

# Archer Public Sector Solutions

Information assurance (IA) professionals face many challenges. A barrage of new requirements and threats, a need for better risk insight, silos imposed by people and technologies, and a shortage of resources create a complex environment for IA teams. Compliance is a significant challenge, even before factoring in agency budget constraints, new cyber threats, and new and increasing requirements. The additional challenge of trying to integrate real operational security data into compliance activities complicates these efforts further.

Risk insight is yet another significant challenge for IA teams. Applying cookie-cutter processes and controls to every asset results in underprotection or overprotection, typically at great expense. Security management tools can determine how many patches are missing or how many vulnerabilities are present, but very few provide real mission context. As a result, risk decisions are made at a management level without the full risk picture, and security administrators do not know which findings or deficiencies to prioritize.

Compliance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memos and circulars, as well as Assessment and Authorization (A&A) required by the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), costs the government billions of dollars per year. The current IA paradigm is expensive and IA budgets are stretched to accommodate the tools, staffing and training to adequately meet current and future challenges. Moreover, silos that exist within the public sector community—at large, individual departments and even workflows for a single office—can create disparity and redundancy in tools, processes, standards, data and language.

## **Align security, compliance and risk management in one process**

Establishing a central repository for risk- and control-related data is the first step in ensuring an accurate and comprehensive view of risk that can be readily conveyed to all stakeholders. By breaking down data and communication silos between tools and people, you can exploit this streamlined data flow to save time, increase data sharing and make better informed risk decisions. Use of common tools and processes allows you to track and manage FISMA, OMB and other compliance requirements and leverage assessment data for reuse, including Government Accountability Office (GAO) and other audits. Integrating automated and manual continuous monitoring tools helps satisfy compliance requirements, drive faster defect remediation, reduce actual risk, and provide complete, current risk metrics.

## The Archer Public Sector Solutions advantage

Archer Public Sector Solutions are purpose-built to meet the unique needs of the public sector, providing capabilities essential for effective information assurance program management and maximizing existing agency infrastructure investments.

### Harness the Power of Convergence

Armed with a common platform and taxonomy, and integrations with scanners, sensors and other security tools, IA teams can collect and share data in a collaborative environment. This infrastructure eliminates the need to constantly import, export and reformat data, breaking down silos and making it faster and easier for stakeholders to share information. Information sharing provides stakeholders with a broader view to make the informed risk-based decisions to reduce risk and ensure compliance.

### Mature Your Security Program

For many years, FISMA was considered a checkbox process that required a set of Certification and Accreditation (C&A, now A&A) artifacts and would be reviewed at least every three years. Recently, OMB has directed agencies to continuously monitor their systems to ensure that they are operating within its approved security posture. Archer Public Sector Solutions produce A&A artifacts that could enhance companion solutions to enable contingency planning, continuous monitoring, and third-party and supply-chain management. This integrated approach pushes the organization to manage and continuously monitor security functions in a more informed and efficient way.

### Leverage True Agility

Unlike most solutions currently used within the public sector, Archer is not hardcoded as one rigid use case. Applications, workflows, and reports and dashboards can be quickly reconfigured to adjust to changes in your internal policies or processes. As regulations, guidance or programs change, the solution can be modified to ensure your processes are appropriately aligned.

