



TESSERACT™

SOLUTION BRIEF

Tesseract Managed Programs

A Better Path to Compliance

The United States faces relentless, sophisticated cyber threats that threaten our nation's security and privacy. In recent efforts made by our nation's leaders to strengthen its supply chain, many, including defense contractors, are facing increased scrutiny of their organizations' cybersecurity programs. As a defense contractor, you must demonstrate your ability to secure your business, your data, and Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) with CMMC compliance. However, many small and mid-sized businesses (SMBs) lack the expertise and resources to implement the necessary security controls and struggle to find a CMMC consultant at a reasonable cost. Tesseract is a cybersecurity solution built to overcome these issues by helping SMBs get compliant quickly, effectively, and affordably.

Tesseract combines patent-pending technology, a powerful cybersecurity database, and expert professional services to bring you a managed service like no other: a Cybersecurity Program-as-a-Service. The result is a sophisticated, dynamic, and compliant cybersecurity program -- custom-tailored to your business -- that is simple and affordable. Here's how it works.

Understanding Program Elements with the Ardalyst Continuous Maturity Platform™



We built Tesseract on top of the Ardalyst Continuous Maturity Platform. The platform is an adaptation of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, version 1.1, with the addition of a critical step: Evolve. The purpose of Evolve is to add an element of cyber resiliency to the Tesseract Program.

We've also defined three essential services that are included in every Tesseract program: Govern, Harden, and Defend. These services combine to define your program policies, implement best practices to manage your enclave; and monitor for and respond to security events.

The Core of Tesseract: Govern, Harden, and Defend

Coverage of the entire Continuous Maturity Platform™ is divided into three Teams called Govern, Harden, and Defend. These teams support the execution of processes designed to Identify and Evolve, Protect and Recover, and Detect and Respond, respectively.

Govern

As part of our govern services, we develop your SSP, POAM, Policies and other documentation necessary to run your program. We also tackle questions such as the scope of your enclave and the management of your facilities. Lastly, we

help determine what access your various user communities need and help with training them to perform inside a secure environment.

Harden

We implement our security architecture including system baselines, endpoint, and boundary management, authentication mechanisms, vulnerability management, and log management.

Defend

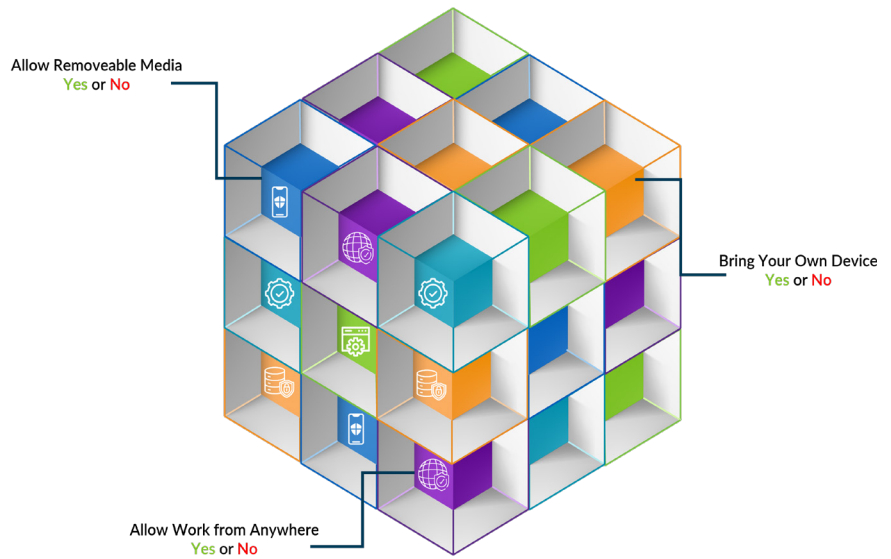
Our cyber operators monitor your environment, including endpoints, boundaries, identities, and email. We manage and investigate security events, and if you have a security incident, we're there to help you see it through.

Designing and Updating Your Program

with the power of Tesseract Blocks™

Most security programs require you to meet hundreds of controls and even more assessment objectives. The current version of NIST 800-171, for example, provides for 110 controls with a total of 320 assessment objectives to prove you meet those goals.

Ardalyst has simplified the process with Tesseract Blocks™ that are tailored to your specific business needs. You pick the Blocks, and we use our patent pending technology to assemble them into your program. The result? You get a program that is tailored to your business, while also getting the cost and reliability benefits of a standardized implementation. Most importantly, we keep our library of Blocks current with the times. That's because we've designed our Blocks to make it easy for us to keep up with the Six Sources of Change™. The best part is that it's all included in your Tesseract program.



