



Introduction to NIST for MSPs

Syllabus

Updated: July 2025

Training Overview

This training is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to understand the role of MSPs in supporting cybersecurity frameworks.

Participants will learn about the origins of NIST 800-171, its relevance to Managed Service Providers (MSPs), and its connection to federal regulations such as FISMA and DFARS. You will gain insights into what types of organizations must comply with NIST 800-171, including federal contractors, subcontractors, and entities handling Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). Additionally, participants will develop an understanding of the shared responsibility model and how MSPs manage or host systems containing CUI, including their compliance responsibilities. You will also discover how CMMC 2.0 Level 2 aligns with NIST 800-171, as well as the requirements for Level 3.

This training is designed for:

- **MSP Owners**
- **Security Leaders**

Training Inclusions

- **4-hours of virtual, interactive content taught by an expert instructor with MSP security expertise**
- **Downloadable videos* of the content you can watch on-demand at your convenience**
- **Downloadable slide decks, handouts and resources**

Learning Objectives

Partners attending this training will:

- **Learn what NIST 800-171 is and why it's relevant to MSPs**
- **Discover which types of organizations must comply with NIST 800-171 and how it's connected to federal regulations**
- **Understand their compliance responsibilities when managing or hosting systems containing CUI**
- **Learn how CMMC 2.0 Level 2 aligns with NIST 800-171 and the requirements for Level 3**

* Videos will either be recordings from your session or previously recorded material in which partner faces and voices have been removed. It is recommended to attend trainings live to receive the full benefits of interactive Q&A with the instructor and class participants.

Training Topics

Session 1: Foundations of NIST 800-171 and its Relevance to MSPs

- What is NIST 800-171 and who must comply?
- Role of MSPs in Protecting CUI
- Overview of CMMC 2.0 and its connection to NIST 800-171

Session 2: Understanding the 14 Control Families with an MSP Lens

- Breakdown of the Control Families
- MSP-specific examples, including MFA, centralized logging and monitoring, incident response plans and playbooks.
- MSP and Client shared responsibilities and compliance requirements

Session 3: Implementing, Documenting and Supporting Controls

- Learn about required core documentation
- Understand the process of identifying gaps, tracking and prioritizing remediation
- Gain insights into best practices for collecting evidence

Session 4: Assessment Prep, Common Pitfalls, and Long-Term Support

- Discuss real-world pitfalls and case studies
- Learn the elements of a compliant incident response.
- Understand client support packages, including quarterly reviews, dashboards, gap assessments, and continuous monitoring

Meet the Instructor



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Podcast

Check out ["The Game Podcast"](#) to discover the latest trends and best practices in cybersecurity for MSPs from Pax8 security experts and featured expert guests. Stay up to date on the state of the channel and get insights, tips and recommendations on cutting-edge technology to protect your business.

Book

NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) for Information Systems Security by Bruce Brown

Dive into the core of cybersecurity frameworks with this Indispensable guide to NIST CSF.

Whitepaper

CIS Controls v8 Mapping to NIST CSF 2.0

This document contains mappings of the CIS Critical Security Controls (CIS Controls) v8 and CIS Safeguards to National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) 2.0.