

Assessment of Zero Trust Architecture Implementation at the U.S. National Science Foundation

REPORT PREPARED BY SECURANCE





At a Glance

Assessment of Zero Trust Architecture Implementation at the
U.S. National Science Foundation
OIG 25-09-002 | February 25, 2025

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE

The U.S. National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General engaged Securance to conduct an assessment of zero trust architecture (ZTA) implementation at NSF. The overall objective is to assess NSF's adherence to Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-22-09 (OMB M-22-09) for its general support system (GSS), including whether NSF has appropriately prioritized ZTA implementation efforts, met the ZTA requirements defined in ZTA maturity model version 2.0, and whether it needs to refocus activities or resources to ensure compliance with OMB M-22-09.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Based on Securance's assessment, NSF's GSS met the requirements of OMB M-22-09 by the end of FY 2024, with the exception of one function. In addition, NSF has appropriately prioritized ZTA implementation and has met the objectives of each of the five pillars.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Securance made one recommendation in its report.

AGENCY RESPONSE

NSF agreed with the finding and will incorporate information gained from the assessment as they continue to make improvements in their ZTA program.

CONTACT US

For congressional, media, and general inquiries, email OIGPublicAffairs@nsf.gov.

National Defense Authorization Act

General Notification

Pursuant to Pub. L. No. 117-263 § 5274, business entities and non-governmental organizations specifically identified in this report have 30 days from the date of report publication to review this report and submit a written response to NSF OIG that clarifies or provides additional context for each instance within the report in which the business entity or non-governmental organizations is specifically identified. Responses that conform to the requirements set forth in the statute will be attached to the final, published report.

If you find your business entity or non-governmental organization was specifically identified in this report and wish to submit comments under the above-referenced statute, please send your response within 30 days of the publication date of this report to OIGPL117-263@nsf.gov, no later than March 31, 2025. We request that comments be in .pdf format, be free from any proprietary or otherwise sensitive information, and not exceed two pages. Please note, a response that does not satisfy the purpose set forth by the statute will not be attached to the final report.

About Us

NSF OIG was established in 1989, in compliance with the *Inspector General Act of 1978* (5 USC 401-24). Our mission is to provide independent oversight of NSF to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of its programs and operations and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

Contact Us

Address:

U.S. National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-292-7100

Website: oig.nsf.gov

Follow us on X (formerly Twitter): twitter.com/nsfoig

Congressional, media, and general inquiries: OIGPublicAffairs@nsf.gov

Freedom of Information Act inquiries: FOIAOIG@nsf.gov

Report Fraud, Waste, or Abuse

Report violations of laws, rules, or regulations; mismanagement; and research misconduct involving NSF operations or programs via our Hotline:

- File online report: oig.nsf.gov/contact/hotline
- Anonymous Hotline: 1-800-428-2189
- Mail: 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314 ATTN: OIG HOTLINE

Have a question about reporting fraud, waste, or abuse? Email OIG@nsf.gov.

Whistleblower Retaliation Information

All NSF employees, contractors, subcontractors, awardees, and subawardees are protected from retaliation for making a protected disclosure. If you believe you have been subject to retaliation for protected whistleblowing, or for additional information on whistleblower protections, please visit oig.nsf.gov/whistleblower.