Designing Your Program with Tesseract Blocks™

Tesseract Blocks™ are at the core of our patent-pending algorithms that make it easy to get a custom product at the price of a standardized one. As we work with you to design your program, you'll choose Blocks that make sense for your business. Each Block encapsulates the decisions necessary for a common set of requirements, like allowing Work From Home, and then gives you a conservative, balanced, or liberal set of options.

the Six Sources of Change™

Many organizations make the mistake of thinking they are done with their cybersecurity program when they first meet compliance requirements. But programs are living things. In addition to the act of operating the program - performing all of those security functions every day, week, month of the year - programs also need to keep up with changing times. We've identified Six Sources of Change™ in a cybersecurity program, and we Evolve with those changes by either swapping out Blocks or creating new ones.



How It Works

The Six Sources of Change™

You Change

Your company isn't static, and you don't want cybersecurity requirements to constrain your business. With your Tesseract Program, you aren't locked down. If you need to change your operating model or you are pursuing new opportunities, just meet with us to change your Blocks. We can swap out program elements that no longer work for you with new approaches that do.

We Change

We're not static either. As we improve our processes, learn new techniques, and as our customers get assessed, we're not just

applying that to the next company that hires us for our services. We're also swapping out old Blocks for new ones that are easier to use, better meet assessment objectives, and help us keep our costs down as complexity rises.

Regulations Change

Compliance is a moving target. Even now, NIST 800-171 R3 is working its way through the system and will bring additional controls and assessment objectives with it. Beyond the big regulations, new rules are released all the time, like the DoD's decision to ban TikTok. Keeping up can be a full-time job. With Tesseract, we'll add new Blocks to your program, and update existing Blocks, to meet those needs, at no additional services cost to you.

Vendors Change

Technology evolves at a rapid pace, and the technology underpinning your Tesseract environment is no exception. We evaluate the tools included in your Microsoft subscriptions and look for ways to leverage new features and functionality to improve your cybersecurity posture. We will modify or add Blocks to keep your solution current with the latest tech.

New Vulnerabilities

Unfortunately, cybersecurity researchers are always discovering new vulnerabilities that exist in the systems we use every day. Some are minor and difficult to exploit, and others are major holes that adversaries are exploiting in the wild before researchers even discover them. Tesseract's vulnerability management processes handle the routine ones, and we modify Blocks to handle the big ones.

New Threats

Adversary TTPs are always changing, and cybersecurity standards like NIST 800-171 require you to keep up with the news and adapt to these new threats. Sometimes adversaries develop new approaches that can't be patched. Regardless of the approach the adversary is taking, we need to develop ways to counter it, which often means new or updated Blocks.

Getting & Staying Compliant

with Tesseract Capabilities and Tesseract Outcomes

Comprehensiveness is at the heart of every Tesseract program, including all the capabilities of a great cybersecurity program to ensure you have what you need to operate your program, protect your business, and gain compliance.

Getting compliant is only half the battle. With recurring audits, changing requirements, and an ever-evolving threat landscape, staying compliant and ensuring your program is maturing to defend against today's threats is truly key to your success. Tesseract includes all the setup, execution, and maintenance services you need for a complete solution to do just that. We'll execute your program, operate your security controls, and collect the evidence you'll need for assessments. Most importantly, we'll be with you as the landscape changes, keeping up with new requirements, new threats and vulnerabilities, new best practices, and - best of all - new directions you take your business.

Building Your Program

Tesseract Program Levels

1. Foundational:

Foundational is perfect for businesses looking to get started with basic cybersecurity hygiene. This program meets the minimum requirements for federal contractors by protecting FCI and meeting FAR 52.204-21. It also meets the upcoming CMMC Level 1 requirements expected in the DFARS.

FOUNDATIONAL	ADVANCED START	ADVANCED COMPLETE	CUSTOM
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ CMMC Level 1✓ FAR 52.204-21 Implementation (Required of all Federal Contractors)✓ 17 Practices✓ Safeguard FCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ CMMC Level 1✓ FAR 52.204-21 Compliance with an SPRS score, SSP & POAM✓ 20 Practices✓ Safeguard FCI & Prepare for CMMC Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ CMMC Level 2✓ Complete Implementation of DFARS 7019 & NIST SP 800-171✓ 110 Practices✓ Safeguard CUI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ CMMC Levels 1 through 3✓ Meet your requirements for compliance✓ Support exactly where and how you need it

Solution Brief | Tesseract

2. Advanced Start: Advanced Start helps businesses looking to start their journey to CMMC Level 2 by implementing CMMC Level 1, and developing an SSP and POAM to reach Level 2. An SSP and POAM is required to meet DFARS 252.204-7012, which is a current requirement for Defense contractors safeguarding Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

3. Advanced Complete: Advanced Complete delivers complete NIST 800-171 and CMMC Level 2 compliance. You'll meet your current FAR 52.204-21 and DFARS 252.204-7012 requirements, and be prepared for DFARS 7019-7021 (CMMC) to effectively safeguard CUI and protect your business.

4. Custom: Tesseract Custom programs are perfect for customers with unique needs. The Tesseract consulting team will work with you to understand your goals and build a program to get you there.

