DATASHEET

# CRITICAL**START**® Risk Assessments

Proactively evaluate cyber risk posture and track risk reduction over time.

## KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ **Consolidate cyber risk assessments** conducted by third parties and self-assessment for management in one portal
- ✓ **Assess security risk levels** with industry peer benchmarking
- ✓ **Continuously track, measure, and visualize** security risk improvements
- ✓ **Identify risk reduction priorities** with stack-ranked recommendations
- ✓ **Allocate cybersecurity resources** or maximum impact

Security leaders face mounting pressure to showcase their ability to manage cyber risk and prove the value of security tools. However, data overwhelm, inconsistencies in assessments, and resource constraints introduce challenges in their efforts to convey cyber risk and inform security investment discussions.

Critical Start solves these challenges with proactive and measured **Risk Assessments** that provide an intuitive path toward security risk visibility, management, and strategic improvement. These assessments enable your organization to conduct detailed evaluations of your cyber risk and gain a full understanding of gaps and potential exposures. Risk Assessments are based on widely recognized risk management frameworks, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework (**NIST CSF**). And each assessment can be benchmarked against industry peers so that you can understand how your risk management strategy stacks up against your competitors. You can easily aggregate data from both third-party and self-assessments to proactively assess risk posture, monitor progress, identify risk reduction priorities, and develop effective mitigation plans supported by evidence.

## How it works

Critical Start Risk Assessments simplify the risk management process by providing a SaaS-based platform that records, tracks, and analyzes risk assessment data. You can choose from a short, 15-question Quick Start assessment that offers rapid, actionable insights into current gaps in cyber risk coverage, or you can dive deep into comprehensive assessments that provide clarity around ongoing exposure management. Each questionnaire captures essential data and provides the ability to attach evidence and add reviewers to improve accuracy. You can also import existing third-party assessments for a seamless transition to a unified risk dashboard and reporting platform. Assessment analysis includes peer benchmarking for greater visibility into your organization's risk posture versus competitors. Prioritized risk recommendations help you focus your security improvement efforts and budgets effectively. And comparisons across recurring internal assessments deliver critical tracking metrics and prove the value of your security improvements over time.

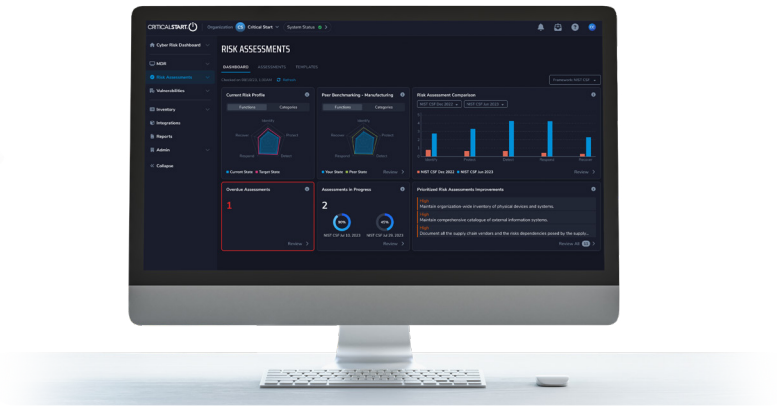


*Figure 1: With the* CRITICAL**START**® *Risk Assessment you can View, Create, Manage, Compare, and Report on different Risk Assessment questionnaires.*



CRITICALSTART®

# CYBERSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENTS

## Key Features

- **Unlimited Quick Start & Full Assessments:** Critical Start provides two types of risk assessments that cater to the needs of your journey toward cybersecurity maturity. Start with a quick assessment to get a high-level understanding of your risk profile or delve into a comprehensive assessment using industry-standard frameworks, including NIST CSF. Conduct as many assessments as you would like, and as often as you need. There is no limit to how many assessments you get with your subscription.

- **Data-driven Assessments that Remove Subjectivity:** Our The guided NIST CSF Assessment maps to each of the ISACA Capability Maturity Model Integration (**CMMI**) maturity levels and eliminates subjectivity in the data gathering process. With this unique approach, you can compare new assessments to previous baseline assessments, and compare against industry peer benchmarking, giving you a comprehensive view of your risk and exposure levels based on empirical data.

- **Assessment Comparison:** With historical data and real-time analysis in a single dashboard, you can compare assessments over time to track your organization's progress against target goals. This allows you to validate your mitigation efforts and provide proof of your organization's cybersecurity posture improvements.

- **Assessment Reports:** You'll keep all levels of operations, management, and executive leadership informed with detailed reports that provide prioritized risk recommendations, trends in risk posture, and the mitigation techniques to handle the risks.

- **Import Existing Assessments:** Your existing risk assessment data is vital to your future strategy. That's why Critical Start lets you seamlessly import prior assessments using a predefined template, easing the transition from manual or disparate assessment processes. The result is a wealth of historical data upon which you can grow your cyber risk management strategy.

## Key Benefits

- **Assess Risk with Industry Peer Benchmarking:** Become a master of your assessment data by unifying past, present, and future self-assessments and third-party assessments into a single source of truth. Then, continuously compare your security posture to industry peer benchmarking, identify risk reduction priorities, and measure improvements over time.

- **Multiple Risk Management and Compliance Frameworks:** In addition to NIST CSF 1.1, CIS Critical Security Controls v8, and NIST SP 800-171 Rev. 2, assessment questionnaires will continue to be released to customers at no additional cost, including NIST CSF 2.0, NIST 800-53, NISTIR 8183 Rev. 1, ISO 27001, and more.

- **Prepare For and Lower the Cost of Third-Party Assessments:** The platform allows organizations to conduct internal evaluations first, establishing a baseline to prepare for subsequent external third-party appraisals. You can reduce the time and cost of conducting third-party assessments by using the responses and evidence gathered during the self-assessment.

- **Optional Professional Services:** Critical Start offers an optional Professional Services fixed-scope engagement to assist organizations with the interviewing, evidence collection, data entry, analysis, reporting, and recommendations utilizing the customer's Risk Assessments subscription license.

**Here is how Critical Start Risk Assessments help different leaders in your organization:**

**CISO (Chief Information Security Officer):**
CISOs benefit from the comprehensive cybersecurity risk profile aligned with NIST CSF, demonstrating compliance and prioritizing efforts with detailed assessments and mitigation reports.

**Director of Information Security:**
Security Directors compare risk assessments to prioritize investments, track progress, and measure the effectiveness of security controls.

**Chief Risk Officer:**
Chief Risk Officers leverage detailed cyber risk rankings and trend analysis for informed decision making on risk strategies.

**Internal Auditors:**
Internal auditors can accelerate external audit readiness by taking Critical Start self-assessments and comparing against existing assessment baselines.

**CONTACT US TODAY TO GET STARTED!**
criticalstart.com/contact/



CRITICALSTART®