CDM'S NEXT CHAPTER – AGENCIES MAKE PROGRESS BUT CYBERCRIMINALS MAINTAIN CONTROL

Nearly 70 Percent of Stakeholders Say CDM is Not Adapting Quickly Enough to Protect Vital Cloud and Mobile Environments, which Underpin the Federal Government's Ability to Telework at Scale

Alexandria, Va., May 11, 2020 – MeriTalk, a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT, today announced the results of its new research, "CDM: The Next Chapter." While the majority of stakeholders give agencies passing grades for adopting the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) program, 68 percent say it is not adapting quickly enough to protect vital cloud and mobile environments. These technologies and more play a vital role in supporting the Federal government's ability to telework at scale in the COVID-19 era.

Building on MeriTalk's 2019 "CDM Referendum" study, this report features insights from more than 100 Federal and industry stakeholders, as they chart the impact of the CDM program on cybersecurity effectiveness and explore the next steps. The CDM program, launched in 2012, provides cybersecurity tools, integration services, and dashboards to help Federal agencies improve their security posture. Eight years into the program, CDM stakeholders cite significant strides in the program's adoption and nearly 60 percent say agencies are integrating CDM as part of their overall cyber strategies instead of as a stand-alone initiative.

While respondents generally applaud agency progress and report headway on CDM goals, many say that cybercriminals continue to have the upper hand. Ninety percent of stakeholders noted that adversaries are out-pacing agencies' best efforts to keep up on cybersecurity. Further, 90 percent of respondents say agency visibility for cloud and mobile must be as good as or better than visibility on-premises, but just half are taking steps to apply CDM principles to those environments. Respondents also shared concerns about remaining work to be done on the fundamentals of CDM,

with only 17 percent expressing confidence in achieving real-time asset management, and 33 percent noting that their agency could not completely answer the core question of "What is on the network?"

Looking forward, stakeholders report that cloud computing, automation, and zero trust will be critical to CDM's long-term success. The top benefits to leveraging cloud computing for CDM are increased scalability (68 percent), improved agility (63 percent), and adaptability (56 percent). While nearly all respondents (97 percent) say automation will deliver important gains, they have only applied this technology to less than half (45 percent) of their CDM efforts to date. The top benefits of CDM automation include better response times (64 percent) and improved overall efficiency (58 percent), according to stakeholders. The study also found that integration with other cybersecurity initiatives is vital – 82 percent believe TIC 3.0 will support CDM progress in Federal agencies.

"Clearly CDM's making good progress, but as we pivot to telework, mobile and cloud capabilities will define the future of the program," said Steve O'Keeffe, founder, MeriTalk. "CDM needs to evolve PDQ to keep America safe."

"CDM: The Next Chapter" is based on an online survey of more than 100 Federal civilian government IT managers, vendors, contractors, and systems integrators in March and April 2020. The study is underwritten by BlackBerry/Cylance, CyberArk, Forcepoint, MobileIron, SteelCloud, Tenable, ThunderCat/Cisco, and Trustwave. The report has a margin of error of ±9.73 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. To download the full report, please visit: https://www.meritalk.com/study/cdm-the-next-chapter/

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