

Compliance Assessment

[Go to Terms and Definitions](#)

Discussion

A Compliance Assessment evaluates a subject against identified compliance criteria to determine whether it satisfies them.

The assessed subject may include:

- An [Artifact](#)
- An [Infrastructure Configuration](#)
- An [Infrastructure Environment](#)
- An [Infrastructure Blueprint](#)
- A [Machine Image](#)
- A service
- A software component
- A deployment
- An operational process

Compliance criteria may derive from:

- Laws
- Regulations
- Standards
- Policies
- Contracts
- Requirements
- [Baselines](#)
- [Security Baselines](#)
- Applicable [Acceptance Criteria](#)

A Compliance Assessment may perform activities such as:

- Identifying the applicable compliance criteria
- Collecting information about the assessed subject
- Comparing observed characteristics with the applicable criteria
- Evaluating collected [Evidence](#)
- Recording satisfied criteria
- Recording unsatisfied criteria
- Producing [Compliance Findings](#)
- Recording the assessment result

A Compliance Assessment differs from a Compliance Finding:

- A Compliance Assessment is the evaluation activity
- A Compliance Finding is a recorded result produced by that activity

A Compliance Assessment may produce no findings, one finding, or multiple findings.

Definition

assessment that evaluates a subject against identified compliance criteria to determine the extent to which the subject satisfies those criteria

Source

Dido Solutions, Inc. and Jackrabbit Consulting, Inc.

Note

A Compliance Assessment should identify:

- The assessed subject
- The applicable compliance criteria
- The assessment scope
- The assessment method
- The observed characteristics
- The evaluated Evidence
- The assessment results
- The resulting Compliance Findings

A Compliance Assessment may be:

- Automated
- Manual
- Partially automated
- Continuous
- Periodic
- Event-triggered

Completion of a Compliance Assessment does not by itself establish authorization, certification, approval, or acceptance. Applicable governance processes determine those outcomes.

The term does not require a particular compliance framework, assessment tool, evidence format, reporting format, or implementation technology.

Example

A Compliance Assessment compares the configuration and observed state of a [Red Hat Enterprise Linux](#) Machine Image with an applicable Security Baseline and records a Compliance Finding for each

unsatisfied security criterion.

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