

The FedRAMP Authorization Act (H.R. 21)

The standardized approach for security assessment and authorization of cloud computing products for federal agencies

December 23, 2022

Overview

The [FedRAMP Authorization Act](#), signed by President Biden as part of the FY23 [National Defense Authorization Act](#) (NDAA), codifies FedRAMP as the authoritative security assessment approach for Federal cloud computing acquisitions. It aims to improve the CSO authorization and reuse speed and establishes the Federal Secure Cloud Advisory Committee (FSCAC) to foster dialogue between industry and federal partners.

Key Takeaways	Directives
FedRAMP Codification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prior to the FedRAMP Authorization Act, FedRAMP only existed by way of the 2011 OMB Memorandum.The 2022 Act codifies the program into a law with formal Congressional oversight.
“Presumption of adequacy”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The “presumption of adequacy” provision establishes that FedRAMP-authorized cloud products are deemed secure for Federal reuse unless there is a demonstrable need for additional security requirements.This provision was designed to reduce duplicative security assessments and increase agency adoption speed.
Federal Secure Cloud Advisory Committee (FSCAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To improve dialogue and transparency between the Federal government and industry, as well as drive secure cloud computing adoption, the FSCAC is established in this bill. The committee consists of 15 members, including five representatives from cloud computing service companies.

Timeline: KEY DATES AND MILESTONES



Defining Success

The FedRAMP Authorization Act makes FedRAMP no longer a suggestion, but a requirement for selling cloud-native solutions to the government. FedRAMP allows government customers to procure cloud-native solutions much more efficiently, due to FedRAMP's presumption of adequacy. This allows vendors to "do once use many", so once a solution is FedRAMP authorized, it is secure for federal use. A vendor does not need to obtain individual ATOs (Authority to Operate) from every agency that it sells to.

Over time, the FedRAMP PMO is looking to expand and authorize as many secure vendors as possible providing federal agencies access to cutting edge secure technology. This commitment is emphasized by the FedRAMP 20x initiative that aims to significantly decrease the time to authorization.

Actions Underway

The FedRAMP Program Management Office has authorized over 400 cloud service solutions and is streamlining the speed of authorization. In March of 2025, the PMO launched the FedRAMP 20x Initiative that aims to significantly reduce the authorization timeline. This will be achieved by transitioning to machine readable formats and removing the sponsorship requirement that is often a roadblock for ISVs pursuing authorization. This announcement reinforces the FedRAMP mission, securing as many cloud solutions as possible, and delivering secure cutting-edge technology to government agencies.

What Does This Mean for Industry?

- **Security Sells:** The FedRAMP Authorization Act being codified emphasizes the Federal Government's commitment to buying secure solutions. ISVs with cloud-native solutions that are looking to sell into the public sector need to demonstrate that their solution is compliant with the strict requirements of FedRAMP.
- **Invest in Security:** ISVs need to invest in security to sell to the government. Obtaining FedRAMP authorization can be an expensive and lengthy process, but by investing in FedRAMP, ISVs are able to seamlessly sell to civilian agencies. With FedRAMP, vendors avoid needing to obtain a one off ATO from every agency that they engage with.
- **Bottom Line:** ISVs who invest in FedRAMP will be significantly more available for procurement by federal agencies.

Growth Potential

- **Authorizations:** The FedRAMP Program Management Office has increased the speed of authorization. In FY25, FedRAMP approved 114 authorizations by July, more than double the total for FY24 (49). The FedRAMP 20x initiative aims to accelerate authorizations even further.
- **FedRAMP Expanded:** FedRAMP standards are being adopted by state and local governments, higher education, and commercial sectors such as healthcare and finance. Being FedRAMP authorized is now strategic for sectors outside of federal government due to the level of security the FedRAMP ensures.
- **Government Shift to Cloud:** As the government continues to move away from on-premises data centers, the necessity for FedRAMP authorized solutions will continue to increase as government agencies rely on cloud-native solutions to meet their mission critical needs.