## Archer Public Sector Solutions

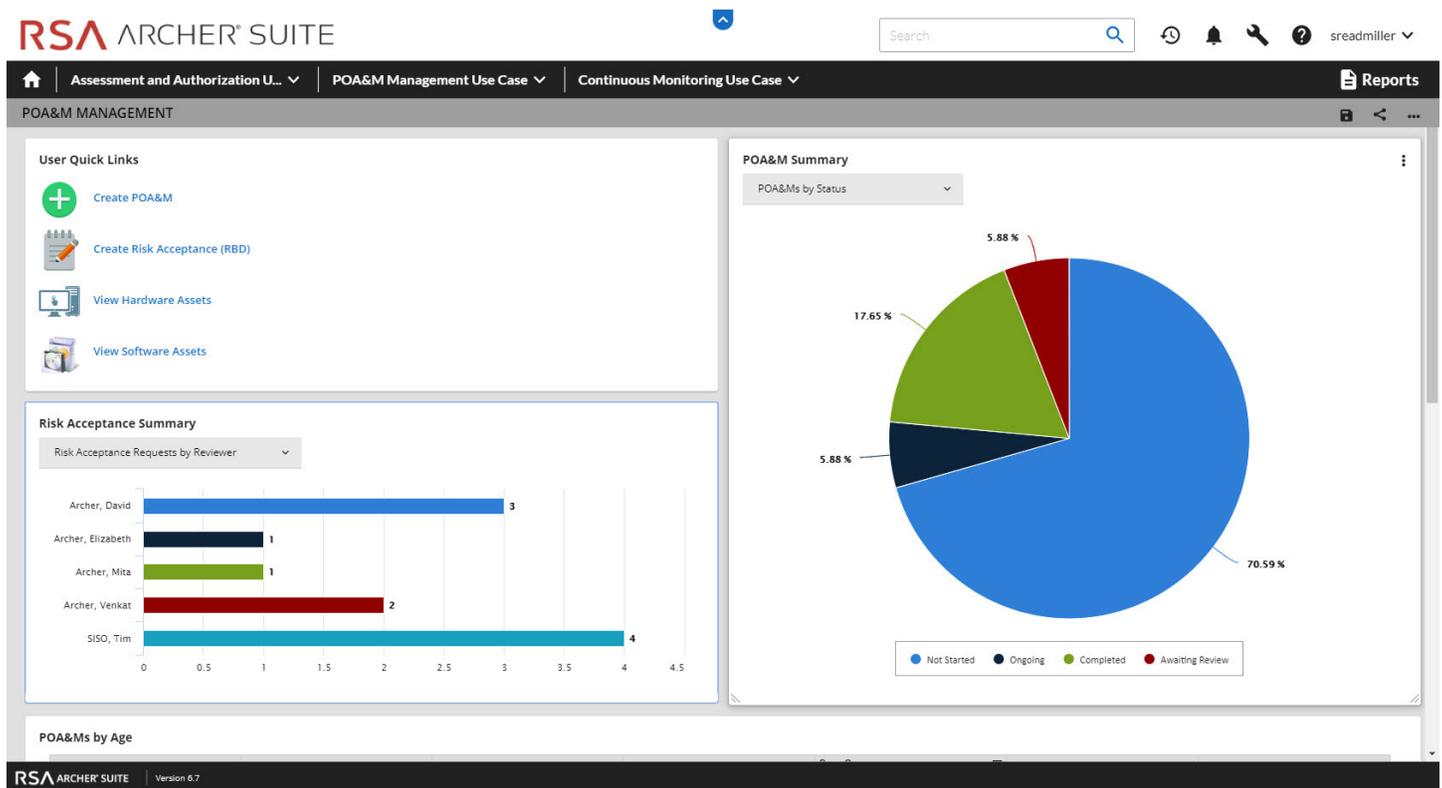
Archer Public Sector Solutions allow you to leverage people, process and technology to build an integrated approach to assessment and authorization, continuous monitoring, plan of action and milestones (POA&M) management, and overall risk management. In addition to solving IA challenges, they can also provide significant return on investment by saving labor hours, reducing software license and training costs, increasing productivity, reducing risks and incidents, and bringing the IA organization into an improved, common culture through improved data sharing and the use of a common taxonomy and workflow.

Archer Public Sector Solutions includes several use cases to meet the specific needs of your organization:

- **Archer Assessment & Authorization** allows your organization to comply with FISMA and OMB requirements while improving overall security and controls. It enables a system of record for every person, location, component and tier in your organization and lays the foundation for a comprehensive information assurance management program, including management of all phases of NIST RMF, DIACAP, DOD RMF and FedRAMP. Archer Assessment & Authorization also integrates with Archer Continuous Monitoring to provide true ongoing authorization (OA) capabilities.
- **Archer Continuous Monitoring** helps you prioritize security risk data and automate control assessments. It allows you to build an aggregate risk view at any level of your organization and enables faster, more targeted response to emerging risks. It enhances your FISMA and OMB compliance activities by verifying that information systems abide by authorization agreements and operate within acceptable levels of risk.

- **Archer Plan of Action & Milestones (POA&M) Management** allows you to centralize findings and defects and then track remediation efforts into dates, milestones and costs. It also provides the capability to route POA&Ms through formal approval and review processes and capture performance management and cost metrics.

Archer Public Sector Solutions are designed to meet the unique needs of government agencies. They provide capabilities to help improve information assurance program management, maximize existing agency infrastructure investments, and build an integrated approach to meeting FISMA and OMB requirements.



## About Archer

Archer, an RSA company, is a leader in providing integrated risk management solutions that enable customers to improve strategic decision making and operational resiliency. As true pioneers in GRC software, Archer remains solely dedicated to helping customers understand risk holistically by engaging stakeholders, leveraging a modern platform that spans key domains of risk and supports analysis driven by both business and IT impacts. The Archer customer base represents one of the largest pure risk management communities globally, with over 1,500 deployments including more than 90 of the Fortune 100. For more information, go to [rsa.com](https://rsa.com).