



TESSERACT™

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT



DEFCON AI: A Red Cell Partners Incubation

Headquarters



1800 Tysons Blvd
Suite 900
McLean, VA
22102

Industry



Defense &
Logistics

Size



25-50
Employees

Products & Services



Modeling, Simulation,
and Analysis Tools

Understanding the Challenge

DEFCON AI is an insights company that provides advanced software and cutting-edge modeling, simulation, and analysis tools to the Department of Defense (DoD). The company encountered a significant challenge while planning their strategy to protect controlled unclassified information (CUI). At the time, they had minimal in-house IT support and were confronted with the enormous task of fulfilling Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) requirements without the necessary expertise. DEFCON AI needed to achieve CMMC Level 2 compliance, which requires them to establish and document security practices to meet all 110 controls of NIST SP 800-171.

To bridge this gap, DEFCON AI sought out a Managed Service Provider (MSP) to provide guidance and knowledge on achieving compliance for the right price. DEFCON AI wanted an MSP that could help them create a secure environment for storing and processing CUI. After roughly 3 months, their exhaustive search led them to discover Ardalyt's Tesseract Managed Cybersecurity Program.

The Right Partner

DEFCON AI developed four main criteria for choosing their MSP.

- ✓ Create a fresh Microsoft 365 (M365) tenant where CUI data can be stored. A tenant houses the users and the CUI data itself. DEFCON AI needed a separate tenant for their CUI data

to isolate it from their other data and ensure compliance with CMMC requirements. Ardalyt also provided Win365 endpoints for processing the data.

- ✓ Implement a seamlessly integrated solution. DEFCON AI wanted an MSP that could provide them with a solution that would integrate well with their existing systems and processes, without causing any disruptions or complications. They also wanted a solution that would be easy to use and maintain, without requiring extensive training.
- ✓ Meet their one-month deadline. DEFCON AI had an urgent need to achieve CMMC compliance as they had recently won a new DoD contract that required them to handle CUI data. They needed an MSP that could set up their compliant environment quickly and efficiently, without compromising on quality or security.
- ✓ Identify an individual to manage the environment on their behalf. DEFCON AI required a partner with the resources and expertise to manage their own compliant environment. They needed an MSP that could provide them with dedicated support for overseeing and maintaining their environment, as well as providing them with ongoing guidance.

Tesseract proved to be the ideal solution for DEFCON AI, meeting their desired criteria while also ensuring compliance as an additional advantage.

The Right Solution

Tesseract is designed to help businesses achieve CMMC compliance at any level, from basic to advanced cyber hygiene.

DEFCON AI opted for an Advanced Complete Plus program, which paired a CMMC Level 2 program design with vCISO, SOC, security engineering, and security administration services. The Plus program gave them the additional expert support their internal IT team needed while meeting their budget. The program included:

- ✓ A CMMC Level 2 program that consisted of policies, procedures, and controls to meet the CMMC requirements for Level 2 compliance. Ardalyst helped DEFCON AI create a tailored program that matched the way they do business.
- ✓ A vCISO service that provided them with access to an experienced Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) who acted as their strategic partner and advisor on all matters related to cybersecurity. The vCISO helped DEFCON AI align their cybersecurity strategy with their business goals, as well as oversee and manage their compliance program.
- ✓ A SOC service that provided them with necessary monitoring and response capabilities for their network and systems. Ardalyst's Managed Detection and Response (MDR) service leveraged the security capabilities built into Microsoft 365 E5 to provide DEFCON AI's security monitoring services without the expense of additional tools.
- ✓ A security engineering service that provided them with technical support and guidance on implementing and configuring the security solutions and controls required for CMMC compliance. Ardalyst's security engineers helped DEFCON AI set up their M365 tenant, as well as other security tools such as Azure Sentinel, Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, Microsoft Defender for Identity, and Microsoft Cloud App Security.

- ✓ A security administration service that provided them with operational support and maintenance for their security environment. Ardalyst's security administrators helped DEFCON AI manage their user accounts, access rights, security policies, updates, backups, and audits.

Tackling their requirements and exceeding expectations, DEFCON AI was very satisfied with their Tesseract program.

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"Tesseract was the only vendor to offer DEFCON AI a unique full-service program inclusive of compliance, enclave setup and SOC/NOC. DEFCON AI was in urgent need of a CUI environment for our new DoD contract and

Tesseract was able to deliver with speed. The fact that they also offered compliance support was the ultimate selling point. We have been impressed by all aspects of our partnership with Tesseract to date."

Tom Woods, DEFCON AI, Office of the CISO

To learn more about Tesseract™, visit: www.tesseract.ardalyst.com

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