Tesseract Service Levels

1. Core: Our Core offer includes everything you need to put together a complaint program, and is ideal for organizations with pre-existing IT support, whether from an internal team or an existing MSP. Core is also great for budget-conscious customers looking to get started with Tesseract. Our Govern team will provide decision support, policies, and program management. Our Defend team will provide security control monitoring and enclave monitoring services. You'll inherit our security architecture and baselines from our Harden team, which will work to keep your enclave in order. You'll be responsible for the IT capabilities of the Operate team and for Service Desk support.

	CORE	PLUS	PREMIUM	CUSTOM
	vCISO, SOC, & Security Engineers	Add Security Admins	Add Escalation Support	Design Your Own Program
Govern (vCISO)	Included	Included	Included	Call Us
Defend (MDR)	Included	Included	Included	
Harden (MSSP)	Included	Included	Included	
Operate (MSP)	x	Included	Included	
Support (MSP)	x	x	Included	

2. Plus: Our Plus level reduces the IT burden on your organization by providing the Operate team as well as access to Tier 2-3 IT support from Ardalyst. This level is great for companies that have IT staff but needs help staying on top of IT operations especially with the additional demands a cybersecurity program brings.

3. Premium: Our Premium level provides a full suite of IT services by including a Tier 2-3 Service Desk and providing Tier 1 support on a consumption basis. This level is for organizations that want to outsource their program as much as possible while retaining ultimate control of how the program serves the business.

4. Custom: A Custom service level can be put together for customers looking for support outside of Tesseract's pre-defined options. This approach is ideal for customers who wish to design a Tesseract program to fit their unique needs.

Why Tesseract

Key Benefits

Simple

Tesseract aligns your cybersecurity strategy with your business goals, giving you the benefits of a custom program at the cost of a managed service. Our Trial process helps us understand your unique business drivers to develop your Tesseract Blocks™ to build a program that enables, rather than hinders, your business.

Flexible

You can choose from 3 Service Levels to get the rights amount to help. Your cybersecurity program will be staffed by 5 critical teams, providing services from governance to support. Higher Service Levels mean more of those teams are provided by Ardalyst; lower Service Levels mean more teams are staffed by you.

Sophisticated

Tesseract is built on Microsoft's GCC-H E5 stack, which provides a suite of highly sophisticated cybersecurity tools, along with the world's most popular productivity suite. The stack can provide all the capabilities you need, so you don't have to worry about additional third-party products.

Affordable

Ardalyst is dedicated to making sure all businesses can meet the cybersecurity requirements of today and in the future, which is why we've established our "Across the Line" pledge, to help bring companies across the cybersecurity poverty line with affordable solutions with low or no minimum purchases.

Guaranteed

For each assessment criteria, we specifically designate who does it, how it's done, where it's documented, and what evidence the assessor can use to confirm the criteria is being met. Our approach reduces your assessment costs, and we back it with our Remediation Guarantee. If you fail your assessment due to a process or policy we provided, we will correct that policy or process at no charge.

Why We're Different

Powered By Ardalyst



Ardalyst is a cybersecurity and digital transformation solution provider specializing in leveraging Microsoft's productivity and security solutions – among a few others. From here, Tesseract was born. As defense contractors, we knew there had to be a better way to help small businesses like ourselves get compliant and as Microsoft and cybersecurity experts, we knew just how to do it.

- **Forget about assessments that waste customer dollars** carefully documenting that they need to start over.
- **Don't sell expensive compliance projects** that leave customers with a false sense of accomplishment when they don't have the resources to run their programs after we're gone.
- Recognize that **most defense contractors** are small organizations that bring essential expertise to our country, and **don't have huge cybersecurity budgets**.
- Build the compliance product we would want to buy – making compliance simpler without oversimplifying, making cybersecurity **cost-effective without being cheap**, and providing a lasting service that allows customers to get compliant AND stay compliant, every day.

Official Microsoft Partner



We're 1 of just 12 members of Microsoft's CMMC Acceleration Program providing Microsoft licensing and services to DoD contractors.

CMMC Accredited



We're an official Registered Provider Organization (RPO) accredited by the CyberAB, recently known as the CMMC Accreditation Body.

Defense Contractors



We're defense contractors like you. We know what it takes to deliver cybersecurity solutions that meet the growing requirements we face.

Start Your Free Tesseract Trial!

Claim your free Tesseract trial and develop your comprehensive and compliant program design and plan for your business at no risk. If you like what you see, sign up for a Tesseract Cybersecurity Program and we'll work with you to make your plan a reality.

- Free Risk Assessment which meets the requirements for RA.L2-3.11.1 and lays the foundation for your program
- Best practices based on your business needs
- Overview of the Tesseract Managed Cybersecurity Program and your path to getting & staying compliant
- Exclusive deals on additional tools like Microsoft GCC & GCC-High

Get started today and schedule your free business risk assessment at www.ardalyst.com/tesseract.

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

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