# Xacta® 360 for NIST CSF and SP 800-171

## Overview

The NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) was introduced in 2014 to help manage cyber risk across the 16 critical infrastructure sectors, including the Defense Industrial Base. The CSF is not mandatory for critical infrastructure organizations, but is highly recommended.

The federal government has also mandated that all government contract holders that work with controlled unclassified information (CUI) comply with a new cybersecurity standard, NIST SP 800-171, as of January 1, 2018. Further, NIST suggests using the CSF to help organizations manage their 800-171 compliance process.

With this in mind, Telos® introduces an Xacta 360 application that is purpose-built to address this very specific need: helping organizations comply with 800-171. To be clear, compliance means:

- Conduct a self-assessment against all of the CUI requirements specified in 800-171
- Identify all CUI requirements where there is non-compliance
- Create Action Plans (POA&Ms) for each area of non-compliance
- Create a System Security Plan (SSP) for your enterprise
- Maintain 800-171 compliance status and supporting documents over time

As is true with other Xacta 360 applications for the NIST RMF and FedRAMP, the Xacta 360 CSF+171 application works much like tax preparation software, helping the user navigate the end-to-end process.

Users are presented with a series of input screens that collect and organize all of the data needed for the 800-171 gap assessment process. These screens are organized in a logical manner and prompt the user to answer questions and input the data needed to complete the required 800-171 process.

The application generates the required documents (SSP and Action Plans) as a byproduct of the process. You do not have to generate these documents from scratch at the end of the process. The application does this for you based on your inputs.

## Why use the CSF to help with the 800-171 compliance process?

NIST suggests using CSF and 800-171 together. Where 800-171 defines cybersecurity requirements, data requirements, and documentation, the NIST CSF offers a gap assessment methodology and a mechanism to effectively communicate risk and compliance posture at all levels of an organization. Using CSF and 800-171 together is truly a force multiplier.



Xacta 360 supports you in identifying the security requirements for your system.

## How will using the Xacta 360 CSF+171 application benefit me?

- You will not have to spend time interpreting these documents. Like tax preparation software does with the tax code, the Xacta 360 CSF+171 application obviates the need for this.
- You will not have to figure out how to implement these processes. The software does this for you.
- You will not have to rely on email and spreadsheets to manage the process. The application centralizes the 800-171 compliance activity, underlying data, and body of evidence.
- The application greatly reduces the cybersecurity and information assurance expertise required to complete the process. Xacta achieves this by simplifying the end-to-end process and providing content, e.g., recommended implementation language for the various CUI requirements.
- This simplification of the process also reduces your dependency on expensive, hard-to-find cybersecurity and IA personnel.
- The application maps CUI compliance to the CSF core (Subcategories, Categories, Functions) to help you effectively communicate compliance and risk posture to all levels of an organization – from the server room to the boardroom, in terms each constituent will understand.
- The application automatically generates the required documents when you need them.
- The application, with its workflow and role-based users, allows you to manage and maintain compliance over time.

## Will the Xacta 360 CSF+171 application save me time?

Yes.  Based on our own experience this application will save you many weeks of effort:

- The application will save you weeks of time interpreting and implementing the process.  Smaller organizations with few cybersecurity and IA resources will realize a dramatic benefit.
- The application will save you days and perhaps weeks of time (depending on the size of your environment) establishing your IT asset and cloud resource inventory.  Xacta 360 can scan your AWS accounts to identify the AWS Cloud resources that are part of your assessment boundary.  Further, traditional IT asset inventory data can be uploaded via Excel spreadsheet or via Xacta.io™ (purchased separately).  This information auto-populates the application to be captured as an artifact (evidence of inventory) and can be included in the SSP that the application automatically generates.
- The recommended requirement implementation language (best practices for achieving each of the various 110 CUI requirements) will also save you weeks of time.  This content offers you a solid starting point to work from, which you may also choose to use without modification.  In either case the time savings are substantial.
- The document-generation process is completely automated.  NIST has specified the content and format requirements for the SSP and Action Plans.  The application generates these documents, based on user data inputs, in accordance with NIST specifications.  This function also saves weeks of time.

Exact time savings are difficult to specify as each organization is different in terms of their environment complexity and available resources to conduct the assessment.  That said, we estimate that most every organization will experience substantial time savings by using this application.

### Beyond time savings:

**Confidence** that you are conducting the 800-171 compliance process *completely* and *accurately*.  The purpose-built nature of this application ensures that you:

- Remain eligible to do business with the federal government.  Compliance with 800-171 is mandatory for any organization that does business with federal agencies.
- Have the appropriate evidence and artifacts (SSP and Action Plans) to demonstrate compliance if you are ever asked to provide such evidence.
- Present the most complete and up-to-date depiction of your 800-171 compliance posture if required as part of an RFP submission.
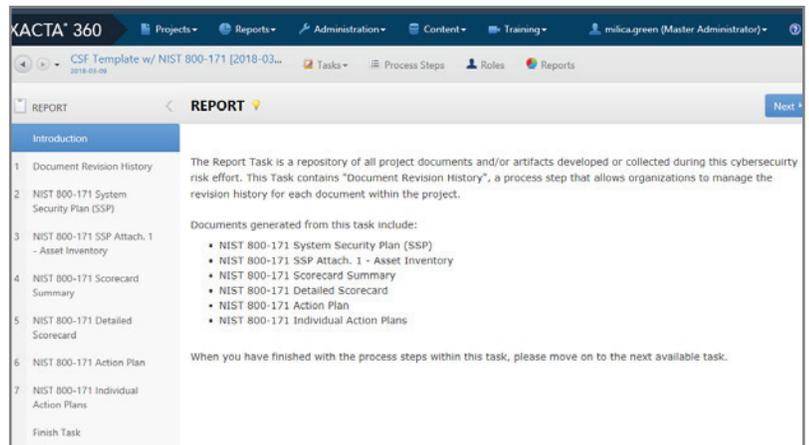


*Xacta 360 automatically generates the documents you need, when you need them.*

### Why Telos and Xacta 360?

Xacta was first launched in 2000 to help accelerate federal government C&A activities through automation.  Our goal from the very beginning has been to simplify and automate the underlying functions as much as possible.

We pioneered this industry and have led the way for nearly 20 years.  Today Xacta is the recognized leader with regard to NIST framework automation solutions, with enterprise-wide deployments across the federal government – DOD, civilian federal, and the Intelligence Community.

With this new CSF+171 application, we have applied our vast expertise with NIST frameworks to solve a similar problem for a different audience: critical infrastructure organizations, including the Defense Industrial Base.  There is no better source for such NIST solutions than Telos and Xacta.



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