

ACR2Basic Quick Start Guide

This program provides all of the information needed to conduct an annual risk assessment in accordance with Federal protocols. Risk assessment is required by the Gramm Leach Bliley Act (GLBA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS).

Overview - Risk assessment is a process that was largely developed in the environmental industry in the 1970s. In 2002, the National Institute of Standards and Technology produced a simplified version of risk assessment for use with “sensitive but unclassified” information stored by Federal agencies and other federally regulated organizations. The protocol is contained in NIST 800-30. NIST protocols are mandatory for organizations regulated under FISMA and are recommended under GLBA and HIPAA.

Summary Procedure - Protocol NIST 800-30 has a straightforward approach to assessing the overall risk environment of an information system.

- Step 1. Identify basic system risks.
- Step 2. Determine the likelihood of each risk and identify it as high, medium or low.
- Step 3. Determine the impact of each risk, and identify it as high, medium or low.
- Step 4 - Calculate a score for each risk. Risk scores range from 1 (low) to 100 (high).

Once the risks are characterized and scored, an action plan can be created.

Detailed Procedure - To create an ACR2Basic risk assessment it is necessary to connect to the Internet. It is recommended that users have a Windows™ PC using Windows 2000™ or later, a high speed Internet connection and a Windows Explorer™ 6 or later browser.

Go to the page www.acr2solutions.com.

The screenshot shows the homepage of Automated Compliance Reporting (ACR2). The header features the company logo, the tagline "Not Just Secure - Compliant!", and the slogan "Online Solutions for Today's Compliance Requirements". A navigation menu includes links for Home, About US, Products, Solutions, Strategic Partners, Events, Contact, Partner Login, and Samples. The main content area is titled "Compliance, Not Just Security" and is divided into three columns. The left column lists "Compliance by Industry" (Banking, Vehicle Dealers, Medical Practices), "Compliance by Regulation" (GLBA, HIPAA, FISMA), "Partner Security Vendors" (UTM), "Corporate Documents" (Privacy, Terms of Use), and "Testimonials". The middle column contains a central text block about ACR 2 Basic, a circular diagram with "ACR 2" in the center and "RA", "CR", "RG" around it, and a paragraph explaining the NIST standards and the ACR 2 process. The right column promotes "ACR2Basic and ACR2Enterprise Available!" and lists "Apply to become an Authorized Reseller".

Click on the “Partner Login” tab on the home page



This brings up the login screen

Type in your initial username and password. Note: both are case sensitive.

Then press the “Login” button.

This will bring up the account settings page.

The first time you enter the program, you must type in your current password and you must enter the email address at which you wish to receive your reports. Since initial passwords may in some cases be emailed, they are NOT SECURE and cannot be used for data entry. You MUST also change your password.

You may also change your username, and/or add verification information to your account.

After changing your email, password, and username you will be directed to login with the new information.

Thank you for changing your login information
(Username or Password)
Please login again.

After logging in with your new password, you will proceed to the account home page. This is a home page exclusively for your account.

The first time you enter the account home page you can change your settings or begin a Baseline Assessment. The first risk assessment of a calendar year is the Baseline, and all updated assessments will be compared to this Baseline. Annual risk assessments are mandatory under several sets of Federal regulations.

Clicking on the “Start a New Baseline Assessment” line brings up the Disclaimer page.

ACR2 has no control over data entry by our customers and cannot be responsible for erroneous or misleading statements.

ACR2Basic is a repackaging of NIST protocols and is offered in good faith, but no warranty is offered or possible.

Pressing the “I agree” bar will bring up the first data entry screen. This screen asks the 20 access control questions contained in the NIST risk assessment and minimum safeguards protocols. There are about 92 protocols referenced in the NIST risk management protocols.

Choices from the pull-down menu are “No” the safeguard is not in place, “Yes” the safeguard is in place and functioning, or “NA” is does not apply at this location.

