Key Challenges Facing Quotient's Federal Government Clients

Mission: To independently guide and enable National Educational Assessment.

Certification and Accreditation

"We require an Authority to Operate and have never had one before."

Case Study: National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB)

The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) is an independent Federal agency whose mission is to develop guidelines and standards to better assess our nation's educational progress. The Governing Board's members are geographically disparate, which makes the nagb.org and nagb.gov websites critical to effective distribution of Board member materials. The National Assessment Governing Board's Web Content Management System (WCMS) had never undergone the certification and accreditation process required to obtain an ATO, had no guidance from other agencies, and as a small agency had never issued an ATO.

PROBLEM WAS:

- All Federal information systems must undergo the certification and accreditation process as required by FISMA and detailed by NIST.
- No prior NAGB WCMS had undergone C&A to obtain an ATO.
- Processes, procedures, and other relevant documentation was not compiled in the FedRAMP format.
- Some security protections were not built into custom web applications.
- No dedicated CSO at NAGB

SOLVED BY:

- Implementing security controls onto the OS at installation through scripted baseline.
- Developing additional security features for the web application.
- Applying expert analysis to NIST 800-53 rev 4 requirements and mapping them to a baseline and appropriate technical controls.

RESULTS WERE:

- Increased compliance.
- Deployed continuous monitoring to safeguard the NAGB WCMS.
- Developed and successfully tested disaster recovery procedures.
- Ensured use of FIPS algorithms.
- Improved custom web application security.
- Automated measures put in place to log, screen, and block malicious traffic.

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