

Joint Authorization Board (JAB)

REPORT OBJECTIVES:

1. What is the JAB?
2. What do they do?
3. What the rules/chances of getting through the JAB?
4. Understanding the complexities

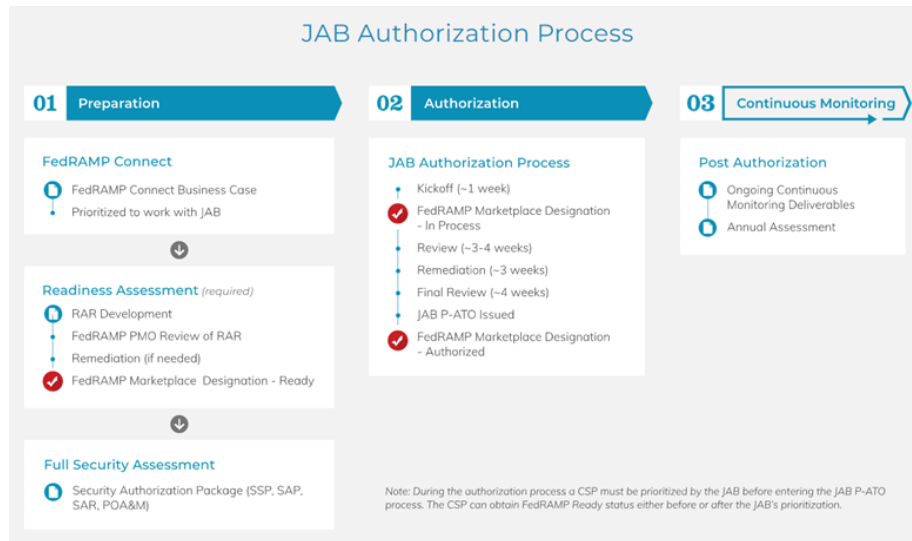
WHAT IS THE JOINT AUTHORIZATION BOARD (JAB)?

The JAB is the primary governing body for FedRAMP and consists of the Chief Information Officers from the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and General Services Administration (GSA). The JAB selects approximately 12 cloud products a year to work with for a JAB Provisional Authority to Operate (P-ATO). Additionally, the JAB is responsible for performing the continuous monitoring for all JAB Authorized cloud products.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

The JAB is responsible for:

- Defining and regularly updating the FedRAMP security authorization requirements
- Approving accreditation criteria for Third Party Assessment Organizations (3PAOs)
- Reviewing authorization packages for cloud services based on the priority queue
- Granting provisional authorizations for cloud services that can be used as an initial approval that Executive departments and agencies leverage in granting security authorizations and an accompanying Authority to Operate (ATO) for use
- Ensuring that provisional authorizations are reviewed and updated regularly and notify Executive departments and agencies of any changes to provisional authorizations including removal of such authorizations
- Establishing and publishing priority queue requirements for authorization package reviews



WHAT ARE THE RULES/CHANCES OF GETTING THROUGH THE JAB?

Due to limited time and resources, the JAB can only prioritize around 12 CSOs each year on average. The JAB evaluates these CSOs through a process called FedRAMP Connect. During this process, Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) interested in working with the JAB are required to submit a “Business Case” to info@fedramp.gov comprised of a simple PDF form and Excel worksheet gathering demand information for their CSO. This “Business Case” submission provides a normalized view for comparison of CSOs and allows for consistent and fair reviews. The JAB then makes selections based on a predetermined set of prioritization criteria.

The prioritization criteria consist of three categories: Demand, FedRAMP Ready, and Preferred Characteristics.

1) Demand for CSP Product

Demand is the primary criteria for prioritization and the JAB requires a CSP to provide verification of current or potential demand from the equivalent of six unique federal agency customers at minimum.