AC-4	AC-4 INFORMATION FLOW ENFORCEMENT	No ▾
	The computer system(s) keeps control of which way information goes from system to system. It does this through programming. The group decides how this is to be done and what program to use, based on their security policy.	
	Securing the direction of information streams between systems is the responsibility of each group. They decide which systems are sources of information and which systems may receive that information.	
	Simple examples of this are found in firewall and router devices. Such devices use rule sets or make up settings that restrict system services.	
	Another way (less secure) is for computer systems to use labels on information, source, and destination objects to restrict how the information is shared.	
	<u>Official Language</u> <i>The information system enforces assigned authorizations for controlling the flow of information within the system and between interconnected systems in accordance with applicable policy. Information flow control policies and enforcement mechanisms are employed by organizations to control the flow of information between designated sources and destinations (e.g., individuals, devices) within information systems and between interconnected systems based on the characteristics of the information. Simple examples of flow control enforcement can be found in firewall and router devices that employ rule sets or establish configuration settings that restrict information system services or provide a packet filtering capability. Flow control enforcement can also be found in information systems that use explicit labels on information, source, and destination objects as the basis for flow control decisions (e.g., to control the release of certain types of information).</i>	

The language defining the safeguards is a 10th grade English paraphrase of the 18th grade NIST original language. The original NIST language is available for each safeguard by pressing the “official language” line at the end of each paraphrase. This is shown above for AC-4

After answering the last question in the AC section, you may press the “Save and Continue” button at the end of the section. This will move you to the next section of the data input.

	Note: The group uses the confirmation of the user and encryption to protect wireless access to the computer system. <u>Official Language</u>	
AC-19	AC-19 ACCESS CONTROL FOR PORTABLE AND MOBILE DEVICES	Yes ▾
	The group sets use limits and guidance for mobile devices.	
	The group records, watches, and controls mobile device access to group computer networks. Proper group officials authorize the use of mobile devices.	
	Mobile devices such as notebook computers, workstations, and PDA's are not allowed access to group networks without first meeting group security policies and procedures.	
	Security policies and procedures might include scanning the devices for malicious code, updating virus protection, and updating software.	
	The group conducts main computer system checks, and disables unnecessary hardware. A way to do this is to use removable hard drives or cryptography to protect information loaded on mobile devices.	
	<u>Official Language</u>	
AC-20	AC-20 PERSONALLY OWNED INFORMATION SYSTEMS	NA ▾
	The group restricts the use of personal computers that involve the processing, storage, or sending of federal information.	
	The group sets strict terms and conditions for the use of personal computers. The terms and conditions discuss at the least the types of programs accessed from personal computers. It will set the maximum security category of information that can be processed, stored, and sent.	
	The group restricts how users of the personal computers who do not have federal access will be kept from that information. The group restricts the use of virtual private networking (VPN) and firewalls.	
	The group strongly controls all programs and security installed on personal computers.	
	<u>Official Language</u>	
<input type="button" value="Save and Continue"/>		

This is a secure transmission and may take up to a minute. Please do not press “Save and Continue” more than once.

Automated Compliance Reporting
ACR2 - Basic

Welcome.

Main Menu
Account Settings
Log Out

Fill in the Form and click on the "Save Section" button at the bottom of the Form or jump to a specific category from the Popup.
Each section is saved incrementally and the report can be retrieved and finished at a later time by selecting 'Find and Complete Report' in the user login area.

AT

Question	Description	Answer
AT-1	<p>AT-1 SECURITY AWARENESS AND TRAINING POLICY AND PROCEDURES</p> <p>The group writes a security awareness and training policy. The policy will be given to all affected personnel and will be reviewed and updated several times a year.</p> <p>The security awareness and training policy states the purpose for the training, who will carry it out and what their jobs will entail.</p> <p>The group writes procedures that state how the policy will be carried out.</p> <p>The security awareness and training policy and procedures comply with all laws and rules for the group's industry.</p> <p>The policy can be made part of the general information security policy for the group.</p> <p>If the group needs further help, NIST Special Publications 800-16 and 800-50 can provide it.</p> <p><i>Official Language</i></p>	No

Completing a baseline risk assessment requires completion of all sections addressed by the NIST. However, they do not have to be done in one sitting or in sequential order. Any of the sections may be addressed by using the drop down menu at the start of each data entry section.

Automated Compliance Reporting
ACR2 - Basic

Welcome.

Main Menu
Account Settings
Log Out

Fill in the Form and click on the "Save Section" button at the bottom of the Form or jump to a specific category from the Popup.
Each section is saved incrementally and the report can be retrieved and finished at a later time by selecting 'Find and Complete Report' in the user login area.

