

Certification and Accreditation Methodology

A BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR INFORMATION SECURITY



Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of the Chief Information Officer

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Record of Changes

Version	Release Date	Summary of Changes

Introduction

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of the Chief Information (OCIO) has contracted with GiniCorp to complete certain tasks associated with achieving Certification and Accreditation (C&A) for 178 HUD Information Technology (IT) systems, 32 of which have been deemed “Major” or “Exhibit 300” systems.

This document and its hyperlinked companion documents comprise Contract Task 1 Deliverable 6, or the Final version of the HUD Methodology which will provide the framework to guide the activities to achieve C&A finalization.

The HUD C&A Methodology is based the results of an earlier project at the US Department of Transportation (DOT) who graciously provided their documentation to HUD to provide the basis of this document.

The changes made to the DOT documentation generally follow the progression from the guidance found in NIST 800-26 “Security Self-Assessment Guide for Information Technology Systems” (November, 2001) to the new final version of NIST 800-53 “Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems,” (February, 2005) which is the current senior guidance on C&A methodology. The following paragraphs list and briefly describe the companion documents which together comprise the “Methodology:”

HUD C&A Process Guide

Provides overall guidance on HUD’s certification and accreditation process.

[Link to the file \(same directory\)](#)

HUD IT System C&A Inventory Guide

Documents Department guidance on the identification, categorization, and inventory of HUD IT systems for the purpose of their certification and accreditation.

[Link to the file \(same directory\)](#)

HUD Security Plan Template

Provides a work aid to assist users in the development of HUD-approved system security plans that that comply with HUD’s certification and accreditation methodology.

[Link to the file \(same directory\)](#)

HUD Risk Assessment Template

Provides a work aid to assist users in the performance and documentation of HUD-approved risk assessments that comply with HUD’s certification and accreditation methodology.

[Link to the file \(same directory\)](#)

HUD ST&E Template

Provides a tool to assist users in the performance and documentation of certification testing of HUD IT systems that comply with HUD's certification and accreditation methodology.

[Link to the file \(same directory\)](#)

HUD POA&M Template

Provides the standard format for documentation of plans of action and milestones that comply with HUD's certification and accreditation methodology.

[Link to the file \(same directory\)](#)

HUD MSB Assessment Template

Provides a tool for conducting and documenting the results of minimum security baseline assessments of HUD IT systems that comply with HUD's certification and accreditation methodology.

[Link to the file \(same directory\)](#)

HUD C&A Statement Template

Provides a format for documenting statements by certification and accreditation officials that comply with HUD's certification and accreditation methodology.

[Link to the file \(same directory\)](#)