

Word Crimes: Start From A Solid Understanding Of What Right Looks Like For Cybersecurity Documentation

The [Hierarchical Cybersecurity Governance Framework \(HCGF\)](#) is the "ComplianceForge Reference Model" of cybersecurity and privacy documentation. The HCGF is a documentation model that leverages industry-recognized terminology to logically arrange these documentation components into their rightful order. This model creates an approach to architecting documentation that is concise, scalable and comprehensive. When that is all laid out properly, an organization's cybersecurity and data protection documentation should be hierarchical and linked from policies all the way through metrics. The swimlane diagram shown below ([click for a larger PDF](#)) defines the terminology and demonstrates the linkages between these various documentation components.

It all starts with influencers – these influencers set the tone and establish what is considered to be due care for cybersecurity & data protection operations. For external influencers, this includes statutory requirements (laws), regulatory requirements (government regulations) and contractual requirements (legally-binding agreements) that companies must address. For internal influencers, these are business-driven and the focus is more on management's desire for consistent, efficient and effective operations:

- Alignment with business strategy; and
- Meeting business goals & objectives.