

Project Background

Healthcare IT is a complex environment with varying organizations servicing various sectors of the Healthcare Industry. These organizations often need to share sensitive information, whether that is patient specific information or financial information specific to services rendered. This information sharing requires a strong identity infrastructure where issuance of identity is consistent based upon a common set of policies. To ensure this consistency, assessment of how the individual identity providers issue, manage and protect information is critical.

Project Initiation and Execution

An assessment program existed for part of the communications platforms that were used within this highly dispersed networked environment. That assessment program addressed the communication protocols themselves. It was determined that the management of the identity issuance system, Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) based, also needed a strong assessment program based on the utilization of multiple certification authorities (CA) and entities performing identity proofing of individuals and organizations.

The initial phase of the project was to take the existing Certificate Policy and create a set of criteria that would be measurable for those organizations operating the CAs and then to extend that to those organizations that were performing the identity proofing. The goal, to be able to use these criteria in regular assessments to ensure that the organizations were meeting all the policy requirements within their operations.

An initial assessment, based on this new assessment program was run, and based on that a set of assessment guides were developed to allow future assessments to be performed by the organization which owned the Certificate Policy.

These guides are in use today by the organization and are updated as needed based on policy updates that may occur as the technology implementation grows.