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 As a result, security artifacts and metrics are often out of date or incomplete.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.

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).

Benefits

With Archer Assessment & Authorization, you 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.
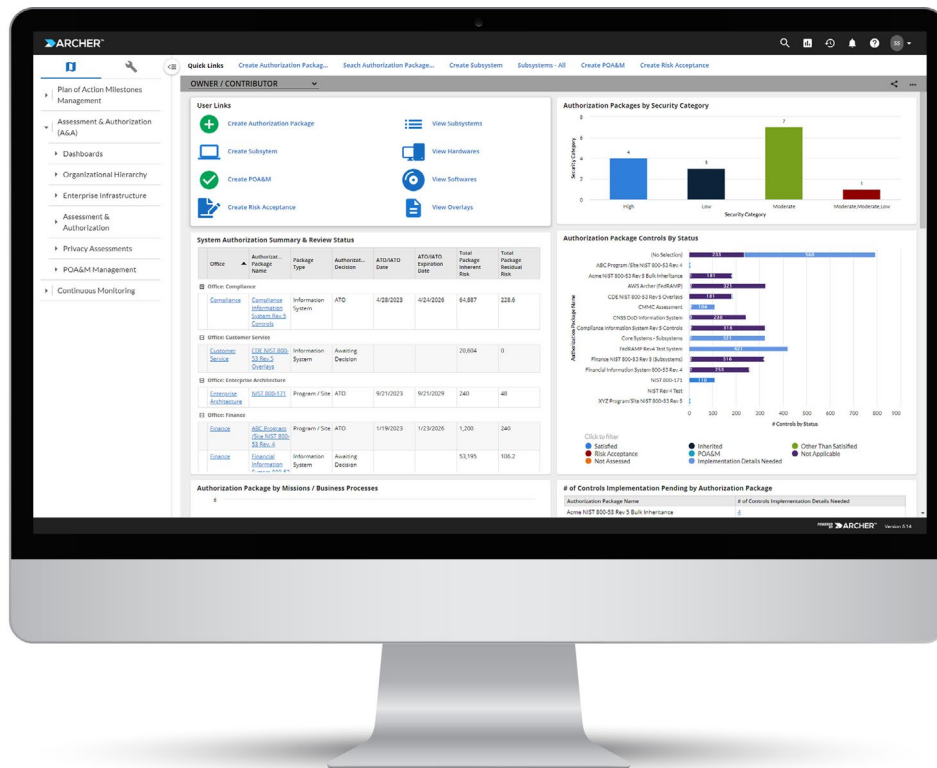
About Archer

Archer is a pioneer in risk management delivering solutions for the heroes tasked with helping their organization deal with uncertainty. We enable better decision making with a technology platform to manage all types of risk. With more than 20 years of experience, Archer is solely dedicated to helping organizations manage risk, ensure compliance and meet emerging challenges such as ESG and operational resilience. Working with the largest pure risk management community globally with more than 1,200 customers of all sizes and industries, we help our customers not by building a wall around their business but by building a bridge to their next opportunity.

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