



# FISMA Reporting

## EPA's Shared Service Center Solution

In today's ever-changing world of information technology vulnerabilities, an agency must aggressively and effectively respond to evolving security threats and integrate information security into their day-to-day business operations. Our Shared Service Center will enable the federal information security community to leverage EPA's investment in automating the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) reporting requirements by assessing security risks and monitoring corrective actions. This solution will help your organization dedicate its limited resources to critical, mission-specific activities.

### ASSERT

Central to EPA's Shared Service Center is the Automated System Security Evaluation and Remediation Tracking (ASSERT) system. ASSERT provides real time access for managers and IT personnel to view critical system data for system categorization, assessment, remediation activities, oversight and data for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Quarterly and Annual reports. A Web-based, user-centered system, ASSERT allows federal agencies to get a consistent and accurate picture of how their enterprise-wide information security posture is improving over time. With this knowledge, senior managers and IT personnel are able to make timely and informed decisions regarding the level of security implemented on their information resources.

### Features of ASSERT

Allows view of security status and reports for the entire agency, organization, or an individual system by providing:

- Automated system categorization
- Automated assessments
- Plans of Action and Milestones (POAMs) for remediation
- OMB data for Quarterly and Annual FISMA reports
- Secure Web-based application and centralized database
- Tailored customization for agency-specific terminology, reference tables, logo and colors
- User-centered design for easy navigation
- Scalable solution for agencies of all sizes



## Support Services

Depending on your specific needs and funding availability, you can select from the menu of services below.

### Consortium Membership — Baseline Service

- GOTS system with installation
- Updates to ASSERT software
- Help with migration and implementation
- OMB Quarterly and Annual report preparation
- Help Desk support
- Limited number of training sessions
- Standardized costing based on agency size
- Hosting the application at EPA's national Computer Center

### Additional Services for Consortium Members

- Additional support for system implementation
- Support of agency-specific data entry
- Additional Help Desk support, i.e., posting notices on log-in screen and broadcast e-mails ASSERT users
- Additional training sessions
- FISMA-related consulting for business process improvements
- Costs negotiated based on services desired

## Our Current Partners

We have eight ASSERT partners – Export-Import Bank (EXIM), General Services Administration (GSA), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), Small Business Administration (SBA), and Social Security Administration (SSA). As partners, we share knowledge and experiences that have helped the group adjust to changes and improve business processes.

EPA firmly believes that continuous improvement of the ASSERT application is essential. ASSERT's latest software (version 5.6), released on March 21, 2008, provides system owners with enhanced functionality to continuously monitor and maintain information security controls for their systems. This release also included interfaces for capturing and maintaining basic testing information and making this information readily available for agency FISMA reports. These enhancements improve both usability and customer satisfaction, resulting in an even more powerful FISMA reporting system.

We are looking forward to welcoming more partners to the EPA Shared Service Center for FISMA reporting.

## Contact Information

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