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Bridging the Gaps in the DoD Security Framework

As we are witnessing a significant upheaval in cyber incidents globally, there's no denying that cybersecurity has always been the fundamental prerequisite for the DoD. According to the recent headlines, the U.S. State Department was reportedly hit by a cyberattack and the Department of Defense Cyber Command raised concerns over the possible serious breaches to follow. While most systems and networks at the Department of Defense (DoD) are potentially sealed from cybercriminals, a major part of data breaches occurs through third-party vendors in the larger DoD contractor ecosystem.

To prevent this gap in the security framework, DoD rolled out a new framework to stave off emerging threats and create a secure contractor ecosystem, protecting Federal Contract Information and Controlled Unclassified Data. It mandates over 300,000 companies—that make up the Defense Industrial Base (DIB) and DoD supply chain—to upscale their IT security and comply with Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) by 2025. Herein lies the real problem!

The new framework prevents contractors from self-assessing and controlling cybersecurity internally; instead, a certified CMMC Third-Party Assessor Organization (C3PAO) is required to license their organization.



California-based Brea Networks, a Registered Provider Organization (RPO), specializes in assisting DoD contractors in implementing CMMC standards in an agile and efficient manner.

Brea Networks is a leading IT Services company and a Managed Service Provider (MSP) that offers industry-best services to help meet clients' varying needs. The company's prominent position in the space is the result of Humberto Correa's in-depth industry expertise that provide an extra edge to be competitive. Being one among the 2000 CMMC Registered Practitioners in the U.S.

Correa pushed the boundaries of Brea Networks to become one of the country's RPOs. "As we're certified ready as a level 2 CMMC organization, we naturally become the partner of choice for DoD contractors who need to comply with CMMC regulations," says Correa, the Founder and President of Brea Networks.

When it comes to customer onboarding, Brea Networks adopts a laborative model and works as a part of their team to deliver the best solutions based on their needs, capabilities, and resources. A typical client engagement begins with the company understanding



their requirements and implementing a set of tools required for them to meet CMMC standards. From enabling two-factor authentication, password management, and mobile device management, enhancing firewalls, hardware, and Wi-Fi security, performing data encryption and cloud backups, managing IoT devices, and protecting from malware and viruses, the company offers a suite of services. Brea Networks also provides clients with cameras manufactured in the U.S., moves their website to US-based vendors, and implements Microsoft GCC high that offers a high level of security—fulfilling their CMMC compliance needs.

Not just that, Brea Networks goes the extra mile to help clients create policies, manage legal paperwork, ongoing compliance, and remediation, as well as prepare reports and documentation. The company provides complete network documentation—hardware, software, patches, and multiple layered network maps—as required by CMMC and NIST SP 800-171. It also performs system vulnerability and risk assessments to meet compliance controls for risk assessment, measurement, and path to remediation. “We also provide

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CMMC Level-2 System Security Plan, SOP’s to manage information security risk, Done-For-You IT Use Policies, Incident Response Plan, Data Destruction Policy, Done-For-You CUI media access log, and physical premise security control audit,” says Correa.

Having such a robust line of services and capabilities, Brea Networks successfully serves eight major contractors in the Aerospace, Chemical, Nuclear, and manufacturing arena. Correa recalls their recent collaboration with a client that was getting ready to be audited due to its US Army customer. At that time, the client was in search of a reliable CMMC consultant RPO organization in order for them to quickly and efficiently prove their NIST800-171 compliance and thereby begin working with the Army. To this end, Brea Networks helped them implement NIST 800-171 and CMMC standards in just 60 days as opposed to its competitors, who usually take six to 12 months. As a result, the client was able to have a successful collaboration with their Army partner.

Such instances of success stem from Brea Networks’ commitment to top-quality professionalism, fully documented projects, constant communication, excellent collaboration tools, and premium quality services. Moving along the same lines, the company is planning to expand its footprints to 20 more cities that have the most CMMC government contractors. Brea Networks has recently opened a call center in Toronto to offer 24/7 support to its clientele, including Security Operations Center. “We are now on a mission to help DoD contractors augment their security parameters, complying with CMMC regulations by 2025 and thereby gaining business continuity with government entities,” concludes Correa.