



# Cloud Third-Party Risk Assessment

James Baker, CISSP-ISSAP CISM

**BAH**

Ultimately, why do we perform  
Cloud Third-Party Risk Assessments?

We can't outsource liability!

A number of resources make this claim but couldn't determine the originator, and this was before cloud.

- 71% of companies fail to adequately manage risk of third-parties!

Herein lies the problem!

- Define adequately and legally who makes the determination if you have adequately managed the risk of putting data in a cloud?

Because “adequately” is so subjective and possibly costly, it can lead to the demand for too much transparency.



# Most important part of cloud third-party risk management?

## what's a MSA



contract

details services  
to be provided

will be dense

# Why?

- Provides the right to audit
- Defines information security, data protection or privacy requirements that the cloud provider must have in place in order to do business together
- Gives the customer the ability to end the contract without penalty if the cloud provider can't meet information security, data protection or privacy requirements

# Ideas on what you should require from your cloud provider in an MSA? (In contract language)

- The right to perform an in person audit based on the given security requirements
- For SAAS offerings, require an annual web application pen test performed by a **reputable** third-party vendor using **industry standard** methodology and provide an Executive summary of the results
- The cloud provider have a formal risk management process in place that provides detail on when vulnerabilities will be mitigated based on their severity
- Mandate that the cloud provider have a dedicated security professional or team in place with a certain number of years experience and or certifications.
- Require a third-party assessment or audit i.e. SOC 1/2 type 2
- All communication of data over untrusted networks will be transmitted using **industry standard** encryption.
- One DR test per year and show proof, formal Incident response program or eDiscovery program etc.....

# What info shouldn't be required from a cloud provider in an MSA or a questionnaire?



- Any document that provides info about vulnerabilities that are specific to a URL or IP address
- Any policy or procedure that provides command line info or info about security technology's in use (View over
- Detailed architecture diagrams (WebEx or in person)
- The right for one of your people to perform web application or network layer penetration testing
- Excessive testing i.e. more than one DR test per year



Why Not? Too much transparency



# Developing a questionnaire





**Final**

**Thoughts**



# Contact Information

[jbaker@clouddefenders.com](mailto:jbaker@clouddefenders.com)



@ABCecurity