

cloudticity

Cloudticity HITRUST Inheritance Program

Cut cost, complexity, and timeline of HITRUST CSF certification

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Why HITRUST CSF Certification?

Every software as a service (SaaS) provider working in the healthcare space knows that few differentiators are more beneficial – or more challenging – than achieving HITRUST certification. While the certification process can be both exhaustive and invasive, being certified can no longer be viewed as an option, or even as an opportunity. In fact, it's your business's obligation to ensure marketability and security. Here is a summary of HITRUST advantages:



Maintain compliance

HITRUST is a framework for ensuring compliance with HIPAA and other industry, local, state, federal, and international regulations. In addition, HITRUST continues to update its framework to account for the increasing number of laws and regulatory boards, allowing you to stay on top of changing regulations and avoid penalties. The beauty of HITRUST is that it consolidates multiple compliance activities that would otherwise be separate tasks.



Secure data

Accreditation bodies such as HITRUST exist because healthcare organizations can't be too careful when handling PHI. The average medical record sells for ten times more than credit card information, making it crucial for organizations to maintain secure systems. In fact, 79% of breaches last year affected the healthcare industry. HITRUST certification ensures you always meet current, comprehensive cybersecurity standards, so you have the controls in place to withstand attacks and prevent a breach.



Gain a competitive advantage

Achieving HITRUST certification isn't easy. It's a high bar, so for businesses that attain it, certification is an appealing differentiator and selling point. In a security-conscious industry such as healthcare, customers want assurance that the highest security standards are being met and maintained. HITRUST certification provides the highest possible level of trust and peace of mind.



Grow your business

In today's digital healthcare landscape, HITRUST certification has gone from a nice-to-have to a requirement. From payers to providers to technology companies, covered entities and business associates of all sorts have begun to demand HITRUST certification of the organizations they do business with. In this context, it's difficult to imagine a successful third-party vendor that hasn't met HITRUST benchmarks. Becoming certified will not only help you acquire new customers, it will make you more sticky with current ones.

Hurdles to HITRUST

With all the rigor of the certification process, it's no wonder that meeting HITRUST guidelines is as daunting as it is differentiating. For organizations starting out on the path to certification, the sheer scope and scale of the time-line can be a risk in and of itself. No matter the size, specialties, or experience of your team, achieving HITRUST certification without an expert partner to guide you can be daunting.



Especially if your business attempts to take on HITRUST alone, the process can cost you immensely in terms of:

- **Time:** Without the guidance of experienced HITRUST experts, the certification process can take months to years.
- **Resources:** Certification requires substantial internal resources, distracting your team and diverting energy from innovation and growth.
- **Price/budget:** HITRUST is an investment with an immense ROI. However, that investment can balloon (and the benefits shrink accordingly) when inexperienced teams are charged with attaining certification, because invariably errors occur, timelines are extended, and valuable resources are wasted.

The Investment – the time, resources, and total cost of HITRUST

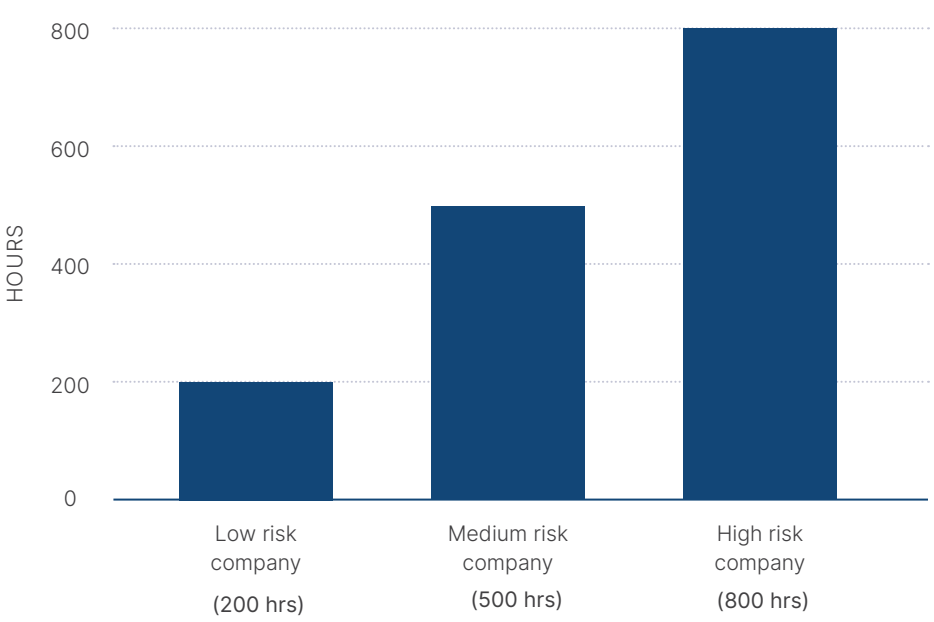
The total investment of HITRUST includes both direct costs to HITRUST as well as fees to your assessor firm.

You must also account for the time HITRUST will take you. The internal disruption of HITRUST is arguably the most costly expense!

The fee to HITRUST will be around $30K and the fee to your assessor firm will vary depending on the scope of your HITRUST assessment, anywhere from $40K-$100K.

At the beginning of the process, your assessor firm will issue a scoping exercise, which contains about 50 questions regarding how your organization interacts with sensitive data. Your answers here determine the scope of your HITRUST assessment, i.e. how lengthy it will be. A low risk company might only have 200 controls in it's assessment, while an organization deemed high risk can have as many as 800.

