Build resilience with GovAssure

Enhancing cyber security in the public sector

In the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats, building resilience is paramount. Enter GovAssure, the pioneering scheme within the U.K.'s Government Cyber Security Strategy.

Executive summary

The Government Cyber Security Strategy, a cornerstone of cyber resilience, has introduced GovAssure—an essential scheme aimed at strengthening the security and resilience capabilities of the public sector. GovAssure utilizes the Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) developed by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). This white paper delves into the key components of GovAssure and provides insights on how organizations can build resilience and protect themselves against mounting hostile threats.

Key elements of GovAssure:

The Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) consists of four high-level objectives and fourteen principles, encompassing thirty-nine contributing outcomes. Each outcome is associated with indicators of good practice (IGP) falling into three categories: achieved, partially achieved, and not achieved. Organizations are required to review and assess each IGP, providing justifications and evidence for their responses.

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Implementing the GovAssure scheme:

Implementing GovAssure within large governmental departments requires careful stakeholder identification and resource allocation. A formal project approach, with milestones and management sponsorship, helps ensure a smooth implementation process. The initial assessment should be viewed as a starting point for an ongoing process, addressing non-compliance, and working towards continuous improvement.

Efficient completion of the process:

To streamline the GovAssure process, it is recommended to fully understand the scope of critical systems, document centralized controls, and provide tailored example responses and evidence. Leveraging the scheme to highlight known issues and risks can garner support for remediation efforts. Properly documenting the status of cybersecurity challenges enables the prioritization of risks and the allocation of resources effectively.

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Conclusion:

GovAssure plays a vital role in bolstering cyber resilience within the public sector. By embracing this scheme and implementing the recommended tips and best practices, organizations can enhance their cybersecurity posture, protect critical assets, and contribute to the overall goal of securing the digital landscape of the U.K.

The benefits of using BSI digital trust become evident as organizations strengthen their defenses against mounting cyber threats. Improved cyber security not only protects critical systems and sensitive data but also fosters trust among stakeholders, enhances reputation, and provides a competitive advantage in the digital landscape.

Learn and stay informed:

To gain a comprehensive understanding of cyber risk advisory and GovAssure, explore the UK Cyber Security Strategy and the resources provided by the Cabinet Office's Government Security Group (GSG). Stay updated with digital trust, environmental, health, safety, and supply chain topics by following BSI's Experts Corner.

Find out more

Requirements

- Help avoid reputation damage
- Ensure customer/investor satisfaction
- Consider IT risks during decision
- Gain competitive advantage and market share
- Secure infrastructure
- Incident detection and response

Benefits

- Enhanced cybersecurity
- Identifying threats and vulnerabilities for information assets
- Assessing likelihood and impact of potential threats (risk evaluation)
- Consideration of appropriate treatment plans
- Stakeholder trust
- Competitive advantage

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