### **Regulatory & Compliance**

# NIST SP 800-53

How Admin By Request Helps

### **Document Information**

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# NIST SP 800-53 - How Admin By Request Helps

The following table outlines how Admin By Request helps your organization comply with the NIST SP 800-53 framework.

| A. Develop, document, and disseminate:  1. Access control policy that:  a. Addresses purpose, scope, roles, responsibilities, management commitment, coordination among organizational entities, and compliance; and  b. Is consistent with applicable laws, executive orders, directives, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines; and  2. Procedures to facilitate the implementation of the access control policy and the associated access | cess control policy and privacy and procedures address the controls in a AC family that are implemented thin systems and organizations. The risk management strategy is an cortant factor in establishing such dicies and procedures. The security and privacy assurance. The security and privacy programs are control policy and procedures are preferable, in the security and privacy program and procedures are preferable, in the security and privacy program are procedures. The security and privacy program are procedures are preferable, in the security and privacy program are procedures. The security and privacy are procedures. The security and privacy are procedures. The security and privacy are of organizations. The security and privacy programs, for the security and privacy programs, for the mission or business processes, and for systems, if needed. The describe how the policies or controls are implemented and can be directed at the individual or role that is the object of the procedure. The can be documented in system security and privacy plans or in one or more separate documents. | Admin By Request aids in implementing robust policies and procedures by providing privileged access management capabilities. It allows organizations to enforce the principle of least privilege, ensuring that users only have elevated privileges when necessary. This aligns with SOC 2 criteria related to access controls and authorization. |
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|   | Events that may precipitate an update to access control policy and procedures include assessment or audit findings, security incidents or breaches, or changes in laws, executive orders, directives, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines. Simply restating controls does not constitute an organizational policy or procedure.   |  |
| AC-2 Account Management   | Examples of system account types   | Admin By Request aids in   |
| A. Define and document the types of accounts allowed and specifically prohibited for use within the system;      B. Assign account managers:  | include individual, shared, group, system, guest, anonymous, emergency, developer, temporary, and service.  Identification of authorized system  | implementing robust account management by providing privileged access management capabilities. It allows organizations to enforce  |
| C. Specify prerequisites and criterial for group and role membership;  1. Authorized users of the system;  2. Group and role membership; and  3. Access authorizations (i.e., privileges) for each account;  D. Require approvals by personnel or roles for requests to create accounts;  E. Create, enable, modify, disable, and remove accounts   | users and the specification of access privileges reflect the requirements in other controls in the security plan.  Users requiring administrative privileges on system accounts receive additional scrutiny by organizational personnel responsible for approving such accounts and privileged access, including system owner, mission or business owner, senior agency information security officer, or senior agency official for privacy.  Types of accounts that organizations may wish to prohibit due to increased risk include shared, group, | the principle of least privilege, ensuring that users only have elevated privileges when necessary.  This aligns with SOC 2 criteria related to access controls and authorization. |
| in accordance with policy, procedures, prerequisites, and   | emergency, anonymous, temporary,   |  |
| criteria;  F. Monitor the use of accounts;  G. Notify account managers and personnel or roles within:  1. time period when accounts are no longer required;  2. time period when users are terminated or transferred; and  3. time period when system usage or need-to-know changes for an individual;  H. Authorize access to the system based on: | and guest accounts.  Where access involves personally identifiable information, security programs collaborate with the senior agency official for privacy to establish the specific conditions for group and role membership; specify authorized users, group and role membership, and access authorizations for each account; and create, adjust, or remove system accounts in accordance with organizational policies. Policies can include such information as account expiration dates or other factors that trigger the disabling of accounts.  |  |

