**ARCHER**

# Archer® Assessment & Authorization
## Use Case for Public Sector Solutions

## The Challenge

Government agencies have struggled for years to meet basic requirements for Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) reporting and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) compliance. Budget constraints have created reactive, just-in-time responses to these resource-intensive activities. Attention is focused only on the next-to-expire Authorization to Operate (ATO) and Plan of Action & Milestones (POA&M) and migration to new control catalogs is often postponed as long as possible.

Agencies have basic defect identification and remediation capabilities but assess controls infrequently since they have no in-house assessment resources. Organizations hire costly outside vendors and fund just one or two assessments in advance. Compliance and expiration dates drive decisions more than real risk metrics, while organizations contemplate how to comply with the latest continuous monitoring (CM) requirements. As a result, security artifacts and metrics are often out of date or incomplete. Inefficient and duplicate efforts cause unneeded stress on staff and further strain budgets and limit visibility and accountability in addressing known risks. Issues fall through the cracks, deadlines are missed, and security vulnerabilities remain open.

## Overview

Archer® Assessment & Authorization (A&A) enables organizations to assess and authorize all new information systems before they are put into production to ensure operations are at an acceptable risk level. It gives the authorization team the tools and capabilities to define authorization boundaries, allocate, inherit and assess controls, assemble authorization packages, make informed authorization decisions, and determine whether each information system stays within acceptable risk parameters. Archer A&A allows organizations to comply with FIS MA, OMB and other regulatory requirements while improving security. This use case also integrates with Archer Continuous Monitoring and Archer Plan of Action & Milestones (POA&M) Management use cases to provide true Ongoing Authorization (OA) capability.

With Archer Assessment & Authorization, organizations can more effectively identify, manage and mitigate issues, including common (inherited) control management, and eliminate bottlenecks and inefficient manual processes. Reporting and authorization artifacts can be automatically updated, providing key stakeholders with accurate, real-time data to enable better-informed strategic decisions and ensure organizational compliance is maintained and effective security measures are proactively enacted.

## Key Features

- Authorization boundary definition.
- Electronic signatures and PIN authorization enable digital signatures and signature tracking.
- Clear and justified security categorization.
- Customized control allocation and assessment.
- Authorization package creation and approval workflow.
- Informed authorization decision-making and issue remediation (POA&M).
- Monitoring strategy and Ongoing Authorization (OA).

## Key Benefits

With Archer Assessment & Authorization, organizations can:

- Save labor hours.
- Ensure more informed decision-making.
- Expedite approval of records and signature tracking throughout the record lifecycle.
- Improve controls tracking across the organization.
- Reduce of overall IT and security risk.

**ARCHER** SUITE

Search

sreadmiller

Assessment and Authorization U... ⌄ | POA&M Management Use Case ⌄ | Continuous Monitoring Use Case ⌄

Reports

Quick Links    Create New Package    Create New PTA

**AUTHORIZATION DASHBOARD** ⌄

**Authorization Summary**

| Office | ▲ Authorization Package Name | Package Type | Authorization Decision | ATO/IATO Date | ATO/IATO Expiration Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ⊟ Office: Contracting Office | | | | | |
| Contracting Office | XYZ NIST Information System - Overlay Applied | Information System | Awaiting Decision | | |
| Contracting Office | XYZ NIST Information System - Ready for Submission | Information System | Awaiting Decision | | |
| ⊟ Office: IT Governance Office | | | | | |
| IT Governance Office | NDC Network DOD RMF | Information System | ATO | 9/29/2014 | 9/29/2016 |
| IT Governance Office | ABC Program Site | Program / Site | Awaiting Decision | | |
| IT Governance Office | NIST Info System with Subsystem | Information System | ATO | 10/10/2017 | 10/11/2019 |
| IT Governance Office | ABC Package - POA&Ms/RRDs | Information System | Awaiting Decision | | |

**Authorization Packages by Security Category**

**Annual Review**

Annual Review Date by Authorization Package ⌄

| Authorization Package Name | ID/UID | Package Type | Security Category | Operational Status | Annual Review Due ▲ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NDC Network DOD RMF | RSA2993 | Information System | Moderate,Low,Low | Reauthorize | 9/29/2015 |
| FedRAMP User Interface Test System | RSA344 | Information System | Low | Reauthorize | 9/29/2017 |
| XYZ NIST Information System - Complete Example | XYZ001 | Information System | Low | Reauthorize | 10/1/2018 |
| QRS Program/Site - ICS | ICS001 | Information System | Low | Reauthorize | 10/10/2018 |
| NIST Info System with | NIST0006 | Information System | Low | Reauthorize | 10/11/2018 |

**POA&M Summary**

POA&Ms by Status ⌄

5.88 %
17.65 %
5.88 %
70.59 %

● Not Started  ● Ongoing  ● Completed  ● Awaiting Review

**Risk Acceptance Summary**

Risk Acceptance Requests by Status ⌄

In Review — 1
Draft — 5
Approved — 5

**ARCHER** SUITE

# Discover More

Archer is a leading provider of integrated risk management (IRM) solutions that enable customers to improve strategic decision-making and operational resilience with a modern technology platform that supports qualitative and quantitative analysis driven by both business and IT impacts. As true pioneers in GRC software, Archer remains solely dedicated to helping customers manage risk and compliance domains, from traditional operational risk to emerging issues such as ESG. With over 20 years in the risk management industry, the Archer customer base represents one of the largest pure risk management communities globally, with more than 1,200 customers including more than 50% of the Fortune 500.