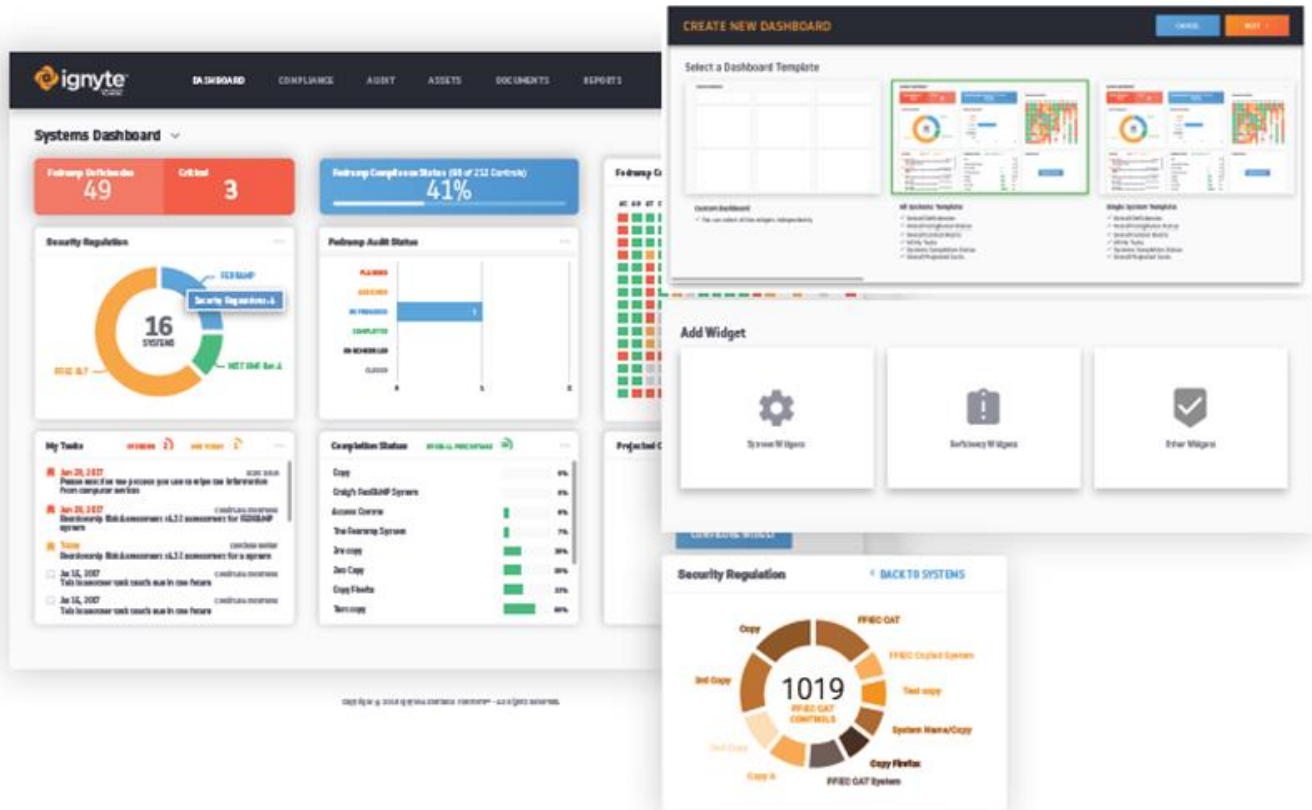
The Product

The Ignyte Assurance Platform™ is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled microservices platform specifically designed & developed by seasoned information systems security officers to deliver end to end security assurance process management and security risk and compliance processes. The platform's Authorization & Attestation (A&A) feature allows for streamlining all phases of NIST RMF for GovCloud and on-premise environments. Our team is able to deliver this capability by leveraging Ignyte's connector API and our 3rd party security product eco-system.

Ignyte developed security-team-friendly and usable workflows for several NIST standards that are part of the overall NIST RMF process for DoD. Our existing software modules incorporate the following body of standards: NIST SP 800-53 – Controls catalog and associated workflows; NIST SP 800-30 – IT Risk Assessment; NIST SP 800-60 Guide for Mapping Types of Information and Information Systems to Security Categories; Security Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) Workflow; and Control Correlation Identifier (CCI) Application. The workflows are designed to meet all five steps of the NIST RMF for cloud environments. We have the ability to modify the product to support a development and operations (DevOps) pipeline environment and integrate with the Department of Defense enterprise Mission Assurance Support Service (eMASS) to provide managers and task leads with automated feedback.

Features include:

- Streamlined compliance management
- Automated controls mapping

- Robust dashboards and reporting
- Seamless Ignyte Assurance Platform™ integration

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We fundamentally believe in building user interfaces for the next generation workforce that will demand usability and experience on par with organizations such as Amazon Cloud, LinkedIn and Google Cloud Platform. This expectation is met by establishing a vision for creating a low complexity, highly configurable assurance platform. The Ignyte User Interface (UI) team executes this vision with iterative input from Information Assurance professionals currently working in the field using the Ignyte platform. Capturing analytics data allows the Ignyte UI team to build and design a satisfying experience ensuring cyber assessments are completed on time and within management expectations. This perspective of development is often overlooked but is the most important aspect of building forward-leaning business software.

The Value

Our products and services are available now. We have over 1,000 system level packages currently under management. The Ignyte Assurance Platform™ was built with scalability and cloud use in mind, leveraging a microservices architecture to enable the use of modern technology scale plays when deploying a new customer. We effectively incorporate AI to accurately correlate standards to system controls while minimizing the risk of error from all sources. Our pre-loaded industry frameworks and standards are continually refreshed, ensuring the integrity of monitoring and compliance. We offer a full range of RMF services and product support. The value can be measured in terms of improvements in IA programs through reduced cycle times and higher levels of compliance.