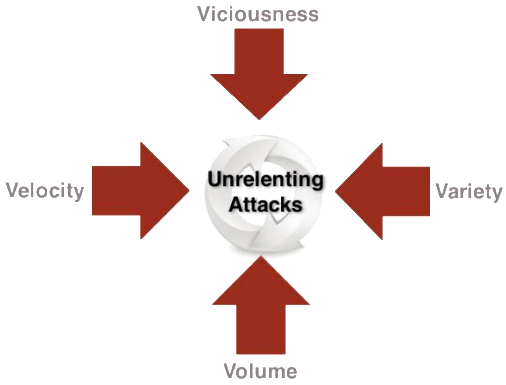
Cyber-Framework Integration (CyFI): An Intuitive Perspective

The Threats

Organizations, both Government and private, are facing unprecedented cyber security threats that can be characterized by their:

- *Velocity*—the speed by which new attacks are developed and propagate
- *Volume*—the increase in cyber-attacks over the past decade has been exponential
- *Variety*—the combination of modes and vectors of cyber attacks
- *Viciousness*—there is a clear intent on the part of attackers to disrupt, damage, or destroy, and they are Unrelenting.



The Challenges

Responding effectively to these threats presents significant management challenges.

- *Persistence of the Threat*—attacks are unrelenting and continually evolving
- *Complexity of the Solutions*—there are a myriad of threat and technology specific responses
- *Understanding the Risk*—how to make informed decisions that balance risk with resource allocation
- *Collaboration*—the need to Work across organizational boundaries to share information and solutions
- *Workforce*—how to develop an engaged, trained and responsive team

The NIST Frameworks

The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1997 gave NIST the job of coordinating government's development and use of technical standards and aligning these activities with the private sector. The need for coordination within and across sectors continues to grow as standards underpin the performance of today's complex technologies and their ability to connect and work together.

To address these cyber security requirements, NIST has developed several frameworks that provide context and guidance. These include the:

- *Cyber Security Framework (CSF)*
- *Risk Management Framework (RMF)*
- *Federal Identity Credential and Access Management Framework (FICAM)*
- *Computer Incident Response Framework* (CIRF)

Each of these frameworks serves a specific purpose and they often overlap, however, they all have a common underpinning of security controls which can be found in *NIST SP800-53 Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations.* What they require to be used effectively is a coordinating mechanism; namely, governance.

A Governance Framework

IT governance integrates and institutionalizes good practices to ensure that the enterprise's IT supports the business objectives. IT governance enables the enterprise to take full advantage of its information, thereby maximizing benefits, capitalizing on opportunities and gaining competitive advantage.

Control Objectives for Information and related Technology (COBIT®) provides good practices across a domain and process framework and presents activities

in a manageable and logical structure.

When used as an organizing mechanism, it allows for the integration of cyber frameworks and related guidance into an easily communicated and understood structure.

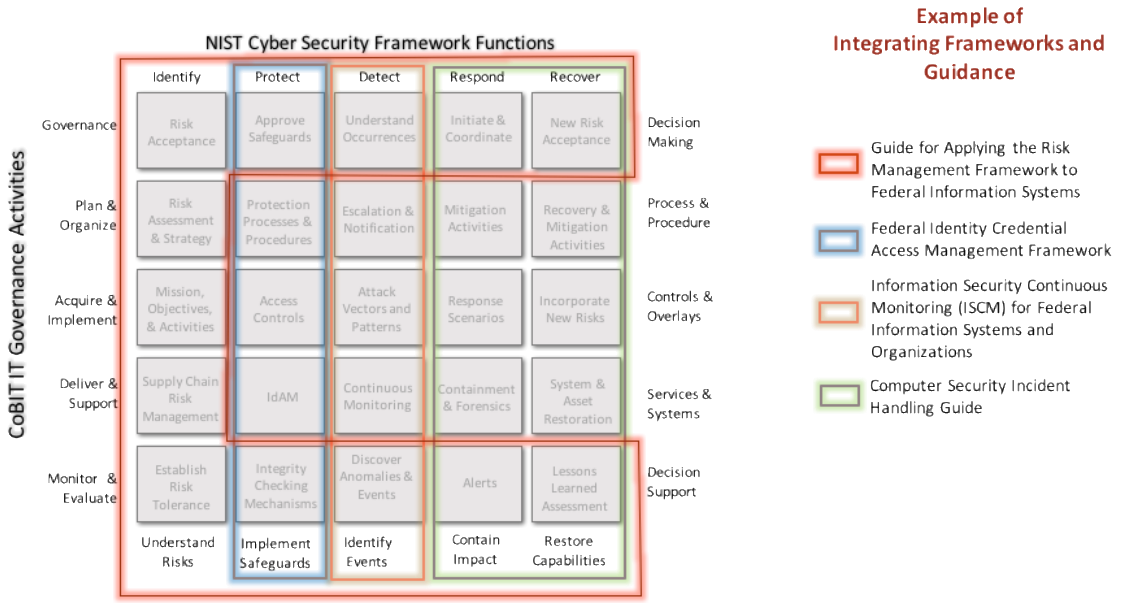
The CyFI Approach

Intuitive takes a "Top Down" and "Bottoms Up" approach and has created a Framework of Frameworks to integrate the various guidance documents into a consistent holistic view. The "Top Down" approach uses the NIST Cyber-Security Framework to provide a lifecycle context and a "Bottoms Up" approach via the well-defined security controls and overlays of NIST SP800-53 and related guidance.

CyFI enables the **assessment** of security posture and an **analysis** of risks, and the resources allocated to address them. This approach provides a portfolio view that can be used to **align** and **act** on initiatives to reduce risks and improve the organizations security posture.

Conclusion

Intuitive's CyFI integrates all of these components to offer the Government an understandable governance structure and approach to making informed decisions about cyber risks. By understanding the threat, challenges, and frameworks, Government Managers can make informed strategic decisions that will advance their respective Agency's missions while protecting their resources.



Contact

12930 Worldgate Dr., Suite 300
Herndon, VA 20170
571.346.3000
info@intuitive.it

intuitive.it
FOCUSED SOLUTIONS