EDWARDS
PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS

EFFICIENCY IN CMMC COMPLIANCE:
THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF A CCP

BY MATT HOEPER

CCP BENEFITS

The CCP training allows your team to be more marketable by teaching them to interpret and implement what the NIST 800-171 controls actually require as it relates to CMMC; saving you time and money spent on consultants (i.e., Registered Practitoner Organizations [RPOs] and/or CMMC Third-Party Assessment Organizations [C3PAOs]).

OVERVIEW: CMMC & CCP TRAINING

In the intricate world of defense contracting, where the protection of sensitive information is paramount, a comprehensive understanding of the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) is indispensable.

Organizations face significant challenges in understanding and implementing the required security controls and practices within the three levels of CMMC. The role of Certified Cybersecurity Professional (CCP) training is instrumental in streamlining this compliance process. By fostering in-house CMMC expertise, organizations significantly reduce time and costs associated with preparing for a formal CMMC assessment.

DID YOU KNOW?

Defense spending makes up about 2.3% of the country's gross domestic product, with $414.5B going to defense contracts for products and services. In 2022, over $84B alone went to small businesses in the DIB.

THE IMPERATIVE OF IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE

The path to CMMC compliance is intricate and demanding. Organizations traditionally rely on external consultants (i.e., RPO or C3PAO) to navigate this landscape, often at substantial cost. Developing in-house expertise through the CCP certification offers a more strategic and cost-effective approach.

CCP training equips internal teams with a deep understanding of CMMC requirements, fostering a proactive and informed approach to compliance; meaning your team is able to establish and refine your processes before consulting a RPO/C3PAO.

A FOCUSED & PRACTICAL APPROACH

The CCP curriculum is specifically designed to demystify the CMMC framework, providing comprehensive knowledge on its various levels and the associated security controls.

CCP training emphasizes practical application, enabling audit teams, External Service Providers (ESPs); Managed Service Providers (MSPs); Managed Security Service Providers (MSSPs); as well as Governance, Risk Management, and Compliance (GRC) teams to efficiently implement/manage these controls, including:

- Understanding the CMMC model and its applicability
- Detailed insights into Level 1 and 2 requirements
- Best practices for implementing and managing security controls
- Defining an accurate scope
- Conducting internal gap analyses and readiness assessments