#### Control (ID. Name) Control (Discussion) How ABR helps with compliance 1. A valid access Organizations may choose to define authorization: access privileges or other attributes by account, type of account, or a 2. Intended system usage; combination of the two. Examples of other attributes required for 3. Other organizationauthorizing access include defined attributes (as restrictions on time of day, day of required); week, and point of origin. In defining I. Review accounts for other system account attributes, compliance with account organizations consider systemmanagement requirements related requirements and [Assignment: organizationmission/business requirements. defined frequency]; Failure to consider these factors J. Establish and implement a could affect system availability. process for changing shared or group account authenticators (if deployed) when individuals are removed from the group; K. Align account management processes with personnel termination and transfer processes. AC-2 (2) Account Management: Temporary and emergency A feature of Admin By Request is its accounts are intended for short-Break Glass capability, which allows **Automated Temporary and** term use. Organizations establish administrators to create a new. **Emergency Account Management** temporary accounts as part of temporary, one-time-use Automatically remove and/or normal account activation Administrator account that works disable temporary and emergency procedures when there is a need for on domains, Azure AD and standaccounts after a set time period for short-term accounts without the alone endpoints. each type of account. demand for immediacy in account This account audits all elevated activation. activity while in use and terminates Organizations establish emergency within a predefined amount of time accounts in response to crisis or on log out. situations and with the need for rapid account activation. Therefore, **Break Glass security elements** emergency account activation may Circumvents the need to use bypass normal account authorization the built-in Windows local processes. Administrator account - you Emergency and temporary accounts can disable it completely to are not to be confused with add an extra later of security infrequently used accounts, to your endpoints. including local logon accounts used The account must be used for special tasks or when network within an hour of being resources are unavailable (may also generated, minimizing the be known as accounts of last resort). potential attack window and Such accounts remain available and risk of account compromise. are not subject to automatic disabling or removal dates.

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|   | Conditions for disabling or deactivating accounts include when shared/group, emergency, or temporary accounts are no longer required and when individuals are transferred or terminated. Changing shared/group authenticators when members leave the group is intended to ensure that former group members do not retain access to the shared or group account. Some types of system accounts may require specialized training.  Management of temporary and emergency accounts includes the removal or disabling of such accounts automatically after a predefined time period rather than at the convenience of the system administrator. Automatic removal or disabling of accounts provides a more consistent implementation. | <ul> <li>One-time-only log in functionality: the user can log in once, and after log out, the account is terminated.</li> <li>The user has only the time specified under an Expiry setting when the Break Glass account was generated to use the administrator account; this duration is indicated on the built-in desktop background of each account. When the time-period is up, the session is terminated.</li> <li>Measures are in place to ensure the Expiry time cannot be tampered with: if the Account user attempts to extend their time limit by adjusting the clock, the Account automatically logs out / terminates.</li> <li>All user names and passwords are automatically generated, random, and complex, minimizing the possibility for a successful brute force attack.</li> <li>Passwords are encrypted and stored within the web application, only accessible by Admin Portal users (i.e. IT Admins) via credentials – a safer option compared to MS LAPS' storage of admin account passwords in plain text along with the AD computer record.</li> </ul> |
| AC-2 (6) Account Management:  Dynamic Privilege Management  Implement organization-defined dynamic privilege management capabilities. | In contrast to access control approaches that employ static accounts and predefined user privileges, dynamic access control approaches rely on run-time access control decisions facilitated by dynamic privilege management, such as attribute-based access control.   | Admin By Request addresses this requirement as it allows your organization to grant privileged access on a per application basis or in a restricted time window.   |

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|   | While user identities remain relatively constant over time, user privileges typically change more frequently based on ongoing mission or business requirements and the operational needs of organizations.  An example of dynamic privilege management is the immediate revocation of privileges from users as opposed to requiring that users terminate and restart their sessions to reflect changes in privileges.  Dynamic privilege management can also include mechanisms that change user privileges based on dynamic rules as opposed to editing specific user profiles. Examples include automatic adjustments of user privileges if they are operating out of their normal work times, if their job function or assignment changes, or if systems are under duress or in emergency situations.  Dynamic privilege management includes the effects of privilege changes, for example, when there are changes to encryption keys used for communications. |  |
| <ul> <li>AC-2 (7) Account Management:</li> <li>Privileged User Accounts</li> <li>A. Establish and administer privileged user accounts in accordance with either a role-based access scheme or an attribute-based access scheme;</li> <li>B. Monitor privileged role or attribute assignments;</li> <li>C. Monitor changes to roles or attributes; and</li> <li>D. Revoke access when privileged role or attribute assignments are no longer appropriate.</li> </ul> | Privileged roles are organization-defined roles assigned to individuals that allow those individuals to perform certain security-relevant functions that ordinary users are not authorized to perform.  Privileged roles include key management, account management, database administration, system and network administration.  A role-based access scheme organizes permitted system access and privileges into roles.  In contrast, an attribute-based access scheme specifies allowed system access and privileges based on attributes.  | You can set up different user groups with different sub-settings in Admin By Request to require approval for some, while not requiring approval for others. All activities can be audited in the auditlog. |

