



## CASE STUDY

# Altarum Chooses Optiv for Annual Security Risk Assessment

"Optiv brought the expertise, efficiency and professionalism you would expect to see from a global security services firm. Our engagement was smooth, cost-effective and the overall assessment went very well. Altarum was impressed with the thoroughness and professionalism of the Optiv team during this entire engagement."

-Steven J. Towell, CISSP, CCSP, Corporate Director, Information Security and Technology

## OVERVIEW

Altarum is a nonprofit health systems research and consulting organization. A focus on integrating independent research and client-centered consulting to create comprehensive, systems-based solutions has enabled the organization to successfully improve health for more than six decades.

The security team at Altarum was challenged with conducting an annual assessment to analyze the current state of their security and security maturity levels. Their policy requires an external vendor to evaluate their corporate network, and related infrastructure systems, established policies and documentation (collectively Altarum Corporate Network, ACN) to ensure compliance to the highest degree.

Evaluation criteria consisted of reviewing standards, guidelines and existing best practices for managing cybersecurity related risks.

Altarum's security team needed to ensure an assessment engagement was seamless, cost-effective and that the overall outcome would improve their security posture beyond minimum requirements of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI). After evaluating several proposals, Altarum chose Optiv Security to provide the best overall solution and expertise to conduct the assessment and address any gaps with the ACN.

## HOW OPTIV HELPED

Optiv delivered the expertise and experience required to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the ACN utilizing the NIST SP800-53A guidelines. Optiv's penetration testing utilized unique paths which led to new findings and opportunities to harden security controls beyond baseline requirements. During the very thorough and detailed assessment, Optiv worked closely with Altarum to review extensive documentation, policies and plans. Optiv produced and provided a detailed report concluding and validating that Altarum not only has the infrastructure and controls in place for the ACN to secure sensitive data but is also 100% compliant with NIST SP 800-53A.

Optiv is a market-leading provider of end-to-end cybersecurity solutions. We help clients plan, build and run successful cybersecurity programs that achieve business objectives through our depth and breadth of cybersecurity offerings, extensive capabilities and proven expertise in cybersecurity strategy, managed security services, incident response, risk and compliance, security consulting, training and support, integration and architecture services, and security technology. Optiv maintains premium partnerships with more than 350 of the leading security technology manufacturers. For more information, visit [www.optiv.com](http://www.optiv.com) or follow us at [www.facebook.com/optivinc](https://www.facebook.com/optivinc) and [www.linkedin.com/company/optiv-inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/optiv-inc).



## INDUSTRY

Healthcare

## CHALLENGES

- Conducting an annual security assessment
- Finding the right partner to trust with analyzing the current state of security
- Maintaining 100% NIST compliance year after year
- Identifying and addressing existing security program gaps

## SOLUTION

- A comprehensive assessment of existing infrastructure systems, established policies and documentation utilizing NIST guidelines
- In-depth review of extensive documentation to ensure compliance
- Analysis of pre-determined areas to identify opportunities to advance security beyond baseline compliance requirements

## RESULTS

- Verification of NIST compliance
- Confidence in the partnership, thoroughness and professionalism of the entire engagement
- Validation for current and potential clients that Altarum has the infrastructure and controls in place to secure their entrusted data
- Met the highest level of maturity based on the CMMI
- Identified potential opportunities for further controls



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