AT

Question	Description	Answer
AT-1	<p>AT-1 SECURITY AWARENESS AND TRAINING POLICY AND PROCEDURES</p> <p>The group writes a security awareness and training policy. The policy will be given to all affected personnel and will be reviewed and updated several times a year.</p> <p>The security awareness and training policy states the purpose for the training, who will carry it out and what their jobs will entail.</p> <p>The group writes procedures that state how the policy will be carried out.</p> <p>The security awareness and training policy and procedures comply with all laws and rules for the group's industry.</p>	No

A full risk assessment takes about three hours in one of our seminars. Updating the risk assessment usually takes only a few minutes, and is often done monthly to prepare for Board meetings, particularly in banks.

To interrupt a data session, use the "Log Out" line in the upper right corner of each data entry page. When you log back in, whether an hour or a week later, a new option will appear on the login page.

At this point, you may complete your earlier risk assessment or begin a new baseline from scratch.



Assessment ID: 04-26-07-1177609902

Review

Selecting an uncompleted risk assessment brings up the screen to the right, where the program asks which group of questions you wish to address next. Clicking on a group brings up the data entry page. The selection is a secure transaction which may take up to a minute.

For each annual baseline report, all 18 of the sections of data input must be addressed. The default answer for each dropdown question is “no”, which is the most conservative option.

The last data entry section is slightly different from the others in that it includes numerical data on the intrusion detection and anti-virus performance of the system, if any. It is assumed that typically a Unified Threat Management (UTM) device such as the Fortigate FG-60 is used, but data from a combination of packet inspection firewall and desktop anti-virus could also be used. If no such protection is present, list the type of UTM as “none”.

The 'AC' group has 0 questions not reviewed
 The 'AT' group has 5 questions not reviewed
 The 'AU' group has 11 questions not reviewed
 The 'CA' group has 7 questions not reviewed
 The 'CM' group has 8 questions not reviewed
 The 'CP' group has 10 questions not reviewed
 The 'IA' group has 7 questions not reviewed
 The 'IR' group has 7 questions not reviewed
 The 'MA' group has 6 questions not reviewed
 The 'MP' group has 6 questions not reviewed
 The 'PE' group has 19 questions not reviewed
 The 'PL' group has 6 questions not reviewed
 The 'PS' group has 8 questions not reviewed
 The 'RA' group has 5 questions not reviewed
 The 'SA' group has 11 questions not reviewed
 The 'SC' group has 23 questions not reviewed
 The 'SI' group has 12 questions not reviewed
 The 'UTM Data' group has 11 questions not reviewed

[Review All Answers](#)

UTM Data

Please list the type of UTM used	<input type="text"/>
Please List number of days monitored by UTM in this dataset	<input type="text"/>
Is automatic protection enabled for IPS?	No
Please list total number of emergencies during this period	<input type="text"/>
Please list total number of alerts during this period	<input type="text"/>
Please list total number of warnings during this period	<input type="text"/>
Is automatic protection enabled for viruses?	No
Please list total number of virus infections detected during this period	<input type="text"/>
Please list the number of people with access to protected data	<input type="text"/>
Please list the number of people with access and less than one (1) year at this location	<input type="text"/>
Please list the number of login failures during this period	<input type="text"/>

Save and Review

Once all the data has been put into the system a report may be requested. All data input may be reviewed at any time prior to submittal.

Question Summary	Answer
IA-1 IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHENTICATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES	No
IA-2 USER IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHENTICATION	No
IA-3 DEVICE IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHENTICATION	No
IA-4 IDENTIFIER MANAGEMENT	No
IA-5 AUTHENTICATOR MANAGEMENT	No
IA-6 AUTHENTICATOR FEEDBACK	No
IA-7 CRYPTOGRAPHIC MODULE AUTHENTICATION	Yes

Once a report is requested, a PDF document set similar to that on the “Samples” page of the ACR 2 Solutions website is generated and emailed to the user of the software. All PDF reports are encrypted using the data entry login password.

Following data review, the “Finalize” button becomes active and

an initial baseline report is generated.

Once an initial baseline report is created, an update to that report may be created at any time in a calendar year from the initial report. Only one baseline is allowed per account, but updates may be created weekly.

Risk assessment is a difficult and poorly understood task for many organizations. By using the ACR2Basic software to automate the NIST protocols, any organization can have a simple and robust risk assessment process that meets or exceeds Federal standards.

Please email any questions or comments to info@acr2solutions.com.