The CSP can illustrate current or potential demand for their product through the following established demand categories:

DEMAND CATEGORY	MEASURE OF DEMAND
Current Agency Use	Identify existing unique federal agency customers
Indirect Demand	Provide evidence of FedRAMP authorized cloud services that use the service and the number of FedRAMP ATOs issued for that FedRAMP CSO
Potential Agency Use	Provide justification for projected adoption within 12 months of ATO; examples of how a CSP could provide justification include (but are not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal customers using your on-premise or commercial version that are interested in moving to your CSO or government version Government RFIs, RFQs, RFPs, and pending awards Business capture plan provided by CSP grounded by agency needs and spend Use by State, Local, Tribal, or Territorial Governments Use by Federally Funded Research Centers (FFRDCs) and Labs
OMB Policy / Priorities / Shared Services	Defined by administrative priorities for cross-agency services; examples of OMB Policy, Priorities, and Shared Services could include (but are not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment with national strategy and policies CSP provides a new solution to existing federal requirements (such as CDM or HSPD-12) CSP provides a solution for existing federal mandates where there are large areas of agency deficiencies
Agency-Defined Demand	Annual CIO Council Survey or Agency Advisory Group selected by CIO Council
	Official requests by agencies to the FedRAMP Program Management Office (PMO)

2) FedRAMP Ready

The FedRAMP Ready designation indicates that a 3PAO attests to the readiness of a CSP's cloud offering for the authorization process and authors a Readiness Assessment Report (RAR) that the FedRAMP PMO then reviews and approves.

Although FedRAMP Ready is not required to submit a "Business Case," it is a heavily weighted criterion in the prioritization process. CSPs may be selected to work with the JAB without being FedRAMP Ready, but a CSP must achieve FedRAMP Ready within 60 days of selection or the CSP will automatically be deprioritized.

3) Preferred Characteristics

These criteria are not mandatory for prioritization but are preferred characteristics by the JAB for government-wide solutions and used for evaluation when the demand and FedRAMP Ready criteria do not provide a clear prioritization decision.

The preferred characteristics were chosen because solutions with these criteria meet at least one of the following factors:

- Designed for the Federal Government
- Demonstrate a proven track record of managed risk and secure implementations
- Provide heightened security, presenting less risk for federal information
- Meet Federal Government needs

PREFERENCES	RATIONALE
Government Only Cloud	Demonstrates that the CSP has a cloud environment designed specifically to meet government requirements and government-only presents less risk to government customers
Other Certifications (SOC2, ISO27001, PCI)	Demonstrates security assessments of the CSP in other compliance regimes proving a track record of security compliance
High Impact > Moderate Impact > Low Impact	Demonstrates high impact solutions have the greatest return on investment for security and cost for IT modernization across the government
New and Innovative with Demonstrable ROI for Government	Demonstrates that the CSP product meets the mission needs of government agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The JAB defines ROI as reducing risk, saving cost, and/or addressing political considerations
Proven Maturity (CMMI Level 3+, ISO Organizational Certifications)	Demonstrates that the CSP has a proven track record of mature organizational processes that increases the likelihood that the CSP will be able to maintain an acceptable risk posture
Prior Experience with Federal Security Authorizations (e.g. use of a 3PAO in "consulting" capacity, other systems owned by the CSP with existing FISMA ATOs)	Demonstrates that the CSP has resources experienced with FISMA and FedRAMP, which increases the CSPs likelihood of success
Dependencies from other cloud service offerings (e.g. IaaS that hosts other SaaS solutions with demand from the Government)	Demonstrates that the CSP product will provide an underlying service that other CSP products can leverage that meets the needs of the government

THE JAB'S BUSINESS CASE EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The JAB's initial review of CSOs is based on demand. CSOs that pass the demand review are then evaluated based on their FedRAMP Ready status. The relative value of the criteria is: demand from current federal customers is more valuable than demand from non-federal customers and potential customers; demand is more important than a CSO being FedRAMP Ready.

Below are the relative values for each validated proof of demand a CSP can provide:

- Current Demand = 1
- Indirect Demand = .5
- Potential Demand = .25

When "Business Cases" are evaluated and considered equal in demand, then FedRAMP Ready status becomes a deciding factor. If demand and FedRAMP Ready status are considered equal, the JAB Preferred Characteristics will be considered in selecting the successful CSOs.

RESOURCES:

Date	Resource Title	Type
N/A	GOVERNANCE	Website
N/A	JAB AUTHORIZATION	Website
N/A	FedRAMP Roles and Responsibilities	Guide
3/26/2020	JAB PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA AND FEDRAMP CONNECT GUIDANCE	Guide