



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ADVISORY

Preparing for an IRAP Assessment

Advisory services for the Australian public sector, from scoping and gap analysis through documentation, assessment support, and ongoing ISM alignment.

FRAMEWORK

**Information Security
Manual**

GOVERNED BY

**Australian Signals
Directorate**

ALSO COVERED

**Essential Eight · HCF ·
SoCI**



What is IRAP?

The Infosec Registered Assessors Program (IRAP), governed by the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD), provides a framework for assessing the security of cloud systems used by the Australian Government.

Decentralized and flexible

IRAP is not a centrally managed authorization program. No sponsor is required, ASD-endorsed IRAP assessors perform assessments, consumer agencies review results, and there is no centralized marketplace of assessed products.

Independent assessments

IRAP assessors evaluate systems but do not certify, accredit, or endorse them. Risk decisions are made by the consumer agency.

Risk-based evaluation

IRAP focuses on how the Information Security Manual (ISM) is implemented and the residual risk to customer data, allowing agencies to make informed decisions based on their own risk tolerance.

38North Security's IRAP Services

38North Security offers deep expertise in Australian public sector security requirements, built on decades of experience and direct contributions to the ASD.

With this deep-rooted knowledge, we ensure your IRAP journey is streamlined, strategic, and grounded in how the ISM is actually applied by the agencies reviewing your system.

HOW WE ENGAGE

Assessor engaged early

An independent IRAP assessor is brought in at the start, with independence preserved throughout.

Scope settled first

Boundaries and sovereignty questions are resolved before fieldwork begins, not during it.

Aligned to current ISM

Work tracks the latest Australian security requirements, including quarterly ISM updates.

WHERE THE EXPERTISE COMES FROM

Our President and Founder, Matt Earley, a former ASD official, helped shape the very standards upon which IRAP is built.

Matt Earley · President and Founder, 38North Security

IRAP Services

Six services across the full arc of an IRAP engagement, from establishing scope through maintaining alignment after the assessment is complete.

01 Gap Analysis

We evaluate your security controls against ISM requirements, define and scope system boundaries, lead technical workshops to review architecture and design, and deliver a prioritized, actionable roadmap, ensuring your environment is ready for assessment by an IRAP assessor.

Boundary definition

Architecture workshops

Prioritized roadmap

02 Implementation and Remediation

If gaps are identified, our engineering team provides targeted technical solutions to enhance your security posture and shorten the path to an IRAP assessment.

03 Package Development

We develop a complete documentation package, leveraging technical interviews and existing artifacts to produce key deliverables, ensuring readiness for assessment and supporting agency review.

- System Security Plan and Annex
- Security plans and policies

IRAP Services

04 Early Assessor Engagement

We partner with IRAP assessors early in the process to evaluate your system's alignment with ISM requirements. If sufficient confidence is established, the assessor may issue a letter describing the work completed to date.

WHAT THE LETTER IS NOT

It does not represent a completed IRAP assessment and confers no ASD approval.

05 Assessment

An IRAP assessor performs an in-depth evaluation of your security controls, including documentation review, evidence collection, and stakeholder interviews, culminating in a formal IRAP Assessment Report that outlines implementation status and residual risks to demonstrate alignment with ISM requirements.

06 Continuous Monitoring

Post-assessment, we assist in maintaining up-to-date documentation and security controls to stay aligned with quarterly ISM updates and any changes published by ASD.

Gap
Analysis

Implementation
& Remediation

Package
Development

Early Assessor
Engagement

Assessment

Continuous
Monitoring

The six services, in sequence.

Why Choose 38North Security?

01

Experienced Team

Led by a senior advisory team with deep Australian government security experience, 38North Security brings insight and continuity across the ISM and the IRAP process.

02

Integrated Standards Support

Our engagement includes alignment with the interrelated standards listed below, key to expanding your market reach into both Government and the private sector.

03

Ongoing Partnership

We are committed to long-term support beyond IRAP, working Australian hours as you scale within the region.

04

Deep IRAP Experience

We are one of the few US-based firms with deep IRAP advisory experience, delivered by senior practitioners who work Australian hours.

STANDARDS WE ALIGN TO ALONGSIDE THE ISM

Essential Eight

ASD's baseline mitigation strategies.

Hosting Certification Framework

Certified hosting for government workloads.

SoCI

Security of Critical Infrastructure obligations.

Let's Talk IRAP

Partner with 38North Security to prepare for your IRAP assessment and open opportunities in the Australian government and private sector.

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Trust Us to Get You There.