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| AC-3 (2) Access Enforcement:  Dual Authorization  Enforce dual authorization for organization-defined privileged commands and/or other organization-defined actions.   | Dual authorization, also known as two-person control, reduces risk related to insider threats. Dual authorization mechanisms require the approval of two authorized individuals to execute.  To reduce the risk of collusion, organizations consider rotating dual authorization duties. Organizations consider the risk associated with implementing dual authorization mechanisms when immediate responses are necessary to ensure public and environmental safety.   | Through integrations, you can setup dual authorization work flows in, e.g. Jira, to ensure dual authorization.                               |
| AC-3 (7) Access Enforcement: Role-based Access Control Enforce a role-based access control policy over defined subjects and objects and control access based upon organization- defined roles and users authorized to assume such roles. | Role-based access control (RBAC) is an access control policy that enforces access to objects and system functions based on the defined role (i.e., job function) of the subject.  Organizations can create specific roles based on job functions and the authorizations (i.e., privileges) to perform needed operations on the systems associated with the organization-defined roles. When users are assigned to specific roles, they inherit the authorizations or privileges defined for those roles.  RBAC simplifies privilege administration for organizations because privileges are not assigned directly to every user (which can be a large number of individuals) but are instead acquired through role assignments.  RBAC can also increase privacy and security risk if individuals assigned to a role are given access to information beyond what they need to support organizational missions or business functions.  RBAC can be implemented as a mandatory or discretionary form of access control. For organizations implementing RBAC with mandatory access controls, the requirements in AC-3 (3) define the scope of the subjects and objects covered by the | You can set up different user groups with different sub-settings in ABR to ensure that users with different roles have the access they need. |

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| AC-5 Separation of Duties  A. Identify and document organization-defined duties of individuals requiring separation; and  B. Define system access authorizations to support separation of duties.                  | Separation of duties addresses the potential for abuse of authorized privileges and helps to reduce the risk of malevolent activity without collusion.  Separation of duties includes dividing mission or business functions and support functions among different individuals or roles, conducting system support functions with different individuals, and ensuring that security personnel who administer access control functions do not also administer audit functions.  Because separation of duty violations can span systems and application domains, organizations consider the entirety of systems and system components when developing policy on separation of duties. | By enabling "Require approval" in Admin By Request, another person will need to approve a user's privileged access before it is granted.  In this way, duties are separated.                    |
| AC-6 Least Privilege Employ the principle of least privilege, allowing only authorized accesses for users (or processes acting on behalf of users) that are necessary to accomplish assigned organizational tasks. | Organizations employ least privilege for specific duties and systems.  The principle of least privilege is also applied to system processes, ensuring that the processes have access to systems and operate at privilege levels no higher than necessary to accomplish organizational missions or business functions.  Organizations consider the creation of additional processes, roles, and accounts as necessary to achieve least privilege.  Organizations apply least privilege to the development, implementation, and operation of organizational systems.  | By removing admin rights from all users and granting privileges on a per-application basis or for a limited time, you will be able to demonstrate enforcement of the least privilege principle. |
| AC-6 (1) Least Privilege: Authorized Access to Security Functions Authorize access for authorized personnel to carry out itemized security functions, with security- relevant information.                         | Security functions include establishing system accounts, configuring access authorizations (i.e., permissions, privileges), configuring settings for events to be audited, and establishing intrusion detection parameters.   | By pre-approving applications and/or requesting a reason for elevation requests, you can ensure all elevated privileges are fully considered prior to granting access.                          |

