



**PalladianCyber**

# **CMMC Level 2 (NIST SP 800-171)**

**Assessment Readiness & Mock Assessment Notes**  
**Demonstration Report**

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This is a demonstration project created to showcase my methodology for preparing organizations for a CMMC Level 2 certification assessment. It is not a real client engagement and does not represent a certified assessment.

## Assessment Readiness Overview

These notes are intended to prepare an organization for a future C3PAO-led CMMC Level 2 certification assessment. They focus on evidence readiness, consistency of implementation, and common assessment pitfalls observed during Level 2 reviews.

## What a C3PAO Will Evaluate

- Consistency between documented policies and actual technical implementation
- Ability to demonstrate controls through evidence rather than intent
- Staff understanding of roles, responsibilities, and procedures
- Repeatability of processes across all in-scope systems

## Evidence Expectations

- Approved policies and procedures aligned to NIST SP 800-171
- Artifacts demonstrating execution (logs, checklists, review records)
- Configuration evidence such as screenshots or exports
- Records showing periodic reviews and management involvement

## Mock Assessment Preparation Checklist

- Validate that all remediation actions from the implementation plan are complete
- Ensure evidence artifacts are centralized and clearly labeled
- Confirm staff can explain their role in key control areas
- Conduct a tabletop walk-through of assessment questions

## Common Pitfalls Before Assessment

- Controls implemented technically but not documented
- Documentation exists but is not followed in practice
- Evidence scattered across systems with no clear ownership
- Overreliance on verbal explanations without artifacts

## Next Steps Toward Certification

- Address remaining gaps identified during the mock assessment
- Finalize evidence packaging and index materials
- Engage a CCP/CCA for a final readiness review (optional)
- Schedule a formal assessment with a C3PAO