

eBOOK

FedRAMP High Authorized: Nothing less guarantees ZTA compliance – Your data, our priority.

ZTA provides a modernization path before the attack begins: FedRAMP High Authorized validates that operational plan.

INTRODUCTION

In the federal government's effort to modernize to meet Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA), FedRAMP High stands as more than just a certification – it's the cornerstone of secure, efficient and transparent means to reach ZTA and provides a Cloud Smart approach to cloud adoption.

As agencies race to adopt cloud solutions to meet modernization goals, they face a pressing dilemma: how to safeguard the security of sensitive data in an era of increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. The stakes have never been higher, as agencies must protect controlled unclassified information (CUI) and safeguard critical operations to maintain public trust.

Enter [FedRAMP High](#), the federal gold standard for cloud security in commercial clouds, providing the highest level of validation for protecting CUI – meeting the standards that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) requires for government security controls and ZTA.

But why is FedRAMP High essential for government IT operations?

According to Don Maruca, federal vice president for Commvault, agencies are actively seeking proactive ways to identify risks earlier. However, the path to secure cloud adoption **presents three primary obstacles:**

- 01 Cost and budget constraints:** The slow process of securing funding for cutting-edge cybersecurity tools often leaves agencies struggling to adopt new technologies before they are outdated.
- 02 Distributed data:** As hybrid cloud environments grow, data now spans multiple platforms, regions and systems, making it harder to manage, secure and monitor.
- 03 Tool sprawl:** Many agencies rely on a tremendous amount of data center tools which complicate their ability to maintain a coherent security posture.

With FedRAMP High authorized cloud solutions, agencies can overcome these challenges by strengthening security, streamlining efficiency and creating greater transparency in their IT operations.



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Richard Breakiron

Senior Director, Federal Strategic Initiatives, Commvault

FORTIFYING CLOUD SECURITY

FedRAMP High is specifically designed to protect federal agencies from the growing and constantly evolving cyber threats they face every day. As Richard Breakiron, Commvault's senior director of federal strategic initiatives, emphasized, "FedRAMP High is critical to federal agencies, because it not only helps them organize their technology, processes and skills planning while industry partners meet and reinforce those same high standards and controls."

With over [421 stringent security controls](#), FedRAMP High helps cloud providers deliver top-tier protection for CUI and mission-critical systems. What truly sets FedRAMP High apart is its capacity to meet the federal government's unique security needs while fostering flexibility in cloud innovation.

Cloud SaaS providers seeking this certification must demonstrate their ability to defend against advanced threats, maintain data integrity, and continuously monitor their environments through independent audits that verify ongoing compliance.

"Agencies depend on technology systems to collect and share information with a wider audience and these systems need to be safeguarded to the highest security standards possible," said Maruca.

STREAMLINING CLOUD ADOPTION

Beyond security, FedRAMP High authorized solutions improve efficiency for agencies navigating the complexities of cloud adoption. With tight budgets and shrinking timelines, the federal government must optimize its resources.

With FedRAMP High, agencies can take advantage of a framework that reduces redundant efforts, accelerates approval times and ultimately drives cost savings.

One standout feature of FedRAMP High is the ability for agencies to reuse security authorizations across the government. Under the [2023 National Defense Authorization Act](#), if one agency approves a solution, other agencies must accept that assessment, eliminating redundant reviews.



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“Going through reviews and on-premises audits of the commercial SaaS offering is not insignificant,” Breakiron said. “The amount of money that has been invested by industry and by the government to make this program work is all aimed at gaining efficiencies by other agencies using the security approvals of initial agencies.”

By standardizing the authorization process, FedRAMP High Authorized tools also lower the cost of cloud adoption. Instead of spending months – or even years – evaluating new cloud solutions, agencies can rely on the FedRAMP High rigorous assessment. This process allows for potentially faster implementation of secure solutions, reducing both time-to-mission and financial burdens after an initial authorization is approved.

BUILDING TRUST THROUGH VISIBILITY

Federal agencies are responsible for safeguarding data while maintaining the public’s trust in its management. FedRAMP High Authorized solutions facilitate this by having cloud service providers operate transparently in their security practices and performance.

According to Maruca, FedRAMP High requires cloud providers to submit comprehensive documentation of security protocols, incident response strategies and data access controls. This visibility and transparency reassures federal agencies that the proper safeguards are in place for managing and securing data.

“FedRAMP High allows agencies to use cloud technologies and feel comfortable about the enhanced security and protection of federal information,” Maruca said.

Additionally, FedRAMP High mandates that CSPs implement continuous monitoring practices, real-time maintenance, and updates of security controls. This ongoing visibility into a provider’s security posture gives agencies a level of accountability that is critical in the ever-shifting cybersecurity landscape.

By enforcing these standards, FedRAMP High strengthens the trust between agencies and their cloud service providers, in order for security and transparency remain at the forefront of cloud adoption efforts.



COMMVAULT'S FEDRAMP HIGH AUTHORIZED CLOUD SAAS SERVICE OFFERING

For organizations considering a FedRAMP High Authorized solution, patience and dedication are essential. Successful implementation requires collaboration among stakeholders – from IT teams to leadership – to be aligned on necessary security protocols.

To Breakiron, FedRAMP High isn't just about technology – it's about having the right people, processes and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of security and compliance.

Commvault Cloud for Government has met the FedRAMP High Security protocols required by today's government. This distinction shows that Commvault Cloud for Government delivers top-tier security, protecting a vast array of workloads across multiple cloud environments while providing unmatched recovery capabilities in the event of a cyber incident.

"We can protect data comprehensively across the entire enterprise, going from on-premises all the way across multiple different types of clouds," Breakiron noted. "That is a strength that Commvault brings to its solutions to be able to deliver that capability and allow continuous business operations, so that when, not if, things go wrong, Commvault comes in to make sure that an agency's data and operations are protected and available for recovery."

Learn more about how Commvault Cloud for Government can help federal agencies confidently navigate the complexities of modern cybersecurity challenges.

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