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|   | Security-relevant information includes filtering rules for routers or firewalls, configuration parameters for security services, cryptographic key management information, and access control lists.  Authorized personnel include named individuals or roles such as security administrators, system administrators, system security officers, system programmers, and other privileged users.   |   |
| AC-6 (2) Least Privilege: Non-privileged Access for Non- security Functions Require that users of system accounts (or roles) with access to itemized security functions and/or security-relevant information use non-privileged accounts or roles, when accessing non-security functions. | Requiring the use of non-privileged accounts when accessing non-security functions limits exposure when operating from within privileged accounts or roles.  The inclusion of roles addresses situations where organizations implement access control policies, such as role-based access control, and where a change of role provides the same degree of assurance in the change of access authorizations for the user and the processes acting on behalf of the user as would be provided by a change between a privileged and non-privileged account.  | The setting SSO Account Separation requires the use of a different account for carrying out privileged operations. This option meets the requirements for Cyber Essentials Plus.  |
| AC-6 (5) Least Privilege: Privileged Accounts Restrict privileged accounts on the system to organization-defined personnel or roles.  | Privileged accounts, including super user accounts, are typically described as system administrator for various types of commercial off-the-shelf operating systems.  Restricting privileged accounts to specific personnel or roles prevents day-to-day users from accessing privileged information or privileged functions.  Organizations may differentiate in the application of restricting privileged accounts between allowed privileges for local accounts and for domain accounts, provided that they retain the ability to control system configurations for key parameters and as otherwise necessary to sufficiently mitigate risk. | Privileged user logins can be grouped and assigned privileges for creating or updating any combination of the following:  user accounts endpoint settings inventory approval requests auditlog reporting remote access support assist |

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| AC-6 (6) Least Privilege: Privileged Access by Non- organizational Users Prohibit privileged access to the system by non-organizational users.  | An organizational user is an employee or an individual considered by the organization to have the equivalent status of an employee.  Organizational users include contractors, guest researchers, or individuals detailed from other organizations. A non-organizational user is a user who is not an organizational user.  Policies and procedures for granting equivalent status of employees to individuals include a need-to-know, citizenship, and the relationship to the organization. | In addition to full integration with an organization's single sign-on (SSO) implementation, <i>Vendor Access</i> is a remote access feature that allows specific, limited access via web portal to external parties.  All logins and operations carried out are fully audited.   |
| AC-6 (7) Least Privilege:  Review of User Privileges  A. Review at a predetermined frequency the privileges assigned to organization-defined roles or classes of users to validate the need for such privileges; and  B. Reassign or remove privileges, if necessary, to correctly reflect organizational mission and business needs. | The need for certain assigned user privileges may change over time to reflect changes in organizational mission and business functions, environments of operation, technologies, or threats.  A periodic review of assigned user privileges is necessary to determine if the rationale for assigning such privileges remains valid. If the need cannot be re-validated, organizations take appropriate corrective actions.  | By removing admin rights, Admin By Request eliminates the need for review in most cases and facilitates the review of special cases (exclusions, Domain Admins, Break Glass accounts etc.) via a full audit trail and reporting.   |
| AC-6 (8) Least Privilege: Privilege Levels for Code Execution Prevent the listed software from executing at higher privilege levels than the logged-in users executing the software.  | In certain situations, software applications or programs need to execute with elevated privileges to perform required functions.  However, depending on the software functionality and configuration, if the privileges required for execution are at a higher level than the privileges assigned to organizational users invoking such applications or programs, those users may indirectly be provided with greater privileges than assigned.   | Since Admin By Request is a privileged access management solution, by definition, it focuses on minimizing the risks associated with granting administrative privileges to users.  Any software that tries to execute with elevated privileges will be intercepted, asking for one of the following, depending on settings specified in the Admin Portal:  • confirmation that it's OK to proceed  • submission of a "Request for Approval", which must be granted by an authorized party  • administrator credentials |



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|                    |                      | Code Execution security elements:  |
|                    |                      | Application Control Policies: Admin By Request can enforce application control settings that restrict which applications can run on endpoints. By configuring these settings, including the ability to preapprove "good apps" and block "bad apps", administrators can prevent unauthorized software from executing with elevated privileges.  |
|                    |                      | Least Privilege Principle: The solution adheres to the principle of least privilege, which means that users are only granted the permissions necessary to perform their tasks. This helps mitigate the risk of software running with unnecessary elevated privileges.  Privilege Elevation: Admin By Request provides a controlled mechanism for elevating privileges on an as-needed basis. Instead of granting permanent administrative rights to users, it allows them to request elevated privileges for specific tasks, which are then subject to approval by administrators. |
|                    |                      | Auditing and Logging: The solution includes auditing and logging capabilities to track software execution and privilege elevation activities.  |
|                    |                      | Integration with Security Tools: Admin By Request can integrate with other security tools and solutions, such as antivirus software  |
|                    |                      | and endpoint detection and response (EDR) systems. This integration enhances the overall security posture by providing additional layers of protection   |
|                    |                      | against malware and unauthorized software execution.   |

