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CYBER EXECUTIVE ORDER DRIVES INCREASED CDM IMPORTANCE AND INITIATIVES, 67 PERCENT OF CDM STAKEHOLDERS SAY

Cyber pros see improved Federal cyber resilience due to the CDM program

Alexandria, Va., May 16, 2022 – Ninety-three percent of Federal and industry Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) stakeholders say the CDM Program has improved Federal cyber resilience in the past year, according to *CDM: The Multitool in Your Cyber Kit*, a new study from [MeriTalk](#), a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT.

Following the release of the May 2021 Cybersecurity Executive Order (EO), government agencies have seen an increase in CDM initiatives such as endpoint detection and response (EDR); network security and management; and asset management. Yet less than one third of Federal cyber professionals would grade their use of and participation in CDM an “A.” There is strong consensus for continued positive change, given the program’s perceived importance to the success of EDR, threat-hunting environments, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) Binding Operational Directive 22-01.

CDM Improving Cyber Resilience

CDM is driving cyber resilience with nearly all experiencing benefits over the past year, including: improved visibility and situational awareness, improved ability to automatically identify assets, and improved recording accuracy. Additionally, the outlook for CDM priorities has shifted since the implementation of the Cyber EO, with 84 percent reporting CDM is critical to Cyber EO compliance. However, 68 percent of stakeholders still believe the Federal government is not talking about the CDM program enough.

The Office of Management and Budget’s latest Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) guidance says CISA will review the CDM program and lessons learned to improve the program and implementation in FY2022. During the audit, respondents noted the CDM Program Management Office should focus on improving data quality, operationalizing dashboards across the enterprise, increasing use of automation, and implementing Dashboards-as-a-Service.

“The CDM Program’s importance was emphasized by the Cyber EO, and is foundational to EO compliance,” said Caroline Boyd, principal, government programs, MeriTalk. “Our research highlights agencies need for increased focus on CDM adoption which remains integral to improving our nation’s cybersecurity posture.”

CDM Dashboard Implementation

Eighty-nine percent of CDM stakeholders believe Federal agencies are just scratching the surface of the CDM dashboards’ potential. For example, 55 percent of Feds have incorporated CDM data feeds beyond the dashboard into their own risk management process; another 36 percent are actively working on this. Additionally, 57 percent of respondents said they’ve used CDM to answer a question previously answered by a human.

When asked what agencies need to better integrate and operationalize CDM dashboard data across their existing security operations, improved integration with other cyber efforts like zero trust, more consistent funding, and standardized data collection and aggregation topped the list.

CDM: The Multitool in Your Cyber Kit is based on an online survey of 100 Federal civilian government IT managers and industry stakeholders familiar with their agency’s current CDM adoption efforts or the efforts of the Federal agencies they support, conducted in March 2022. The study is underwritten by CyberArk, Ping Identity, and SteelCloud. The report has a margin of error of ± 9.78 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. To download the full report, please visit <https://www.meritalk.com/study/cdm-the-multitool/>.

About MeriTalk

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