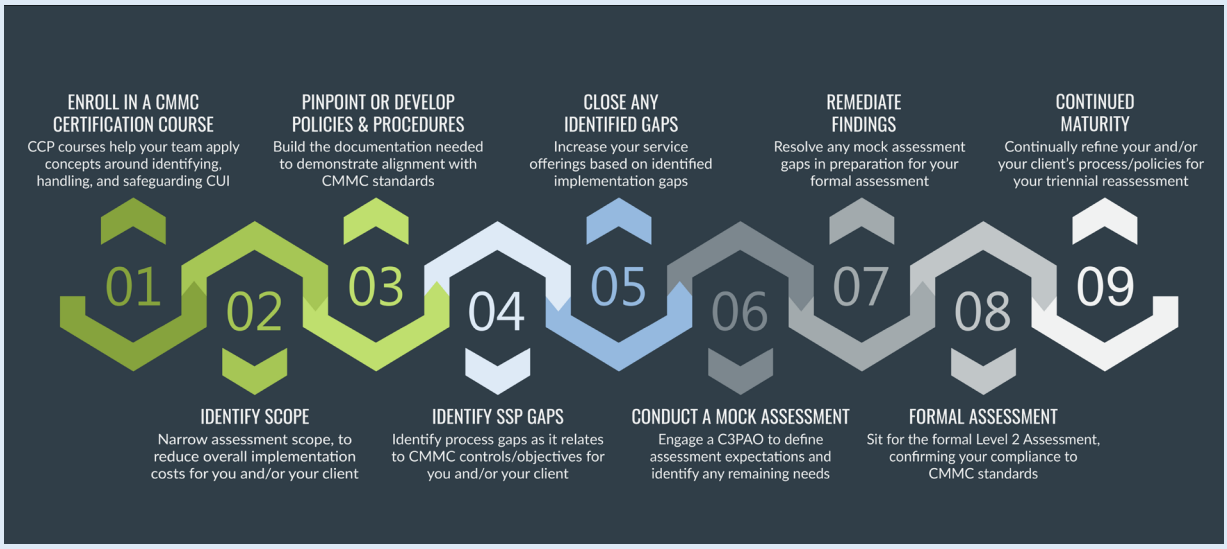
OPERATIONAL IMPACT & EFFICIENCY

Post-training, CCPs are well-equipped to lead CMMC preparation efforts. This internal capability allows for more effective and frequent internal audits, identification of compliance gaps, and the implementation of necessary improvements. As a result, organizations significantly reduce the time and resources typically required for external assessment preparation.

CCP certification is more than a compliance requirement; it's a strategic investment in an organization's cybersecurity infrastructure. CCP training positions organizations for compliance, as well as enhanced, long-term security resilience.

COMPLIANCE ROADMAP: STARTING WITH YOUR CCP

Education and understanding is always the first step toward success. Attaining CCP training offers the piece of mind that your team is well informed to navigate the complexities of CMMC compliance with clarity and confidence. This roadmap below delineates a structured approach, from initial professional development through certification to the ongoing refinement of policies and processes.



GET STARTED WITH CCP

To learn more about our CCP training classes and view upcoming course dates, visit www.edwps.com/CCP or email Info@EdwPS.com to inquire about group training discounts.

ABOUT EDWARDS

For 26+ years Edwards has been a valued partner for government and state agencies, as well as non-profit and commercial organizations, specializing in Enterprise Management, IT Solutions, Training & Development, and Cybersecurity, including compliance assessments. Edwards is known for our ability to manage security vulnerabilities through planning, testing, assessment, reporting, and plan of action and milestones (POA&M) management – enhancing the overall security posture.

Edwards is not an MSP; we function as a trusted third-party consultant, seamlessly collaborating with MSPs. We are dedicated to preparing your organization for CMMC compliance. When the need arises for new or specialized services, you and/or your MSP can count on us to provide unwavering support to meet compliance requirements. Edwards conducts simulated assessments to offer valuable insights into your preparedness, but also assesses and qualifies your specific service needs.

Edwards also offers our CCP Field Guide & Exam Prep Manual 2.0 as a comprehensive desktop resource for mastering CMMC. This guide is included with your CCP course, but also offered as a stand alone manual through our bookstore.

Edwards Performance Solutions is a WOSB appraised at CMMI Maturity Level 3 and ISO 9001:2001, as well as the only organization fully supporting the CMMC ecosystem (C3PAO, RPO, LTP, and LPP).

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MEET THE AUTHOR: MATT HOEPER | CCA, CCP, PI, CISSP, PMP

Matt Hoeper is the Cybersecurity Solution Area Lead, Senior Consultant, and Instructor at Edwards Performance Solutions. With over 25 years of experience in the IT and cybersecurity realm and a Master's degree in Management Information Systems, and certifications such as CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) and PMP (Project Management Professional), Matt brings a wealth of knowledge and practical expertise to his role.

Before joining Edwards, Matt's career spanned various sectors including engineering, finance, marketing, and healthcare, where he worked with both Fortune 500 companies and niche enterprises. His proficiency in conducting security assessments against diverse frameworks has established him as a trusted resource in the field.

Matt is recognized for his active involvement in the cybersecurity community. He is a Forbes SMB Advisory Board Member and a member of the FBI's InfraGard, reflecting his commitment to advancing cybersecurity practices. His role at Edwards is pivotal in guiding organizations through the complexities of cybersecurity, ensuring robust and compliant practices.

LET'S TALK.

For more information about Edwards Performance Solutions, contact Info@EdwPS.com.