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| AC-6 (9) Least Privilege: Log Use of Privileged Functions Log the execution of privileged functions.   | The misuse of privileged functions, either intentionally or unintentionally by authorized users or by unauthorized external entities that have compromised system accounts, is a serious and ongoing concern and can have significant adverse impacts on organizations.  Logging and analyzing the use of privileged functions is one way to detect such misuse and, in doing so, help mitigate the risk from insider threats and the advanced persistent threat.  | Admin By Request's auditlog provides full auditability with a tamper-proof record of privileged activities carried out by users. |
| AC-6 (10) Least Privilege: Prohibit Non-privileged Users from Executing Privileged Functions Prevent non-privileged users from executing privileged functions.   | Privileged functions include disabling, circumventing, or altering implemented security or privacy controls, establishing system accounts, performing system integrity checks, and administering cryptographic key management activities.  Privileged functions that require protection from non-privileged users include circumventing intrusion detection and prevention mechanisms or malicious code protection mechanisms.  Non-privileged users are individuals who do not possess appropriate authorizations. Preventing non-privileged users from executing privileged functions is enforced by AC-3. | Admin rights are revoked from all users and you can configure Admin By Request to require approval for each elevation.           |
| AC-17 Remote Access  A. Establish and document usage restrictions, configuration/connection requirements, and implementation guidance for each type of remote access allowed; and  B. Authorize each type of remote access to the system prior to allowing such connections. | Remote access is access to organizational systems (or processes acting on behalf of users) that communicate through external networks such as the Internet. Types of remote access include dial-up, broadband, and wireless.   | Admin By Request includes a feature called <i>Secure Remote Access</i> (also known as Remote Access):                            |

#### Control (ID. Name) Control (Discussion) How ABR helps with compliance Organizations use encrypted virtual Unattended Access is a feature of private networks (VPNs) to enhance Secure Remote Access that allows confidentiality and integrity for you to connect remotely to your remote connections. The use of servers and network endpoints encrypted VPNs provides sufficient directly from your browser, using a assurance to the organization that it lot of the well-known Admin By can effectively treat such Request features like: inventory, connections as internal networks if auditlog, settings and sub-settings, the cryptographic mechanisms used approval flows, integrations etc. The are implemented in accordance with implementation of *Unattended* Access can use either a "Cloud" or applicable laws, executive orders, directives, regulations, policies, an "On-premise" gateway, standards, and quidelines. eliminating the need for VPN and jump servers, while still maintaining Still. VPN connections traverse a secure and segregated setup. external networks, and the encrypted VPN does not enhance Using Remote Access does not the availability of remote restrict any of Admin By Request's connections. VPNs with encrypted functionality. In particular, the tunnels can also affect the ability to following apply: adequately monitor network • Users requesting remote communications traffic for malicious access are notified of their code. obligations and requirements Remote access controls apply to (e.g. Code of Conduct) and systems other than public web must accept these before servers or systems designed for proceeding. public access. Authorization of each IT Admins can stipulate that remote access type addresses emote sessions must be authorization prior to allowing authorized before access is remote access without specifying granted. Further, any elevated the specific formats for such tasks a remote user might authorization. wish to run while remotely While organizations may use connected must be authorized information exchange and system separately, maintaining endconnection security agreements to to-end security. manage remote access connections to other systems, such agreements Remote Access security elements: are addressed as part of CA-3. The elements described below Enforcing access restrictions for illustrate how Admin By Request's remote access is addressed via AC-Secure Remote Access product can 3. assist with monitoring and control of remote access.

