**Applying Automation**

Automation has a critical role to play when operationalizing the processes for achieving a FedRAMP ATO. Emerging tools can help organizations embrace the FedRAMP process without spending heavily to meet compliance requirements. This will help reduce barriers to meeting the requirements of the FedRAMP framework and continue a sea change in securing the data and infrastructure of increasingly interconnected organizations.

A workflow-enabled system allows organizations to establish and maintain a lifecycle enterprise cyber risk management process for cloud-based assets. It also provides tools to help automate the collection of validation data needed to demonstrate achievement of security objectives and create a body of evidence (BoE) that demonstrates a standard of due care.

Xacta, the security compliance and risk management solution suite from Telos Corporation, is purpose-built to operationalize the NIST family of IT security controls and to automate and streamline the NIST frameworks for cybersecurity and risk management. Serving some of the world’s most security-conscious organizations, Xacta’s capabilities have:

* Reduced ATO process times to weeks versus many months
* Eliminated 4 to 6 weeks of manual effort per project when compliance regulations changed
* Avoided months of manual effort in identifying, inheriting, and managing controls

A key part of Xacta’s compliance-automation capabilities for cloud offerings is its ability to inherit controls from the cloud host’s infrastructure. This continuous controls inheritance capability streamlines and simplifies the risk assurance and compliance reporting of cloud-based systems and workloads.

Think about the effort required to document control implementation, create test procedures, and manually validate every control for each service. Xacta’s continuous controls inheritance saves tremendous time and effort by eliminating these manual and redundant steps in cloud compliance reporting.

Process automation is key to the efficient deployment of FedRAMP. Xacta’s ability to inherit security controls, collect and manage the right data, and maintain a supporting body of evidence to prove compliance changes FedRAMP from being a barrier to entry into a powerful regimen for assuring cybersecurity and enabling IT risk management for cloud-based systems.