

Summary

A research organization invested in an out-of-the-box Cloud enclave for CMMC compliance but didn't fully consider how it would impact day-to-day business operations. As a result, the organization struggled to get its employees adjusted to the changes and was unsure if its CUI was being transmitted outside of the enclave.

SP6 was able to significantly:

- ✓ Uncover unknown CUI transmission through an in-depth discovery into the people, processes, and technologies that were interacting with CUI.
- ✓ Provide data-driven guidance on how to better leverage Cloud technology alongside on-premises software and equipment.
- ✓ Increase the ROI of compliance investments by mapping them to business risk and company objectives.

CASE STUDY

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY CUI DATA MAPPING SERVICE (2)



SYSTEMS MADE
Secure. Compliant. Resilient.

The Problem

This research organization historically relied on on-premises solutions to conduct its operations. To achieve CMMC compliance, the organization was told that restricting its CUI to a Cloud enclave would be the easiest, most efficient option. The client established the enclave within the Cloud Service Provider (CSP) solution.

While this investment could have been successful, the client failed to **fully analyze how siphoning off its CUI to the Cloud, with browser access only, would impact its employees.** Many day-to-day operations – such as those that required desktop applications or specialized research software – were interrupted, leading to:

- Dissatisfied employees that were unable to efficiently do their jobs
- An overwhelming dollar amount to move day-to-day operations into the CSP utilizing Virtual Desktop Infrastructures (VDIs), on top of the amount already invested
- Hesitation in presenting more investment requests to leadership
- Uncertainty and confusion surrounding the location and flow of CUI
- Lack of confidence in their existing SPRS score and CMMC readiness

Solution

The organization turned to SP6 for guidance on mapping out its CUI and determining if the Cloud enclave was feasible long term. **SP6's Certified CMMC Professionals and Assessors performed a CUI Data Mapping exercise that focused on four main goals:**

- Tracing the storage and transmission of CUI across the organization
- Understanding the practical implementation of the CSP enclave
- Analyzing how well the method integrated with existing business operations
- Detailing data-backed business justification for different computing approaches (Cloud, hybrid, and on-prem)


SP6 took a **highly individualized approach** to the CUI Data Mapping exercise, interviewing key stakeholders and conducting a thorough analysis to identify the effectiveness of the CSP enclave. SP6 also considered feedback from end users to determine if the CSP enclave provided a reasonable and secure way to handle CUI.


Continued

Solution, *continued*

Through this comprehensive approach, SP6 aimed to determine if the CSP enclave method could be sustainable and effective in maintaining compliance **while supporting the organization's operational goals.**

Customer Feedback

 “This advisor is one of my top 10 consultants that I’ve worked with in the past 15 years.”

 “Our SP6 advisor exceeded my expectations in every way. He was friendly, professional, efficient, and knowledgeable.”

Results

After conducting its CUI Data Mapping exercise, SP6 was able to:

- **Discover that end users were not utilizing the enclave as intended by the deployment vendor, preventing a bombshell surprise during a CMMC Assessment Scope Validation.**
 - SP6 determined that end users were transmitting CUI from the enclave and processing CUI on out-of-scope systems. Knowledge of this expanded the scope of the CUI environment up to 100%.
- **Reduce the cost of Cloud investments by switching to a more efficient hybrid approach.**
 - By thoroughly detailing the flow of CUI across all on-premises and Cloud locations – as well as collecting feedback from end users – SP6 allowed the organization to better understand its Cloud enclave investment as it relates to business operations and make an informed decision on whether this was the best way to proceed based on cost and risk.
- **Reduce confusion and uncertainty by clearly defining where CUI was stored, processed, and transmitted within the organization.**
 - SP6 mapped out the flow of CUI through a data-flow diagram, system boundary diagram, and asset categorization, allowing the client to better understand which areas of the organization would require protection.
- **Strengthen the organization's security and compliance posture and provide the organization's leadership with confidence in CMMC readiness.**
 - Ensuring that all CUI was accounted for allowed the organization and its leadership to more confidently proceed with compliance decisions and investments.

About SP6

SP6 is a niche services firm with expertise in both Security Analytics and Cybersecurity Compliance. In Security Analytics, SP6 has one of North America's largest and most competent Splunk services teams in North America. SP6 offers both project-based Professional Services and the Value Acceleration Program for Splunk, a fractional co-management model. In the field of Cybersecurity Compliance, SP6 provides consulting expertise with NIST security frameworks such as NIST CSF, 800-171 and 800-53. These services include security and compliance gap assessments, remediation advisement around missing or failed security controls, outsourced Compliance as a Service, and Continuous Controls Monitoring through our ASCERA software product.