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| AC-17 (1) Remote Access: Monitoring and Control Employ automated mechanisms to monitor and control remote access methods.  | Monitoring and control of remote access methods allows organizations to detect attacks and help ensure compliance with remote access policies by auditing the connection activities of remote users on a variety of system components, including servers, notebook computers, workstations, smart phones, and tablets.  Audit logging for remote access is enforced by AU-2. Audit events are defined in AU-2a. | Session recording and auditing: Remote Accessincludes the ability to record sessions for auditing and compliance purposes. This allows administrators to review activities performed during remote sessions and identify any unauthorized or suspicious behavior.  Session timeout and idle session management: To mitigate the risk of unauthorized access in case of session abandonment or inactivity, Remote Access includes session timeout and idle session management features. These automatically terminate inactive sessions after a predefined period of time.   |
| AC-17 (2) Remote Access: Protection of Confidentiality and Integrity Using Encryption Implement cryptographic mechanisms to protect the confidentiality and integrity of remote access sessions. | Virtual private networks can be used to protect the confidentiality and integrity of remote access sessions. Transport Layer Security (TLS) is an example of a cryptographic protocol that provides end-to-end communications security over networks and is used for Internet communications and online transactions.   | Encryption: Data transmitted over<br>the network is encrypted and<br>remains confidential, ensuring it<br>cannot be intercepted or tampered<br>with by unauthorized parties.  |
| AC-17 (3) Remote Access:  Managed Access Control Points  Route remote accesses through authorized and managed network access control points.   | Organizations consider the Trusted Internet Connections (TIC) initiative DHS TIC requirements for external network connections, since limiting the number of access control points for remote access reduces attack surfaces.   | Role-based access control (RBAC): Remote Access participates in RBAC via Admin By Request's global settings and sub-settings, ensuring that only authorized users have access to specific features and functionalities based on their roles within the organization. This helps in limiting access to sensitive systems and data.  Access control sub-settings: Administrators can define granular access control sub-settings to restrict the actions that remote users can perform on the target systems. This helps in enforcing security best practices and minimizing the risk of unauthorized changes or data breaches. |

#### Control (ID, Name) Control (Discussion) How ABR helps with compliance AC-17 (4) Remote Access: Remote access to systems Multi-factor authentication (MFA): **Privileged Commands and Access** represents a significant potential Implementing MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring users vulnerability that can be exploited A. Authorize the execution of by adversaries. to provide multiple forms of privileged commands and authentication before gaining As such, restricting the execution of access to security-relevant access to the remote system. privileged commands and access to information via remote access security-relevant information via only in a format that provides remote access reduces the assessable evidence and for exposure of the organization and the organization-defined needs; and susceptibility to threats by adversaries to the remote access B. Document the rationale for capability. remote access in the security plan for the system. AC-17 (6) Remote Access: Authenticating remote commands Integration with existing security **Authenticate Remote Commands** protects against unauthorized infrastructure: Remote Access is an commands and the replay of integral part of Admin By Request, Implement appropriate authorized commands. which integrates with existing organization-defined mechanisms security infrastructure such as The ability to authenticate remote to authenticate relevant firewalls, anti-virus software, and commands is important for remote organization-defined remote SIEM (Security Information and systems for which loss, malfunction. commands. Event Management) systems to misdirection, or exploitation would provide comprehensive protection have immediate or serious against security threats. consequences, such as injury, death, property damage, loss of high value Regular software updates and assets, failure of mission or business patches: Remote Access is part of functions, or compromise of Admin By Request's Software classified or controlled unclassified Development Life Cycle (SDLC), information. meaning regular software updates Authentication mechanisms for and patches are applied. These are crucial for addressing security remote commands ensure that vulnerabilities and ensuring that the systems accept and execute remote access solution remains commands in the order intended. resilient against emerging threats. execute only authorized commands, and reject unauthorized commands. Cryptographic mechanisms can be Refer to Secure Remote Access for used, for example, to authenticate more information. remote commands.



## **Document History**

| Version                         | Author       | Changes   |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---|
| 17 April 2025<br><b>1.0</b>     | Steve Dodson | Initial document release.   |
| 20 September 2025<br><b>2.0</b> | Steve Dodson | Corrected typos.  Adjusted column widths.  Fixed missing document title in browser tab. |