



# HITRUST Authorized Internal Assessors Overview of Benefits



The HITRUST Authorized Internal Assessor function was created to provide organizations more flexibility on HITRUST Assessments. This new function is optional and offers multiple benefits to organizations considering a HITRUST Assessment, as well as the Authorized External Assessors they work with to complete these Assessments.

## DEFINITIONS:

**Authorized Internal Assessor Function** – The function of performing internal HITRUST testing. This function is optional for organizations and can be used to test as little or as much as desired.

**Internal Assessor** – The actual individual performing internal HITRUST testing. At least two Internal Assessors are required to act as the Authorized Internal Assessor Function. An Internal Assessor can be an internal or external resource.

A complete overview of the expectations and requirements of HITRUST Authorized Internal Assessor program is available in the overview document, found [here](#).

HITRUST encourages all organizations to consult with their External Assessor to establish expectations on work products.

## Benefits to the Organization



### Increased Efficiencies

Duplicative documentation requests and inquiries of control owners are minimized, saving time on the HITRUST Assessment process. Additionally, Internal Assessors can leverage existing knowledge of the internal control environment.



### More Flexibility

The Internal Assessor function is completely optional - organizations can now choose whether to continue using only an Authorized External Assessor or also leverage Authorized Internal Assessors.



### Potential Cost Savings

Internal Assessors have the ability to perform up to half of the control requirements in a HITRUST Assessment, translating into savings on External Assessor consulting fees for controls testing.



## Which Organizations Should Consider Implementing the Internal Assessor Role?

Organizations that meet the objectivity requirements of a non-direct-report hierarchy would be ideal candidates for leveraging internal resources for the Internal Assessor role. Additionally, organizations that already do robust testing in advance of their HITRUST Validated Assessment, or organizations that can benefit from advance testing are ideal candidates. Smaller organizations that do not already have an in-house internal audit team or similar function may prefer to continue using Authorized External Assessors exclusively.

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*Please note: Since reliance on the work of Internal Assessors is up to the discretion of the Authorized External Assessor, it is important for organizations to have a discussion with their External Assessor prior to implementing a formal process around the Internal Assessor function.*

*This document is a summary sheet for quick reference only. Please refer to the [HITRUST Authorized Internal Assessors General Information and How to Get Started](#) document for full details and requirements.*