For the purpose of this analysis, we've assigned each control an average of one hour of working time. See below, hours required for HITRUST.



Hours required for HITRUST

The Cloud Accelerates HITRUST

To be clear, there are no easy routes to HITRUST certification. That's why it's so important to the industry and valuable to organizations. However, there are ways to accelerate the certification process while reducing complexity and burden on your organization.

One way is to move to a public cloud, like Amazon Web Services (AWS) or Microsoft Azure. Since compliance is a shared responsibility with your organization and your cloud service provider (CSP), using public cloud infrastructure allows you to inherit many HITRUST controls that you would otherwise have to spend hours attesting to. For example, one HITRUST control requires least privilege access to the data center where protected health information (PHI) is stored. When your organization doesn't own the physical infrastructure it can't be responsible for this control. Instead, your organization inherits attestation to this control via your CSP.

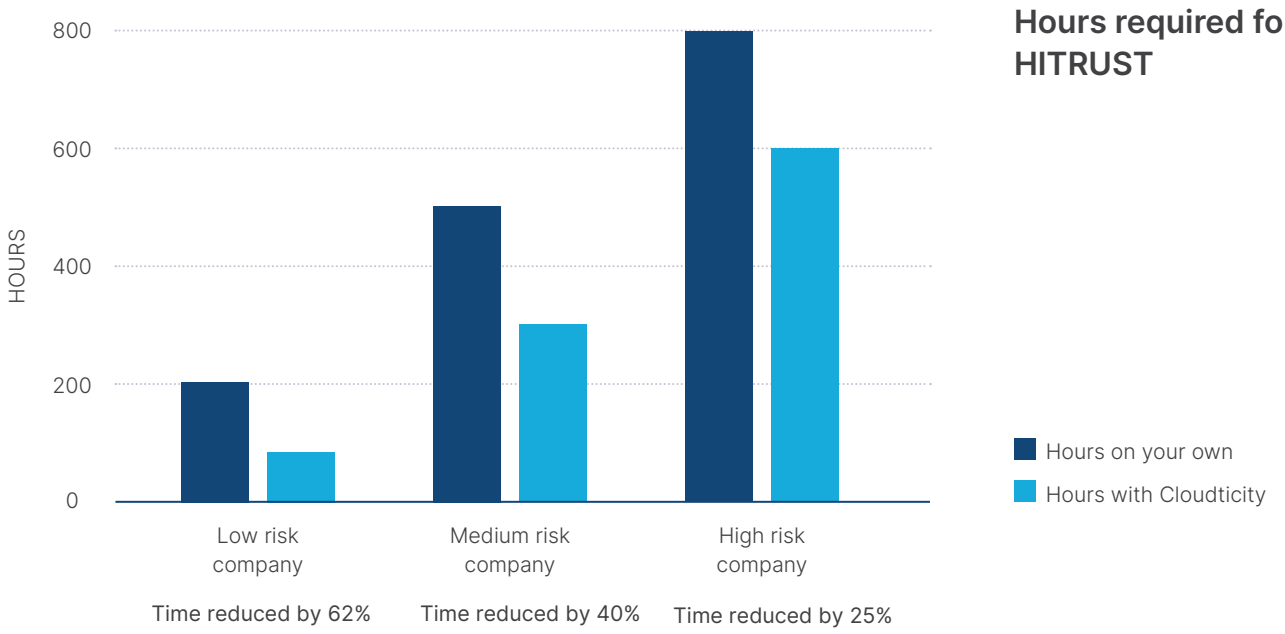
Along with inheritable controls there are also shared controls which are partially inheritable. For example, one control states that you must have anti-malware or anti-spyware deployed on end-user devices. The CSP is responsible for installing endpoint security on the services it delivers while your organization is respon-sible for this control in regards to its own endpoints, so you partially inherit this control from the CSP.

The cloud also makes it easier for you to maintain your HITRUST status, as public cloud allows you to use code to automate infrastructure management and maintain alignment with specific controls tied to HITRUST Certification. That can't be done in a physical data center environment, where those issues have to be addressed manually.

Cloudticity HITRUST Inheritance Program – accelerate your path to HITRUST

Because Cloudticity manages the cloud infrastructure, partnering with Cloudticity allows you to inherit even more controls, further reducing the time and resource investment needed to complete the HITRUST process.

When you become a Cloudticity managed service provider (MSP) customer you can automatically take advantage of the program, giving you access to 357 inheritable and partially inheritable controls. For most companies, this will reduce the work needed by 123.5 to 202 hours, which translates to 62% time savings for a low risk company, 40% time savings for a medium risk company, and 25% time savings for a high risk company. (See below).



Take the Headache Out of HITRUST

Cloudticity also helps you save time and money by providing out-of-the-box policy enforcement solutions that you otherwise would have to procure and purchase yourself. In addition, Cloudticity streamlines your journey by providing expertise, so you can avoid wasting time due to inexperience or errors.

Get on the Fast Track to HITRUST

HITRUST Certification can put your business ahead, but obtaining it isn't meant to be easy. However, with Cloudticity, the finish line isn't so far away. Partnering with Cloudticity allows you to streamline the journey by:

- Inheriting and partially inheriting up to 357 controls
- Gaining access to out-of-the-box policy enforcement tools
- Leveraging guidance from our HITRUST experts

Reduce your HITRUST timeline by 25-62% with Cloudticity managed services!

To learn more about how we can work together to reduce the cost and timeline of HITRUST Certification, reach out to sales@cloudticity.com or schedule a free consultation.



Connect with a Cloudticity expert


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Ready To Get On
The Fast Track To HITRUST?
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